



BOARD MEETING

SNC BOARD MEETING

March 4 & 5, 2026

Butte County, CA



Board Meeting Agenda

March 4 – 5, 2026 – North Central Subregion – Chico, CA

Board Tour

March 4, 2026
12:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Courtyard by Marriott
2481 Carmichael Drive
Chico, CA 95928

Members of the Board and staff will participate in a field trip to explore issues and activities related to community resilience and wildfire recovery in the North Central Subregion. Members of the public are invited to participate in the field tour but are responsible for their own transportation and lunch. The tour will start at Courtyard by Marriott in Chico.

Board Reception

March 4, 2026
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Tres Hombres Restaurant
Blue Agave Room
100 Broadway Street
Chico, CA 95928

Following the Board tour, Boardmembers and staff will attend a reception open to the public.

Board Meeting

March 5, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (End time is approximate)

Manzanita Place
1705 Manzanita Avenue
Chico, CA 95926

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Oath of Office for New Boardmembers**
3. **Roll Call**
4. [Approval of December 11, 2025, Meeting Minutes \(ACTION\)](#)
5. **Board Chair’s Report**
6. **Executive Officer’s Report (INFORMATIONAL)**
 - a. Executive Officer Update
 - b. [Policy & Outreach Update](#)
7. [Annual Budget Report \(INFORMATIONAL\)](#)

Staff will provide the Board with the 2026 Annual Budget Report.
8. [State Water Project Headwaters Investment Pilot Update \(INFORMATIONAL\)](#)

Staff will provide an update on the funding partnership between SNC and the CA Department of Water Resources in the headwaters of the State Water Project.
9. [Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program Highlights \(INFORMATIONAL\)](#)

Staff will provide an update on the Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program, which is funded by SNC’s block grant from the Department of Conservation’s Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP).
10. [Proposition 4 Early Action Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program Grant Award Recommendations \(ACTION\)](#)

The Board may take action to make determinations under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and award grants to the following projects:

 - a. [#1813](#)

Eldorado Community Defense Project 2025 in El Dorado County in the amount of \$900,000 to United States Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

b. [#1817](#)

Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Phase One in Nevada County in the amount of \$1,123,000 to Yuba Watershed Institute with a CEQA Notice of Exemption and Notice of Determination as a responsible agency.

c. [#1819](#)

Lily Gap Vegetative Maintenance, Unit One project in Calaveras County in the amount of \$562,321 to Calaveras County Office of Emergency Services with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

d. [#1822](#)

Plumas Community Resilience Project in Plumas County in the amount of \$990,766 to Sierra Institute for Community and Environment with a CEQA Notice of Exemption and to be implemented in conformance with the Statewide Fuels Reduction Environmental Protection Plan, with California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) authorization of suspension of state statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements that fall within the jurisdictions of the boards, departments, and offices within the CalEPA and the CNRA, pursuant to Governor Newsom's March 1, 2025, proclamation.

e. [#1827](#)

Mount Crossman Community Fuel Break project in Amador County in the amount of \$382,008 to Amador Fire Safe Council with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

f. [#1830](#)

Sly Park Fuels Reduction Project in El Dorado County in the amount of \$800,000 to El Dorado Resource Conservation District with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

g. [#1836](#)

Town of Washington Wildfire Defense project in Nevada County in the amount of \$1,027,721 to Nevada County Office of Emergency Services with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

h. [#1837](#)

Protecting Highway 108's Communities, Economies, and Watersheds project in Tuolumne County in the amount of \$876,822 to Tuolumne County with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

i. [#1838](#)

Manton WUI Protection Project in Tehama and Shasta counties in the amount of \$993,064 to the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

j. [#1839](#)

Fresno County Wildfire Defense Accelerator: Operational Fuel Break Project in Fresno County in the amount of \$993,541 to Sierra Resource Conservation District with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

11. [Grant 1512 – The South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project Amendment \(ACTION\)](#)

The Board will consider and may approve an amendment to the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project (#1512), with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

12. [Alpenglow Timber Sawmill Project \(#1694\) Update \(ACTION\)](#)

The Board will consider and may authorize the executive officer to enter into an agreement with CAL FIRE and reallocate previously awarded SNC grant funds in support of the Alpenglow Timber Sawmill Project.

13. Boardmember Comments

An opportunity for members of the Board to make comments on items not on the agenda.

14. Public Comments

An opportunity for members of the public to comment on non-agenda items. The Board Chair reserves the right to limit the time allocated for each person providing public comment.

15. Adjournment

Additional Board Materials

- [Executive Officer Authorized Grant Agreement Amendments and Grant Awards](#)
- [Key Meetings and Presentations](#)
- [Letters of Support](#)
- [Sierra Spotlight](#)

Additional Information

Meeting materials are available on the [SNC website](http://sierranevada.ca.gov) (sierranevada.ca.gov). For additional information, please contact SNC's Board Services by phone at (530) 823-4670, via email at sncboard@sierranevada.ca.gov; in person or by mail at: 11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205, Auburn CA 95603. For reasonable accommodation, including documents in alternative formats, please contact SNC at least **five (5)** working days in advance.

To submit public comment related to this meeting, email public-comments@sierranevada.ca.gov by 5:00 p.m. Friday, February 27, 2025.

Closed Session

Following, or at any time during, the meeting, the Board may recess or adjourn to closed session to consider pending or potential litigation, property negotiations, or personnel-related matters. Authority: Government Code Section 11126



Board Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2025 – Sacramento, CA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Present:

- Michele Perrault (Joined at 10:37 am)
- John Brissenden
- Barnie Gyant
- Martin Huberty
- Robert Johnston
- Lisa Lien-Mager
- Ric Leutwyler
- Victoria Rome
- Shane Starr
- Doug Teeter
- Dennis Townsend
- Nathan Voegeli
- Chris Feutrier
- Gabe Garcia
- Clayton Jordan

Absent:

- Jennifer Kreitz

3. Approval of June 5, 2025, Meeting Minutes (ACTION)

Action

Boardmember Shane Starr moved and Boardmember Ric Leutwyler seconded the motion to approve the June 5, 2025, Meeting Minutes.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0, Abstain – 1 (Johnston). The motion passed.

4. Board Chair's Report (ACTION)

Board Chair Nathan Voegeli recognized Boardmember Robert Johnston's retirement by presenting him with a resolution honoring his 16 years on the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Board.

Boardmember John Brissenden added that Boardmember Johnston has been the longest continuous serving SNC Boardmember and a pleasure to serve with.

Boardmember Voegeli thanked Boardmember Johnston on behalf of the SNC for all the incredible work done on the Governing Board.

Action

Boardmember John Brissenden moved and Boardmember Lisa Lien-Mager seconded the motion to adopt SNC Resolution No. 12-25-01, honoring Boardmember Robert Johnston for his 16 years of service on the SNC Board.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 11, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

Boardmember Johnston expressed his support for the SNC, recognizing it as a great organization with much for Executive Officer Angela Avery and staff to be proud of.

Board Chair Voegeli reminded folks that the September SNC Governing Board meeting was cancelled, a first in the history of SNC. He acknowledged that the Garnet Fire and its impact underscore the importance of the work the SNC does and the need for services in the Region.

5. Executive Officer's Report (INFORMATIONAL)

a. Executive Officer Update

Executive Officer Angela Avery welcomed guests to the meeting and acknowledged outgoing Boardmembers Johnston, Martin Huberty, Shane Starr, and Vice-Chair Dennis Townsend. Avery provided the Board with updates on significant successes the SNC achieved over the past year, including the Landscape Investment Strategy, the Tribal Capacity Building Program, active grant programs, successful communications and outreach strategies, and Proposition 4 funding. Avery also touched on the California state budget expectations and its impact to SNC's budget. Avery invited Boardmembers to attend the California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force meeting and the Wildfire Solutions Coalition Year in Celebration event the following day.

b. Administrative Update

Deputy Executive Officer Amy Lussier spoke to the Board on SNC's 2025-26 budget appropriations and the preparations for the upcoming Governor's Budget release, provided Human Resources and staffing updates, noted the positive findings from the Information Security Program Audit, and provided updates on purchasing and CPR training administered by the Business Services unit.

c. Policy & Outreach Update

Policy Support Analyst Chelsea Duncan updated the Board on policy and communications, including a summary of the first half of the 2025-26 legislative session, bills that were tracked by SNC, meetings with policymakers and SNC-hosted field tours in 2025, updates on SNC's Sierra Spotlight and communications efforts, and a policy preview of 2026.

Capacity-Building Projects and Grants Coordinator Emily Sutherland provided the Board with an update on SNC's Regional Forest & Fire Capacity Building Program (RFFCP) and the Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program.

Discussion among Boardmembers and staff centered around bills to watch in the second half of the 2025-26 legislative session and what issues tribes identified to Tribal Capacity Building Program staff, ranging from staff turnover and use of common software tools like Microsoft Excel to program development and grant writing.

Boardmember Perrault arrived during this item.

6. Legislative Perspectives Panel Discussion (INFORMATIONAL)

Policy & Outreach Division Chief Brittany Covich introduced Assemblymember Heather Hadwick and Senator Megan Dahle to present a legislative resolution to Boardmember Johnston.

Afterward, Assemblymember Hadwick participated in a question-and-answer session focused on policy priorities in the legislature, including the conversation surrounding wildfire and wildfire resistance, affordability of insurance, her role in the legislature, and the appetite for state investment in rural issues.

Additional discussion among Boardmembers, Assemblymember Hadwick, and staff included the issues surrounding timber sales and biomass facilities, the future of

workforce development, how the legislature is prioritizing these topics, and future opportunities for funding the SNC.

Assemblymember Hadwick expressed appreciation for SNC's work in rural areas and offered the support of her team.

7. Election of Board Chair and Vice-Chair (ACTION)

Boardmember Bernie Gyant nominated Nathan Voegeli to remain as Board Chair in calendar year 2026.

Action

Boardmember Gyant moved and Boardmember Doug Teeter seconded the motion to approve the election of Nathan Voegeli as Board Chair for calendar year 2026.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

Boardmember Dennis Townsend nominated Ric Leutwyler to serve as Vice-Chair during calendar year 2026.

Action

Boardmember Brissenden moved and Boardmember Starr seconded the motion to approve the election of Ric Leutwyler as Vice-Chair for the 2026 calendar year.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

8. 2026 Board Meeting Schedule (ACTION)

Executive Officer Avery presented the proposed 2026 Board meeting schedule:

- March 4 & 5 – Butte County (North Central Subregion)
- June 3 & 4 – Trinity County (Northwest Subregion)
- September 2 & 3 – Mono County (Southeast Subregion)
- December 10 & 11 – Sacramento

Discussion among Boardmembers and staff focused on the possibility of an alternate meeting location in case of a last-minute cancelled meeting. Staff will assess this request and come to the Board with updates at the March meeting.

Action

Boardmember Townsend moved and Boardmember Teeter seconded the motion to:

- Approve the staff's recommendation to approve the 2026 Board meeting schedule, with the understanding that the approved schedule is subject to change due to changed circumstances and the press of business,
- Delegate its authority to the executive officer to reverse the order of the tour and meeting, if necessary, now and in future Board meeting schedules,
- Delegate its authority to the executive officer, in consultation with the Board Chair, to cancel a meeting in emergency circumstances now and in future Board meeting schedules,
- Delegate its authority to the executive officer, in consultation with the Board Chair, to add additional meetings if business requires, with the understanding that staff will inquire with Boardmembers about their calendar availability to ensure a quorum will be achieved now and in future Board meeting schedules, and direct staff to take the necessary actions for successful implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

9. 2025-2026 Action Plan (ACTION)

Deputy Executive Officer Lussier presented the Board with the 2025-2026 Action Plan.

Discussion among Boardmembers and staff included the close ties between actions, the degree to which SNC's work is interwoven, SNC's agreement with the Stewardship Council, and the vision for the Department of Water Resources State Water Project Partnership.

Action

Boardmember Townsend moved and Boardmember Martin Huberty seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to approve the 2025-2026 Action Plan and direct staff to take the necessary actions for its successful implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

10. Proposition 4 Early Action Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program Grant Award Recommendations (ACTION)

Field Operations & Grants Division Chief Andy Fristensky provided the Board with project information so the Board could take action to authorize additional funding to the Proposition 4 Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program and make determinations under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and award grants to the following projects:

a. #1816

Musty Buck Ridge Fuel Break project in Butte County in the amount of \$1,298,000 to Chico State Enterprises to be implemented in conformance with the Statewide Fuels Reduction Environmental Protection Plan, with California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) authorization of suspension of state statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements that fall within the jurisdictions of the boards, departments, and offices within the CalEPA and the CNRA, pursuant to Governor Newsom's March 1, 2025, Proclamation.

Discussion among Boardmembers and staff included clarification on the provided maps, other projects in the area, and details on the surrounding community that the project will protect.

Action

Boardmember Teeter moved and Boardmember Gyant seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to find that the Musty Buck Ridge Fuel Break project (1816) falls under the suspension of state statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements that fall within the jurisdictions of the boards, departments, and offices within the CalEPA and the CNRA, (including, but not limited to, CEQA) pursuant to Governor Newsom's March 1, 2025 Proclamation; Authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,298,000 to Chico State Enterprises for the Musty Buck Ridge Fuel Break project (1816), and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

b. #1823

White Fir Ridge Fuels Reduction and Forest Health project in Mono County in the amount of \$1,493,192 to the California Deer Association with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Discussion among Boardmembers and staff clarified that the project will take place on Inyo National Forest land.

Action

Boardmember Teeter moved and Boardmember Townsend seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the White Fir Ridge Fuels Reduction and Forest Health project (1823), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,493,192 to the California Deer Association, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 11, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

Boardmember Perrault was out of the room during item 10b.

c. #1824

Goat Mountain Fuel Break Reconstruction project in Madera County in the amount of \$1,896,856 to the Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Discussion among Boardmembers and staff included previous work done on the fuel break, how project evaluations are made on U.S. Forest Service land, and requirements for long-term plans and funding for projects.

Action

Boardmember Townsend moved and Boardmember Gyant seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Goat Mountain Fuel Break Reconstruction project (1824), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,896,856 to the Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

- d. Discussion among Boardmembers and staff included the oversubscription of the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program and further explanation of grant program details.

Action

Boardmember Brissenden moved and Boardmember Huberty seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to authorize an additional \$5 million (for a total of \$15 million) of the Proposition 4 Early Action Wildfire funding appropriated to the SNC in 2024-25 to the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

11. Grant Agreement Amendment Recommendations (ACTION)

Field Operations Manager Luke Hunt provided the Board with project information so the Board could take action to authorize amendments to the following grant agreements:

- a. #1547

Amend the grant agreement for the Magalia Forest and Wildfire Resilience Project in Butte County with the Butte County Fire Safe Council to authorize additional fuels-reduction treatment types and locations, with a CEQA Notice of Determination as a Responsible Agency.

Discussion among Boardmembers and staff included clarifying there is no change to project funding, other SNC-funded projects in the area, and total treated acres.

Action – CEQA certification

Boardmember Starr moved and Boardmember Teeter seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to certify that it independently reviewed and considered the information in the Paradise Fuels Reduction Programmatic Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (2022) and Addendum.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

Action – Project

Boardmember Teeter moved and Boardmember Starr seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Determination as a Responsible Agency for the Magalia Forest and Wildfire Resilience

Project (1547) amendment, approve the revised project scope per the Exhibit A, and authorize staff to amend the grant agreement with the Butte County Fire Safe Council.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

b. #1431-LC

Amend the grant agreement for the Veater / Ekarnas Hemman Conservation Easement Project in Madera County with the Sierra Foothill Conservancy to authorize planning activities towards acquisition of a conservation easement on an alternate property, with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Discussion among Boardmembers and staff included confirming the new property is as competitive in the grant program as the previous property, the property owner's obligations, the conservation value of the new property, the process and risks related to planning grants, and potential improvements to project maps.

Action

Boardmember Townsend moved and Boardmember Teeter seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Veater / Ekarnas Hemman Conservation Easement Project (1431-LC) amendment, approve the revised project scope per the Exhibit A, and authorize staff to amend the grant agreement with the Sierra Foothill Conservancy.

Public Comment

Lauren Miller of the Sierra Foothill Conservancy provided written public comment thanking the Board for considering this project amendment and emphasizing the multiple benefits of the project. Board Chair Voegeli read the comment in full for the Board and public to hear.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

12. Boardmember Comments

Board Chair Voegeli thanked staff for organizing the meeting and recognized the staff's work to organize and adapt for the September meeting, despite having to cancel at the last minute. He also thanked Assemblymember Hadwick and Senator Dahle for joining the meeting and recognized the departing Boardmembers.

Boardmember Townsend expressed appreciation for his time as an SNC Boardmember and as Vice Chair.

Boardmember Leutwyler recognized the level of preparation, engagement, and Board support that SNC staff provides to Boardmembers.

Boardmember Huberty added that it has been an honor to represent the South Central Subregion and his time on SNC's Board has been a great learning experience.

Boardmember Starr also acknowledged SNC staff and noted SNC's success in using tax and bond dollars to do work on the ground.

Boardmember Johnston echoed his colleagues and acknowledged the work of SNC staff and is thankful for his time on the Board serving the Region.

13. Public Comments

There were no additional public comments.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Additional Board Materials

- Executive Officer Authorized Grant Agreement Amendments and Grant Awards
- Key Meetings and Presentations
- Letters of Support
- Sierra Spotlight

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
March 5, 2026

Agenda Item 6b: Policy & Outreach Update

Background

The Policy & Outreach Division supports Sierra Nevada Conservancy's (SNC) role as a bridge between the Region and the state. Staff members focus on educating key decision-makers about the value of the Sierra-Cascade Region and communicating about the Region's policy and funding needs. In addition, the Policy & Outreach Division works alongside the Field Operations & Grants Division to educate partners about state policy and program trends to support alignment between in-Region projects and state goals. This is accomplished through tracking and synthesizing the latest trends and scientific studies on forestry, watershed health, organizational capacity, wood utilization, and other relevant issues; utilizing the recommendations and outcomes of relevant research to inform policy development; and sharing those recommendations and outcomes through communication efforts. The Policy & Outreach Division also provides strategic direction to special projects and programs that advance science and technology in the Region and build the capacity of partner organizations.

Current Status

State Legislative Update

The 2025-26 Legislative Session has reconvened, with the Legislature returning to session on January 5, 2026. All bills must pass out of their house of origin by May 29. Staff are continuing to track active two-year bills as well as new bills that are introduced with relevance to the SNC, including the following which may directly impact SNC if passed:

- **Assembly Bill (AB) 35** by Assemblymember Alvarez (D- San Diego) would clarify that the development and adoption of grant guidelines and selection criteria to implement Climate Bond funded programs are not subject to the Administrative Procedures Act. The bill would require that state agencies develop Climate Bond program guidelines for public comment, offer consultation to impacted tribes, and submit final guidelines to the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) for verification and publishing on the CNRA website.
- **Assembly Bill (AB) 404** by Assemblymember Sanchez (R- Rancho Santa Margarita) would extend the exemption from specified California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel-reduction projects, or related activities, undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) indefinitely. This

exemption, passed by SB 901 (Dodd, Chapter 662, Statutes of 2018), would otherwise sunset January 1, 2028.

- **Assembly Bill (AB) 880** by Assemblymember Bennett (D- Ventura) would require state agencies that administer grant programs to reimburse grantees for their indirect cost at one of four specified rates as requested by grantees in their respective applications. It would also expand the Prompt Payment Act (PPA) to include grants to nonprofits, as defined, and would make all grants or contracts paid for by a state agency to a nonprofit organization subject to the PPA, rather than only those under \$500,000. Additionally, it revises the conditions under which a state agency can dispute a discrepancy of a claim by requiring the discrepancy amount to be greater than \$250 or five percent of the invoice amount, whichever is less.

Legislative Outreach

The SNC staff has been continuing outreach to members and their staff to build relationships, provide updates on SNC's recent work, and build connections between legislative priorities and the Sierra-Cascade Region. Members have been interested to hear about SNC's roll out of Proposition 4 (Climate Bond) funding, including the three early action community wildfire protection projects the Board approved at the December 2025 meeting. The SNC staff has recently met with Assemblymember Connolly (D- San Rafael) and Assemblymember Wilson (D- Suisun City) as well as staff from the offices of Senator Limon (D- Santa Barbara), Assemblymember Bryan (D- Los Angeles), and Assemblymember Stefani (D- San Francisco). The SNC staff also met with the natural resources consultant for the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2, Christine Miyashiro.

Communications Update

The Sierra Spotlight

The SNC digital newsroom shared a project highlight article about how SNC supported the [Kootzaduka's Tribe's purchase of ancestral land](#) in the eastern Sierra, its first land acquisition. The Sierra Spotlight also announced the [December Board Meeting](#) in downtown Sacramento and that Boardmembers were encouraged to attend the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force meeting held the next day, also in Sacramento. At the December meeting, the SNC [approved three Wildfire and Forest Resilience Grants](#) and approved an increase in available Proposition 4 (Climate Bond) funds to be awarded to partners and projects in the near future.

SNC Media Mentions

Several publications covered SNC's two separate policy tours that occurred in October. The tours focused on nature-based solutions and the connection between forest health and the state's water supply. Three different media outlets, the [Mountain Democrat](#),

[YubaNet](#), and the [Placer Sentinel](#) covered the “Forest to Faucets” tour, which brought policymakers and partners to the American River watershed. The online publication YubaNet also highlighted the [nature-based solutions tour](#). After each tour, the SNC issued a joint press release with tour co-sponsors, which likely contributed to the media coverage.

The popular website and search engine Yahoo covered a story about the completion of the first leg of the [California’s Connected Communities trail](#), a SNC-funded project, as did the mountain biking website Single Tracks in California’s Connected Communities [singletrack link in California’s Sierra Nevada](#).

Several additional SNC funded projects were also highlighted in the media. YubaNet alerted residences of upcoming prescribed fire work in the [Hoyt-Purdon Fuels Reduction project](#) in Terra Fuego Resource Foundation planning to pile and broadcast burn some 200 acres near Nevada City. The SierraDailyNews reported on Northern Paiute and Lomakatsi Partnership advance [Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience in Modoc County](#) and the Mountain Democrat showcased several projects in [Project pipeline in the upper American River watershed](#).

The recent Wildfire and Forest Resilience grant awards from the December Board meeting also were highlighted throughout Sierra-Cascade news outlets. The ABC digital outlet KRCR 7, in the Redding area, published [Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve](#) receives \$1.3 million for wildfire prevention project, while the Sierra Sun Times posted Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council receives grant from the SNC for a [Project That Will Reconstruct a 4.7-Mile, 300-Acre Fuel Break](#). Finally, the Calaveras Enterprise highlighted all grants awarded in its [SNC Approves Nearly \\$4.6 Million](#) in wildfire-resilience grants, as did the Gridley Herald in its the SNC Board approves [Wildfire and Forest Resilience Grants to Help Protect Communities](#).

Social Media Report

From October through December 2025, SNC’s social media channels saw steady growth, solid engagement, and strong performance for practical, community-focused content. Job postings, project explainers, and locally grounded stories consistently performed the best across all platforms.

Facebook continues to be one of the strongest platforms for reach and link traffic. Informational posts tied to real projects and local communities perform especially well. Instagram performs best with people-focused content (partners, tours, staff in the field) and short educational videos explaining *why* projects matter, not just what they are. Threads is a small social media outlet but its stable and the content mirrors Twitter/X behavior and benefits from concise explanations and reposting Facebook/Instagram

material. LinkedIn continues to be a reliable platform for professional visibility. Job postings, funding announcements, and inter-agency collaboration posts drive the most engagement. Twitter/X remains useful for cross-posting and visibility but is no longer a primary engagement driver.

Science Update

There is broad recognition that fire is one of the most important tools available for creating healthy, resilient forests. Research indicates that prior to European settlement, [roughly 4.5 million acres burned annually](#) in California, playing a critical role in maintaining healthy forests resistant to high-severity fire, drought, and other disturbances. In today's Sierra-Cascade forests – a large portion of which has gone decades, or even more than a century without fire – research shows that although there are multiple pathways to fire resilience, a [combination of prescribed fire and mechanical treatments](#) is the most effective at reducing fire severity.

California has therefore set ambitious goals for expanding the use of beneficial fire, including cultural burning, prescribed fire, and wildfire managed for resource benefits. The state's [Nature Based Solutions targets](#) call for 800,000 acres to be treated annually with beneficial fire by 2030, increasing to 1.5 million acres by 2045. In 2022, the [Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force](#) (Task Force) issued "[California's Strategic Plan for Expanding the Use of Beneficial Fire](#)," which outlined a path to treat up to 400,000 acres per year by 2025 through coordinated state, federal, and tribal action. More recently, Governor Newsom signed [Executive Order N-35-25](#) to expand the use of beneficial fire "...in light of the critical forest conditions and risk of catastrophic fires."

Despite this progress, getting good fire on the ground remains difficult. According to the Task Force [Interagency Dashboard](#), just under 189,000 acres were treated with prescribed fire statewide in 2024. Although this is a significant increase from the [2001-2022 average annual treatment rate of just 12,597 acres](#), it falls far short of state and federal goals. [Key barriers](#) include narrow burn windows, workforce shortages, insurance and liability concerns, and permitting and environmental compliance. California is actively pursuing solutions – including investing in workforce training, incentivizing resource-sharing among state and federal partners, and funding collaborative planning and outreach – but the gap remains significant.

A [new paper by Kristen Wilson, Kristen Shive and others](#) offers an additional pathway to scale beneficial fire by leveraging wildfire footprints. Building on earlier work by [Shive and others](#), the authors note that between 2001-2022, wildfire burned millions of acres across California. Although much attention has been paid (including by SNC) to the negative impacts of wildfires, including community loss, giant sequoia mortality, and forest conversion, post-fire data shows that a substantial portion of wildfires burn at low to moderate severity, effectively functioning as a beneficial, "first entry" treatment.

The authors identify several ways land managers can strategically use these low-moderate severity wildfire footprints, in combination with other treated areas, to expand beneficial fire at scale:

- 1) Use wildfire footprints to “anchor” prescribed burns in areas adjacent to burned areas.
- 2) Apply follow up, “second-entry” treatments within areas that have already burned, to achieve desired forest conditions.
- 3) Burn unburned “islands” within a larger fire footprint with minimal or no site preparation.

Using the Sierra Nevada as a case study, the authors demonstrated that these strategies offer a relatively low-cost, low-risk approach to treating large landscapes, potentially bringing nearly two million acres of forest into a condition that would be highly resistant to high-severity wildfire.

The feasibility of applying these strategies has increased due to recent policy and planning advances, including the Governor’s emergency order and forest-wide and programmatic prescribed fire NEPA analyses on several National Forests and National Parks. Landscape-scale collaboratives, many of which are supported through SNC’s capacity-building program, play a critical role by aligning agencies, tribes, landowners, and communities around shared strategies to get more good fire on the ground.

Next Steps

Over the next quarter, staff will focus on tracking relevant state and federal legislation, identifying opportunities for outreach and education about the Sierra-Cascade Region and SNC’s work, and supporting the development of SNC’s Landscape Grant Program.

Recommendation

This is an informational item only; no formal action is needed by the Board at this time, although Boardmembers are encouraged to share comments.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
March 5, 2026

Agenda Item 7: Annual Budget Report

Background

Boardmembers receive a comprehensive budget report each March that contains information on Sierra Nevada Conservancy's (SNC) funds, expenditures for current year (2025-26) and budget year (2026-27), grant funding, and funding goals. An overview of the budget cycle and a glossary is at the end of this report. The SNC will provide supplemental budget information at the June, September, and December meetings as needed, or upon request by the Board.

Overview

The SNC has a relatively short budget history as the department was created just over 20 years ago in 2004. The SNC received its first budget appropriation in 2005-06 for \$3.157 million in Environmental License Plate Fund (ELPF) funding, which the SNC still receives today. The ELPF funding is proposed at \$5.76 million for 2026-27. The SNC received its first bond fund appropriation in 2007-08 under Proposition (Prop) 84. Since then, SNC's budget has grown in dollars and funding sources.

Currently, the SNC has authorization to operate in ten funds. These segregated accounts of monies are maintained by the State Controller's Office (SCO) and used by the SNC to disburse its appropriations and process reimbursements. Each fund the SNC uses operates a bit differently, with various purposes, encumbrance and liquidation periods, appropriation types, etc. Budgets and accounting staff at SNC continuously monitor and assess the status of its expenditures and balances in these funds, simultaneously tracking multiple enactment years for each fund.

Successful implementation of the department's budget is a highly technical and detailed exercise, requiring close ongoing communication between the executive team, the budget unit, program staff, accounting staff, and procurement staff.

State Operations (Support)

State Operations is the support funding that covers staff salaries, benefits, and operating expenses and equipment (OE&E). The amounts budgeted each fiscal year (FY) can fluctuate depending on activity during the previous fiscal year (adjustments for benefit changes, salary increases, changes to projections for federal and non-federal agreements to be reimbursed, etc.), the current year's activity, and projected changes in future years.

Funds Used by the SNC

Environmental License Plate Fund (ELPF)

This serves as SNC's primary source of funding, which supports the majority of SNC's administrative and operational support costs. The SNC receives a new appropriation every year in the Budget Act. The funding is available to spend or encumber for one year with a two-year liquidation period for the encumbrances. Funds that were not encumbered during the first year are not available to spend during the liquidation period. Once the two-year liquidation period expires, any unspent dollars revert and are returned to the main ELPF fund, which is administered and overseen by the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA).

General Fund (GF)

The SNC received one-time appropriations of local assistance (grant) funding in 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24, and up to five percent of the total funding received can be used for support costs until the final date of liquidation. As of December 2025, SNC has spent 42 percent of this support funding. The final liquidation date for SNC's GF support is June 30, 2028; SNC has distributed the remaining funding through the liquidation period to spend the full appropriations.

Bond Funds

Since its inception, the SNC has been allocated funding under four bonds. Appropriations from bond funds are requested through the budget cycle and given an encumbrance and liquidation date; any funds not used during this period will revert and are available to the SNC again with a new appropriation. (This is unlike many other types of funding—such as ELPF—where reverted dollars are no longer available to the SNC.) This gives departments a bit more flexibility for spending bond funds *timing-wise*; however, *program-wise*, bond fund expenditures must adhere to the purposes for which they were proposed and passed.

Each bond allocation has set percentages for administrative and support purposes:

- Statewide bond administration is handled by a large department (like State Parks or Department of Water Resources), and these departments receive a portion of each department's allocation to cover their costs.
- Departments may use a set maximum percentage for support. The SNC uses these support funds to cover internal costs of administering the bonds (i.e., staff salaries). The SNC's first three bonds (Props 84, 1, and 68) also provided up to ten percent for planning and monitoring (CEQA reviews, monitoring of closed projects, etc.).

Bond Fund Allocations to SNC

Bond	First Year Appropriated	Total Local Assistance	Total Support	Total Allocation¹
Proposition 84	2007-08	\$48,770,000	\$3,340,000	\$54,000,000
Proposition 1	2015-16	\$20,700,000	\$3,600,000	\$25,000,000
Proposition 68	2018-19	\$45,375,000	\$8,250,000	\$55,000,000
Proposition 4 <i>Direct Allocation²</i>	2024-25 ⁴	\$75,184,000	\$5,705,000	\$81,500,000
Proposition 4 <i>Non-Direct Allocation³</i>	2025-26	\$45,000,000	\$3,151,000	\$48,492,000

¹ Total allocation includes amount for statewide bond administration.

² Proposition language allocated funds directly to SNC.

³ Proposition language allocated funds to CNRA and its departments, boards, and conservancies with distribution determined by CNRA.

⁴ First appropriation was received in a Budget Bill Jr in 2024-25, just a few days before the fiscal year ended.

Special Deposit Fund (SDF)

At the December 2021 Board meeting, Boardmembers authorized the SNC to finalize and execute a new grant agreement with the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council (Stewardship Council). The agreement became effective in May 2022; in July 2022, the SNC established an account in the SDF to hold and administer the funds received from this agreement. The Stewardship Council handed off duties to the SNC in stages and ultimately dissolved in April 2024. As of January 2026, the SNC has received a total of \$4.75 million: approximately \$4 million is for grantees inherited from the Stewardship Council and \$752,000 is for the SNC to complete the assorted tasks outlined in the agreement.

All funds received from the Stewardship Council are deposited into the SDF account, where they remain until they are spent. The funding from this agreement cannot be used for any other purpose. Additionally, this account earns interest quarterly, to be used for activities authorized by the Stewardship Council agreement.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Fund (SNC Fund) and Federal Trust Fund (FTF)

The SNC receives reimbursement authority from the Budget Act for two funds: the SNC Fund and the FTF. It is important to note that the Budget Act does not provide actual funding for reimbursements; rather, it provides the *authority* for SNC to request reimbursement from other entities for work completed, with a maximum allowed each

fiscal year. This allows the SNC to provide services, and/or execute sub-agreements that will provide services and then request reimbursement for these costs from the grantor/contractor. These reimbursement agreements provide multiple benefits, including disbursing more funding to the SNC Region, allowing the SNC to fund programs it may not normally fund, allowing the SNC to pay for staff time, building capacity of smaller entities, and opportunities to create connections and working relationships with more entities.

Federal funding and non-federal funding are kept separate, necessitating two reimbursement funds. The SNC is also authorized to deposit cash from donations or revenue into the SNC Fund (Public Resources Code, section 33352).

Leadership and program staff at the SNC continue to look for and assess potential reimbursement opportunities. Depending on the agreement, the SNC is able to work with the grantor/contractor on terms of the agreement, including time frame and budget, which provides additional flexibility.

The lessons the SNC has learned managing reimbursement agreements over the past 10 years have been valuable. The SNC’s first reimbursement agreement was in 2015 for \$93,800; today, the department actively manages over \$24 million in five reimbursement agreements, with more than 40 sub-agreements. (This is down from over\$47 million in nine reimbursement agreements with 77 sub-agreements.) The SNC will continue to pursue reimbursements as a funding strategy, adjusting the flow and size of agreements, as necessary.

Active Reimbursement Agreements - Non-Federal

Description	Local Assistance	SNC Operations	Total Agreement
<p>Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (2022) Term: May 15, 2023 – Dec 31, 2027 Sub-Agreements: 40+ (still awarding funds) To implement the Dept. of Conservation’s Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program goals to increase regional capacity to prioritize, develop, and implement projects that improve forest health and fire resiliency in the Region.</p>	\$12,924,000	\$2,900,000	\$15,824,000
<p>North Feather Forest I Resilience Bond Term: Aug 15, 2025 – Dec 30, 2027 Sub-Agreement: 1 To accelerate fuels management, wildfire-risk reduction, and forest-restoration activities within the North Fork Forest Recovery Project by investing in the North Feather I Forest Resilience Bond. Blue Forest Finance Inc. is the grantee.</p>	\$360,000	\$40,000	\$400,000

Active Reimbursement Agreements - Federal

Description	Local Assistance	SNC Operations	Total Agreement
<p>Plumas National Forest – Forest Restoration Activities Term: Aug 9, 2018 – Sept 30, 2028 Sub-Agreements: 1 Cooperative effort to restore watersheds affected by the Moonlight Fire in the Plumas National Forest, with Feather River RCD as the primary subgrantee and operating entity.</p>	\$6,610,000	\$925,000	\$7,535,000
<p>USFS Region 5 – Managing Regional Resilience Term: Aug 26, 2021 – Nov 1, 2028 Sub-Agreements: 0 Pays for SNC staff to develop the Landscape Investment Strategy and Landscape Grant Pilot Project.</p>	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000
<p>USFS Region 5 – GNA Crystal Basin HELP Pilot Term: July 7, 2023 – Nov 1, 2028 Sub-Agreements: 1 Increases the pace and scale of forest-resilience efforts by aggregating state and federal funds and directing those funds through targeted collaborative partnerships. Great Basin Institute is the subgrantee.</p>	\$909,091	\$90,909	\$1,000,000

Staffing and Workload

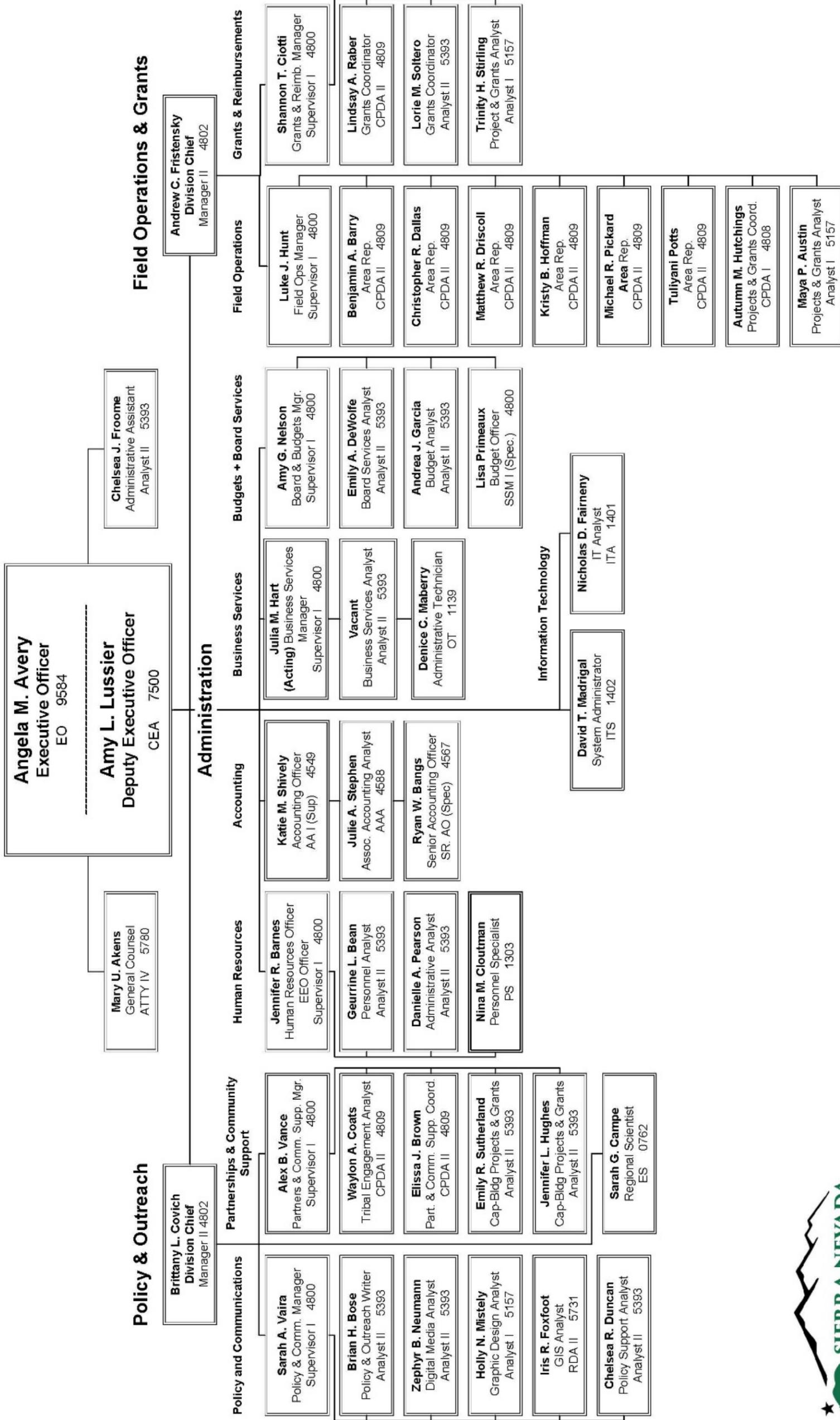
State departments must work within the confines of position authority, granted by the Department of Finance (Finance). While the state budget is not currently favorable for requesting new positions, the SNC is well-positioned with experienced, competent staff. The SNC is structured with a five-member executive team and three divisions underneath: Policy & Outreach, Administration, and Field Operations & Grants. Each division is about equal in size with 13-15 staff.

The program workload at SNC significantly increased with the one-time General Fund appropriations and increased reimbursements, and it's staying steady with Prop 4 funding. But it's not just the administration of grant programs that keeps staff busy; providing expertise to interested parties in the Region, collaborating with partners, innovating ways to support the Region, and internal organizational health are critical aspects of SNC's work. These responsibilities take time, planning, knowledge, and coordination, and the SNC strives to manage its workload efficiently and productively.

Examples of workload increase are easily found: in January 2018, SNC Area Representatives were managing 39 active grants; today that number is around 182, with likely 100 or more to be awarded from Prop 4 funding. Aside from SNC-grantee communication and support for each grant, there are invoicing, budgeting, and reporting workloads.

Staff in Administration are affected not only by the program workload, but by external reporting and tracking requirements. Small departments like the SNC are still subject to most of the same reports, data tracking, audits, etc. as larger state departments, but with less staff to complete the work. For example, the HR unit completes approximately 11 daily or weekly reports, 18 monthly reports, 13 quarterly reports, and 27 annual reports, plus various ad hoc reports. For the most part, the SNC has two people within each administrative unit, helping to distribute workload while maintaining deep expertise in each subject area.

SNC Staff Org Chart



SNC’s 2025-26 Support Budget

On January 10, the Governor released his proposed budget for 2026-27, which includes the current year (2025-26) budget with adjustments. The SNC’s budget was as expected, and the department has determined the following support expenditure plans for current and budget years.

2025-26 SNC Projected Support Budget by Fund

2025-26 Support by Fund	%
Environmental License Plate Fund	71.1%
General Fund	18.8%
Non-Federal Reimbursement	8.3%
Federal Reimbursement	1.5%
Special Deposit Fund	0.3%
Proposition 1	0%
Proposition 4	0%
Proposition 68	0%
Proposition 84	0%

2025-26 SNC Projected Support Budget by Category

2025-26 Support by Category	%
Salaries	54.2%
Benefits	31.4%
OE&E	14.4%

The benefit percentage above is the percentage of support SNC spends on staff benefits; however, SNC’s current *benefit ratio* average is around 60 percent; this means that each position costs SNC approximately 1.6 times the salary. Benefits include health and dental insurance, retirement, Medicare, Social Security, and vision. Health insurance and retirement are far and away the most expensive, at 22 percent and 53 percent of the benefit ratio, respectively.

SNC's 2026-27 Support Budget

2026-27 SNC Projected Support Budget by Fund

2026-27 Support by Fund		%
Environmental License Plate Fund		68.9%
General Fund		21.7%
Non-Federal Reimbursement		7.6%
Federal Reimbursement		1.7%
Special Deposit Fund		0.1%
Proposition 1		0%
Proposition 4		0%
Proposition 68		0%
Proposition 84		0%

2026-27 SNC Projected Support Budget by Category

2026-27 Support by Category		%
Salaries		56.5%
Benefits		32.4%
OE&E		11.1%

Five-Year Financial Plan

The SNC plans its support budget well in advance to ensure that all appropriations and reimbursements are expended in a timely and appropriate manner. This forward-looking approach enables SNC leadership to make informed personnel and operational decisions. Due to the inherent fluctuations in the statewide budget, as well as evolving programmatic and operational needs, the table below reflects SNC’s *projected* five-year operations plan. Projected amounts are subject to change based on future appropriations, reimbursement agreement modifications, federal government actions, purchasing needs, staffing conditions, and other relevant factors.

SNC’s Projected Five-Year Support Expenditures by Fund

Fund	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31
ELPF¹	\$5,747,000	\$5,762,000	\$6,008,000	\$6,008,000	\$6,008,000	\$6,008,000
GF	\$1,520,000	\$1,825,000	\$1,291,000	-- ²	-- ²	-- ²
SNC Fund	\$672,000	\$635,000	\$464,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTF	\$118,000	\$139,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SDF¹	\$27,000	\$7,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Prop 1¹	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$350,000	\$400,000	\$390,000
Prop 4¹	\$0	\$0	\$250,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,215,000	\$1,215,000
Prop 68¹	\$0	\$0	\$300,000	\$910,000	\$910,000	\$910,000
Prop 84¹	\$0	\$0	\$35,000	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
Total	\$8,084,000	\$8,368,000	\$8,498,000	\$8,518,000	\$8,608,000	\$8,598,000

¹ Funding available for appropriation in 2031-32 and beyond (amounts vary by fund).

² Funding not available due to final liquidation period ending in 6/30/28.

The SNC is dedicated to ensuring the department remains financially sound into the future. While the SNC can make its best effort to look ahead and set a plan accordingly, it is not

immune to the ups and downs of external forces. The unpredictability of state and federal budgets over multiple years, along with policy changes at all levels, makes organizational planning challenging but not impossible. For the SNC, significant stability can be found in ongoing funding and bond funding. The passage of Prop 4 by voters in November 2024 profoundly impacted the department's support budget as the SNC was allotted over \$8.8 million dollars to use for support for many years into the future.

Despite the relative stability of the funding sources mentioned above, having diverse funding sources is ideal as each funding type has its downsides. Direct appropriations can be reduced or eliminated by the budget or other governmental processes, reimbursements depend on other entities and their budgets, and federal reimbursements rely on the federal government's budget, regulations, and willingness to work with the state. The SNC does not currently earn revenue.

To maintain department stability while remaining nimble, the SNC continues its work to diversify funding sources, thereby protecting staff and the department's ability to serve and positively impact the Region.

Grant Funding

The SNC takes pride in its support of the Region and aims to disburse grant funding (local assistance) quickly and efficiently. Over the course of its 21-year history, the SNC has received over \$380 million in grant funding (in direct appropriations and via reimbursement agreements), of which approximately \$295 million has been committed. With an additional \$120 million allocated in Prop 4 funding, the SNC is poised to continue its fiscal impact in the Sierra-Cascade.

In addition to distributing money throughout the Region, the SNC is also strategic about the timing of its grant rounds. There are several factors to consider when planning grant rounds, including timing of other rounds, active reimbursement agreements, potential future funding, reversion dates, program type (e.g., wildfire versus land conservation), and the priorities of the state and administration. This is not an exhaustive list, but it helps portray the competing factors and potential priorities when planning out grant rounds. Thus, communication and planning are critical, and the SNC works very diligently to provide effective and well-run grant programs.

Despite the much-needed Prop 4 funding, the SNC still cannot meet the immense Regional demand for funding. For example, the SNC received over \$45.2 million in project proposals for a \$15 million grant round, illustrating the tremendous need for ongoing, robust funding to continue the progress made in previous grant programs. This example is not unique—SNC consistently receives far more in grant funding requests than it has available to disburse.

Funding Goals

As evidenced by input from partners and the high number of grant applications SNC receives, it is apparent that more funding is needed in the Region. By successfully pursuing steady and increased levels of funding, the SNC can continue to carry out its mission to support the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Region by advancing efforts that support forest and watershed health, resilient Sierra-Cascade communities, conservation and stewardship of natural and working lands, sustainable recreation and tourism, and outdoor access. Thus, the SNC is always considering various ways to sustainably bring in funding, and it is likely that a combination of the following is needed.

Ongoing Grant Funding

As previously described, SNC's grants are funded by one-time appropriations, bonds, or reimbursements. While it is important to have various sources of funding, none of these are continuous appropriations (funding that is renewed each year without yearly legislative action). Ongoing funding for grant programs would allow the SNC to continuously fund important work in the Region while saving time and resources, allowing staff more time to work with grantees (potential and current), develop deeper relationships with partners and other interested parties, and represent SNC in collaborative groups.

Direct Local Assistance Appropriations

In FYs 2020 through 2023, the SNC received more direct funding with the one-time General Fund appropriations than it ever has, aside from bond funding. With these General Fund appropriations, the SNC was able to demonstrate its ability to award and disburse funding quickly and efficiently. Ideally, the SNC will receive additional direct local assistance appropriations in the future as direct funding is more efficient and less expensive to manage. When larger departments are appropriated funds, which are then granted to the SNC via a reimbursement agreement, additional reporting, invoicing, and tracking are required. This extra work also extends the time it takes funding to get into the Region and takes up valuable staff time, which could be spent on other endeavors or responsibilities. The SNC hopes to receive additional direct local assistance appropriations in the future to continue its support of the Region.

Revenue

Per Public Resources Code 33352 – 33354, the SNC may receive revenue in the form of gifts, donations, grants, and fees (among other methods). Revenue earned is deposited into a fund for future appropriation. The SNC believes that earning revenue would be advantageous in more difficult budget times and has looked at options for earning revenue in the past, but none have been realized. Various ideas have been floated (a water tax, proceeds from established non-vehicle licenses, being a distributor of settlement funds, etc.) and the SNC will continue to consider and evaluate this potential funding stream.

State Budget Process

The budget-building process is year-round with numerous participants, technical details, and external factors. An understanding of the state budget process provides important context for SNC's budget development and the timing of when funding levels are identified and then ultimately received.

As a California state department, the SNC follows the state budget cycle outlined below. This brief overview is presented primarily from a department's point of view and does not capture the full range of additional statewide reports, updates, and budget-related events that occur throughout the year. Finance's website is a valuable resource for additional budget information (<https://dof.ca.gov/>). There is also a glossary at the end of this report for select frequently used budget terms.

The fiscal year for the state of California is July 1 through June 30; it is currently in fiscal year 2025-26.

- The California Constitution requires the governor submit a budget to the Legislature by January 10 ("Governor's Budget;" also commonly referred to as the "Jan 10 Budget") each year. Included in the Governor's Budget are proposed appropriations for the budget year (2026-27), adjusted current year appropriations (2025-26), and past year expenditures (2024-25). *At this point, the SNC knows the **initial proposal for the 2026-27 budget.***
 - Calculating past year expenditures and current year adjustments occurs the previous August to October under the instruction of Budget Letters released by Finance. Like other departments, the SNC provides past year expenditures and calculates control section adjustments for the current year and budget year. These adjustments will provide funding adjustments to departments based on changes to retirement contribution rates, health benefit changes, salary increases, etc.
 - California employs incremental (baseline) budgeting, which uses a department's current level of funding as the base amount for the following year; changes to amounts are requested using budget change proposals (BCP), rather than starting from zero each year.
 - Departments submit their BCPs for budget year in the fall (i.e., BCPs for 2026-27 were submitted in fall 2025). Approved BCPs are included in the Governor's Budget released on January 10. Because BCPs are submitted almost a year in advance, careful and thoughtful planning ahead is critical. All BCPs are confidential until approved and remain confidential if not approved.
 - The California Constitution requires a budget bill to be introduced in each house of the Legislature to accompany the Governor's Budget. These bills itemize the recommended expenditures.

- After the release of the Governor’s Budget and corresponding budget bills, both houses of the Legislature hold committee hearings. Agencies and departments are called upon to testify, along with Finance and the Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO).
 - In February, departments can submit additional proposed changes—BCPs and Spring Finance Letters—to the budget for the “May Revision” (or “May Revise”), which is the second iteration of the budget that is published. Spring Finance Letters are submitted by Finance to the budget committees in each house, normally for technical changes to the current year’s budget or the Governor’s Budget. For SNC, generally only technical changes will be requested, such as extending an appropriation. *Upon release of the May Revise, the SNC will officially learn of any proposed revisions to its budget.*
- Legislative hearings continue through June. The California Constitution requires the Legislature to pass the budget bill by June 15.
 - Once the budget bill is signed by the governor and chaptered, the SNC officially has a set budget effective July 1.
- There may be “Budget Bill Juniors” (amendments to an enacted budget) and trailer bills (follow-up bills that determine and elaborate on specific programs in the Budget Act) after the Budget Act is passed, sometimes many months into the fiscal year.
 - Every year on June 30, appropriations expire as the fiscal year ends. Although it depends on the appropriation, generally two things happen: an encumbrance period ends but liquidation is still available, or funds revert and are no longer available. Because different funds (and items within those funds) have different encumbrance, expenditure, and liquidation dates, this is very closely monitored and prepared for.

This is a *very* brief overview of a deeply complex budget cycle. Like all other departments, the SNC must operate within this process of deadlines and restrictions. It is critical to plan and prepare for the unexpected, and the SNC works closely with the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and Finance during the budget cycle.

Glossary

The terms in this glossary are defined specifically for this report and may not include broader information. Additional details on any term can be provided.

Allocation: funding designated for and available to a department upon appropriation.

Appropriation: gives a department authorization to use specified funding.

Benefit ratio: the average percentage of each salary that a department pays in benefits (e.g., a monthly salary of \$1000 with a 50 percent benefit ratio means SNC would pay \$1,500 per month for salary and benefits).

Budget Act: the initial budget bill for the budget year passed by the Legislature, signed by the governor, and chaptered (i.e., the Budget Act of 2026).

Budget Change Proposal (BCP): a request by a department to change funding levels and/or positions and are processed in the fall.

Budget Letters: publicly released letters from Finance to departments containing instructions and directives for budget procedures.

Budget Year: the upcoming fiscal year (beginning July 1 of this calendar year).

Control Sections: sections within the Budget Act that define the terms of the budget and provide instructions to departments for various budget adjustments.

Current Year: the current fiscal year (ending June 30 of this calendar year).

Encumbrance: funds that have been obligated and are not available for another use unless disencumbered (must be disencumbered within the encumbrance period to be available again).

Encumbrance period: the period in which funds can be encumbered and expended.

Fiscal year: the 12-month period from July 1 to June 30.

Governor's Budget: the budget put forth by the governor each January with proposed expenditures for the budget year and current year, and actual expenditures for the prior fiscal year. (Term used interchangeably with "Jan 10.")

Item: a code given to each appropriation that identifies the department, reference, and fund (see *reference*).

Jan 10 or Jan 10 Budget: the budget put forth by the governor each January with proposed expenditures for the budget year and current year, and actual expenditures for the prior fiscal year. (Terms used interchangeably with "Governor's Budget.")

Liquidation period: the period in which encumbered funds can be spent. At the end of this period, funds will revert (see *reversion*).

Local assistance: funding disbursed by departments to support local entities and projects.

May Revision or May Revise: the second published iteration of the budget for the budget year; it includes adjustments to the Governor's Budget.

Operating expenses and equipment or OE&E: expenditures (excluding salaries and benefits) that support a department. This includes items like office supplies, leases, and travel.

Past year: the previous fiscal year (ended June 30 of last calendar year).

Reference: a three-digit code that identifies an appropriation's source (Budget Act or non-Budget Act) and character (state operations or local assistance).

Reimbursement: money received from another entity in exchange for work completed.

Reimbursement authority: the amount a department can receive from another entity (federal or non-federal) in a set period (usually one year); the amount is requested by the department and granted by the Department of Finance.

Revenue: funds received by a department, usually from fees or taxes.

Reversion: when funds are no longer available to a department. Funds can naturally revert (at the end of their cycle with no action required) or force revert (upon a department's specific request to revert funds earlier than the end of their natural cycle; typically requested so funds can be available for a new appropriation).

Spring Finance Letters: proposals made by Finance to the budget committees in the Legislature to amend the budget bill and Governor's Budget; contains departments' budget requests along with other reports.

State operations: funding for departmental operations, including salaries, benefits, and operating expenses and equipment (used interchangeably with "support").

Support: funding for departmental operations, including salaries, benefits, and operating expenses and equipment (used interchangeably with "state operations").

Recommendation

This is an informational item only; no formal action is needed by the Board at this time, although Boardmembers are encouraged to share their thoughts and comments.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
March 5, 2026

Agenda Item 8: State Water Project Headwaters Investment Pilot Update

Background

In the summer of 2025, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) launched a partnership to fund the protection and restoration of the Upper Feather River Watershed (Upper Feather) – a critical source for California’s State Water Project and a region of the Sierra Nevada disproportionately impacted by wildfire.

Through this partnership, State Water Project funding will be directed into Blue Forest’s [North Feather I Forest Resilience Bond](#), financing forest restoration on the Plumas National Forest and surrounding lands. Additional partners include the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, United States Forest Service, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Pacific Gas & Electric, and Greenville Rancheria. Forest Resilience Bonds are a conservation finance model designed to blend public and private funding. Private capital provides upfront project costs, both catalyzing work on the ground and creating a vehicle for multiple funders to share the costs of forest restoration and recovery work. As of December 2025, the North Feather I Forest Resilience Bond has secured over \$9.5 million.

This project focuses on priority acres within the [North Fork Forest Recovery Project](#) (NFFRP), a 166,8890-acre project to restore and protect the Upper Feather. Treatments funded through the Forest Resilience Bond will reduce the risk of high-intensity wildfire and associated sedimentation and erosion, while increasing water yield.

Current Status

In June 2025, the SNC Board delegated authority to the executive officer to accept funding from DWR and to enter into grants and contracts for distributing the funding.

In August 2025, DWR and SNC signed an interagency agreement to pool resources to accelerate fuels management, wildfire-risk reduction, and forest-restoration activities within the NFFRP. The agreement runs through December 20, 2027. As part of the agreement, the SNC will manage the grant to Blue Forest Finance, Inc. (Blue Forest), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, organize a site visit, and provide communication support to highlight this partnership and project.

Prior to entering into the grant agreement, the SNC conducted due diligence to ensure compliance with CEQA. For instance, all work on private land was approved by the

secretaries of CNRA and California Environmental Protection Agency for Secretarial Suspension of state statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements that fall within the jurisdictions of the boards, departments, and offices within the CalEPA and the CNRA (including, but not limited to, CEQA). This approval was given on June 17, 2025 under the *Indian Valley Community Defense Project*, led by the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment with the Taylorsville Firewise Committee, CAL FIRE, SNC, Plumas National Forest, Blue Forest, Susanville Indian Rancheria, Greenville Rancheria, and Maidu Summit Consortium as additional cooperating agencies. All work on federal National Forest lands was analyzed in the *North Fork Forest Recovery Project Final Environmental Assessment* and approved under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in the *North Fork Forest Recovery Project NEPA Final Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact*, signed on June 23, 2025. Public Resources Code (PRC), section 4799.05, subdivision (d)(1) statutorily exempts from CEQA projects for prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel reduction projects, or to related activities included in the project description, undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the NEPA if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The SNC reviewed the proposed activities of federal land and determined they were analyzed and approved fully under NEPA. On December 2, 2025, the SNC filed a Notice of Exemption (SCH 2025120038) pursuant to PRC 4799.05, subd. (d)(1) with the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation as well as Plumas County.

In December 2025, the SNC signed a grant agreement for \$360,000 to go to Blue Forest to contribute to the North Feather I Forest Resilience Bond to implement fuels reduction and reforestation activities on 1,000-2,000 acres on federal lands within the Plumas National Forest and on private lands in around the communities of Taylorsville and Genesee.

Next Steps

The SNC will manage the grant to Blue Forest and work with DWR and Blue Forest to develop communication materials, including social media posts, spotlight posts, and videos. The SNC will also help organize site visits and field tours that showcase the investment made and the benefits being provided to the State Water Project. As part of the grant agreement, Blue Forest will develop and submit an annual restoration report to show treatment acres and outcome metrics, including change in water quantity and reduction in risk from high-severity wildfire resulting from forest-restoration activities. These outcomes will be shared through SNC's communication channels and with the Board.

Recommendation

This is an informational item only; no formal action is needed by the Board at this time, although Boardmembers are encouraged to share their thoughts and comments.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Thursday, March 5, 2025

Agenda Item 9:

Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program Highlights

Background

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Governing Board approved receipt of three Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP) block grants for a total of \$24.17 million from the Department of Conservation (DOC). The overarching goal of the RFFCP is to increase the ability of partners to develop, prioritize, and implement wildfire- and forest-resilience projects and support the development of Regional priority strategies aimed at restoring health and resilience to communities, forests, and other wildfire-prone landscapes. The SNC is distributing this funding directly to partners through subgrants and providing Region-wide technical assistance through a combination of SNC staff and the coordination of other technical assistance providers through a grant to the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts.

Staff successfully closed out the first two block grants, representing an investment of approximately \$9 million in SNC's Regional partners, from the DOC in the second quarter of 2025. Under the third RFFCP block grant, the SNC has distributed 26 subgrants for capacity building and pipeline-project development. These subgrants have been executed and have completed just over a year and a half of activities, which include organizational development, strategic planning, project identification and prioritization, collaboration and partnership development, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping and development of decision support tools, tribal outreach and engagement, project design, creation of monitoring plans, grant writing, and other critical capacity areas.

Current Status

The third RFFCP block grant is also funding SNC's RFFCP Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program, which was launched in the spring of 2024. It was designed in response to needs tribes have directly expressed to SNC staff and includes group trainings and workshops, peer learning, one-on-one support, and technical assistance. Twelve tribes and tribal organizations were selected to participate in a cohort that received a year of staffing support and intensive grant writing and grant administration training and hands-on learning from December 2024 through December 2025.

In addition, these cohort participants and their tribes are receiving specific technical assistance in areas such as tribal work crew development, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) agreements, human resources support, financial sustainability, GIS mapping for cultural resources, data sovereignty, and GIS mapping for grant applications. This technical assistance is provided by tribal experts and coordinated

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Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program Highlights
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through a subgrant to the Sierra Nevada Alliance. About halfway through 2025, most of these technical assistance offerings were opened to any tribe or tribal organization in the Sierra-Cascade Region.

Under a second phase of the Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program, cohort participants had the opportunity to develop priority forest and fire demonstration projects and as previously authorized by the Board, submit augmentation proposals to the SNC for additional RFFCP funding for up to \$100,000. Eight cohort tribes submitted projects for consideration, and all these projects have been approved for funding. They include planning and implementing tribal stewardship crews, fuel-reduction and wildfire-resilience projects, cultural burns, supporting partnership development, project planning and permitting, and GIS program and staff development.

Next Steps

Current RFFCP subgrants, including the Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program subgrants, are expected to close in the second quarter of 2027.

Recommendation

This is an informational item only; no formal action is needed by the Board at this time, although Boardmembers are encouraged to share their thoughts and comments.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
March 5, 2026

**Agenda Item 10: Proposition 4 Early Action Wildfire and
Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program Grant Award
Recommendations**

Background

The Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program (Program) is funded through Proposition 4, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Climate Bond). Assembly Bill 100 amended the California Budget Act of 2024, appropriating \$30.904 million to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) as local assistance funding to support “watershed improvement, forest health, biomass utilization, chaparral and forest restoration, and workforce development that addresses needs related to this subdivision and is designed to create career pathways for individuals from disadvantaged communities, severely disadvantaged communities, or vulnerable populations.” (Pub. Resources Code, section 91520, subd. (h)). The purpose of this current Program is to 1) focus on the highest wildfire resilience priority projects in the Sierra-Cascade Region, including funding projects to protect communities; and 2) support projects including those that can utilize the [Statewide Fuels Reduction Environmental Protection Plan](#) (EPP) established by California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA).

The Program was designed to support Governor Newsom’s March 1, 2025, emergency proclamation (Proclamation) to confront the severe ongoing risk of catastrophic wildfires that threaten public safety across California. The Proclamation authorized the secretaries of CNRA and CalEPA to determine which projects are eligible for suspension of certain California statutory and regulatory requirements to expedite critical fuel-reduction projects, while at the same time protecting public resources and the environment. As a result, CNRA and CalEPA developed the Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) process, by which project proponents may request to have critical fuel-reduction projects be suspended from several California laws, including, but not limited to, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as designated under the Governor’s Proclamation.

In June 2025, the SNC Governing Board approved the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Grant Guidelines (Guidelines) and allocated \$10,000,000 in funding from the early action appropriation of the Climate Bond. The primary focus of the Program is protecting people and communities. Additionally, the Program aims to support projects that result in a combination of multiple watershed, ecosystem, and community benefits. Examples of such benefits include the reduced likelihood of high-intensity fire and the negative consequences of such fires; protection and enhancement of natural resources, habitat

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and recreation; improved air and water quality; increased carbon sequestration and reduced greenhouse gas emissions; and supporting Regional economies.

The Program adopted the requirements of the EPP, thus to be eligible to receive a grant award from the SNC under this Program, projects must meet all of the following criteria:

- Have either completed environmental compliance or received approval to implement under the EPP.
- Be an implementation project with on-the-ground improvements resulting in a clear, demonstrable, and enduring public benefit.
- Be located within the Sierra-Cascade Region as defined by current 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.
- Commence on-the-ground work no later than October 15, 2026.
- Be completed by January 1, 2030.

2025-2026 Grant Cycle

The SNC announced a solicitation for Statements of Interest in June 2025. The SNC staff reviews all Statements of Interest for eligibility and consistency with Program purposes and invites those projects to submit proposals. Staff of the SNC work closely with applicants in developing project proposals, including conducting site visits. Proposals are evaluated based upon the scoring criteria in the guidelines. A project proposal must receive an evaluation score of 80 points or above to be considered for a funding award recommendation.

Response to Solicitation

The SNC received a robust response to the request for Statements of Interest. Below is a summary of Statements of Interest received through November 17, 2025.

Statement of Interest Submissions

Through November 17, 2025	Number of Proposals	Funds Requested
Statements of Interest invited to submit proposals	27	\$24.2 million
Statements of Interest not invited to submit proposals	27	\$21.0 million
Total Statements of Interest submitted	54	\$45.2 million

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Of the 27 invitations to submit proposals, SNC received 22 proposals requesting a total of \$20,113,998. Proposals were accepted through November 17, 2025. Due to the overwhelming demand, the SNC announced that no new Statements of Interest would be considered at that time.

Because of the high level of interest in the Program, and the excellent suite of projects being proposed, at the December 2025 Board meeting the SNC Governing Board approved increasing the available funding for the Program under the current Guidelines, from \$10 million to \$15 million (a \$5 million increase.)

Current Status

As stated previously, the SNC received 22 proposals requesting a total of \$20,113,998. Below is a summary by county of proposals received, currently undergoing due diligence, and recommended for award at the December 2025 and March 2026 Board meetings.

Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program: Proposals Received

County	Proposals Received		Ongoing Due Diligence		Recommended Dec 2025 & Mar 2026	
	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$
TOTALS	22	\$20,113,998	3	\$1,662,709	13	\$13,337,291
<i>Multi-County (Shasta, Tehama, Modoc)</i>	2	\$1,757,676			1	\$ 993,064
<i>Modoc</i>	1	\$ 998,775				
<i>Plumas</i>	2	\$2,155,091			1	\$990,766
<i>Butte</i>	1	\$1,298,000			1	\$1,298,000
<i>Nevada</i>	3	\$2,870,721	1	\$720,000	2	\$2,150,721
<i>Amador</i>	1	\$382,008			1	\$382,008
<i>Calaveras</i>	1	\$562,321			1	\$562,321
<i>El Dorado</i>	2	\$1,700,000			2	\$1,700,000
<i>Tuolumne</i>	2	\$2,382,500			1	\$ 876,822
<i>Kern</i>	1	\$285,397				
<i>Mono</i>	1	\$1,493,192			1	\$1,493,192
<i>Fresno</i>	1	\$993,541			1	\$993,541
<i>Madera</i>	2	\$2,083,386	1	\$186,530	1	\$1,896,856
<i>Mariposa</i>	2	\$1,151,390	1	\$756,179		

December 2025 Grant Awards

The SNC held the first quarterly evaluation of full proposals during the first week of September. Twelve proposals requesting \$12.4 million had been submitted by September

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1, 2025. The SNC staff evaluated the twelve proposals based upon the scoring criteria in the Guidelines. Eleven of the twelve proposals scored above 80. Three proposals, which scored 90 points or higher, were recommended for award at the December 2025 Board meeting. The remaining proposals were still under consideration for potential recommendation at a future Board meeting.

In December 2025, the SNC Governing Board authorized the following three grant awards totaling \$4,688,048.

- Project #1816 Musty Buck Ridge Fuel Break in Butte County, with an award of \$1,298,000 to Chico State Enterprises.
- Project #1823 White Fir Ridge Fuels Reduction and Forest Health in Mono County, with an award of \$1,493,192 to California Deer Association.
- Project #1824 Goat Mountain Fuel Break Reconstruction in Madera County, with an award of \$1,896,856 to the Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council.

Projects Currently Recommended for Award

The SNC held the second quarterly evaluation of full proposals during the first week of December. An additional 10 proposals requesting \$7,747,350 were submitted between the first quarterly review and December 1, and one proposal from the earlier review cycle resubmitted a revised proposal with a funding request reduced by \$64,500. The SNC staff evaluated the proposals based upon the scoring criteria in the guidelines. After considering all the proposals from the first and second review cycles together, SNC staff is recommending 10 grant awards totaling \$8,649,243 at the March 2026 Board meeting. There are an additional three projects which are still undergoing due diligence and may be recommended at the June 2026 Board meeting.

If the Governing Board authorizes the recommended grant awards, it will have awarded \$13,337,291 of the \$15 million available. The SNC staff anticipates recommending the remaining \$1,662,709 at the June 2026 Board meeting.

The 10 projects currently recommended for award are outlined below.

a. Project #1813

Eldorado Community Defense Project 2025

United States Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest

\$900,000

El Dorado County

The Eldorado Community Defense Project 2025, as proposed by the Eldorado National Forest (ENF), will implement a minimum of 350 acres of vegetation management

treatments to reduce hazardous fuels and protect communities and critical infrastructure from wildfire in El Dorado County. The project area consists of two strategically located units on ENF lands. The first one is the Darling Ridge Unit on the Georgetown Ranger District near the communities of Georgetown, Garden Valley, and Volcanoville. Treatments in the Darling Ridge Unit will create a nearly 3.5-mile-long fuel break along a landscape feature that is critical for community protection, wildfire suppression, and evacuation planning. The second unit is the Sly Park Unit on the Placerville Ranger District in the community of Pollock Pines, near multiple housing subdivisions and Jenkinson Lake. Treatments in the Sly Park Unit will protect communities, an outdoor education center, ENF hotshot base and fire station, and El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) water facilities and infrastructure.

CEQA Compliance: The project is statutorily exempt under Public Resources Code Section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1) for projects undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), if the primary role of the state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The project was reviewed in its entirety in three separate NEPA decisions: *The Tobacco Gulch Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project Environmental Assessment with Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact* signed on June 5, 2017; the *Chiquita Prescribed Burn Project Decision Memo* signed on September 7, 2018; and the *Environmental Assessment for the Marshall Mine Fuels Reduction Project with Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Notice* signed on June 24, 2008 and a *Confirmation of NEPA Adequacy* signed on December 19, 2025.

[Access the Project Details \(Project 1813\)](#)

[Access the Musty Buck Fuel Break Secretarial Suspension Authorization](#)

b. Project #1817

Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Phase One

Yuba Watershed Institute

\$1,123,000

Nevada County

The larger Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project consists of 1,032 acres of federal public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and 160 acres of contiguous private lands under conservation easement with Bear Yuba Land Trust. The Yuba Watershed Institute (YWI) will implement Phase 1 through this grant and will treat 152 acres on BLM lands and 43 acres on private lands to reduce fuel loading. The project is located in Nevada County, about three miles north of Nevada City, on the south rim of the South Yuba River canyon. The purpose of the project is to establish and maintain a continuous 400-ft-wide ridgetop shaded fuel break system to reduce wildfire intensity,

protect ingress/egress, and safeguard nearby communities around Nevada City and the South Yuba River canyon. This project is part of a larger landscape-scale effort to create a continuous system of shaded fuel breaks and ecological restoration treatments along the south side of the South Yuba River canyon.

CEQA Compliance:

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection approved Modified Timber Harvest Plan (THP No. 2-23-00126-NEV) on November 2, 2023, which is active through November 1, 2028. A Minor Deviation to the Modified Timber Harvest Plan was approved on February 6, 2026. The Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) meets the requirements of a Substitute Document pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15252. Under section 15253, subdivision (b) of the CEQA Guidelines, SNC, acting as a Responsible Agency under CEQA may rely on the THP in making its determination on this project.

Prior to the SNC Governing Board making its determination on the project, the SNC Governing Board shall certify that it independently reviewed and considered the information in the THP and confirmed that the conditions within CEQA Guidelines, section 15253, subd. (b) have been met. The conditions within section 15253, subd. (b) are as follows:

- (1) The certified agency is the first agency to grant a discretionary approval for the project.
- (2) The certified agency consults with the Responsible Agencies, but the consultation need not include the exchange of written notices.
- (3) The environmental analysis document identifies :
 - (A) The significant environmental effects within the jurisdiction or special expertise of the Responsible Agency.
 - (B) Alternatives or mitigation measures that could avoid or reduce the severity of the significant environmental effects.
- (4) Where written notices were not exchanged in the consultation process, the Responsible Agency was afforded the opportunity to participate in the review of the property by certified agency in a regular manner designed to inform the certified agency of the concerns of the Responsible Agency before release of the EIR substitute for public review.
- (5) The certified agency established a consultation period between the certified agency and the Responsible Agency that was at least as long as the period allowed for public review of the EIR substitute document.
- (6) The certified agency exercised the powers of a Lead Agency by considering all the significant environmental effects of the project and making a finding under Section 15091 for each significant effect.

The SNC may file a Notice of Determination as a Responsible Agency on the THP.

[Access Timber Harvesting Plan No. 2-23-00126-NEV documents](#)

The activities on federal lands are statutorily exempt under Public Resources Code Section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1) for projects undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act, if the primary role of the state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The project was reviewed in its entirety in the *Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Environmental Assessment* with *Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record* signed on January 14, 2025.

[Access the Project Details \(Project #1817\)](#)

[Access the Notice of Determination as a Responsible Agency \(Project #1817\)](#)

[Access the Notice of Exemption \(Project #1817\)](#)

c. Project #1819

Lily Gap Vegetative Maintenance, Unit One

Calaveras County Office of Emergency Services

\$562,321

Calaveras County

The Lily Gap Vegetative Maintenance, Unit One project is an approximately 161-acre fuels-reduction project in northern Calaveras County near the communities of Bummerville and West Point to reduce fire hazard and improve forest health conditions on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) forestland. The Calaveras County Office of Emergency Services will treat and maintain a shaded fuel break that the BLM initially installed in 2013 by removing ground and ladder fuels and thinning the overstory by approximately half. The project is adjacent to many fuels-reduction projects in the immediate area. The combination of these various projects make up some of the Highway 26 Wildfire Defense System, which is a locally driven effort to install a series of fuel breaks along the rim of the Mokelumne River to protect nearby communities and watershed.

CEQA Compliance: The project is statutorily exempt under Public Resources Code Section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1) for projects undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act, if the primary role of the state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The project was reviewed in its entirety in the *BLM Statewide Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Treatments Programmatic Environmental Assessment* from August 2023, and the *Determination of NEPA Adequacy for the Lily Gap Vegetative Maintenance Project* signed on August 8, 2025.

[Access the Project Details and Notice of Exemption \(Project #1819\)](#)

d. Project #1822

Plumas Community Resilience Project

Sierra Institute for Community and Environment

\$990,766

Plumas County

The Plumas Community Resilience Project is an approximately 309-acre initiative focused on reducing wildfire risk, improving forest health, and supporting local workforce development by implementing treatments in the communities of Quincy, Meadow Valley, Taylorsville, and Genesee in Plumas County. Submitted by the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, the project includes treatments on private, non-industrial, university, and Plumas National Forest lands. The project responds to the aftermath of multiple large-scale wildfires that have burned nearly two-thirds of the Plumas National Forest by implementing targeted fuels-reduction treatments and creating defensible space around key population centers and community assets. In Taylorsville and Genesee, treatments will be implemented across at least 155 acres of private, non-industrial forestland that expands an existing fuel break and is critical to protect Genesee's primary ingress/egress route. In Quincy, the Oakland Feather River Camp, a historic recreational facility located on Plumas National Forest land, will receive 68 acres of fuels reduction, ensuring the longevity of a camp facility that has connected over 200,000 East Bay residents to the Sierra since 1924. In Meadow Valley at the University of California Berkeley Forestry Field Camp, 86 acres of university and Plumas National Forest lands will be treated to reduce wildfire risk to historic infrastructure, protect educational resources, and create continuous fuel breaks that connect to adjacent U.S. Forest Service treatment areas and enhance community protection.

CEQA Compliance: Activities on private lands are covered by two separate authorizations for suspension of state statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements that fall within the jurisdictions of the boards, departments, and offices within the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources, (including, but not limited to, CEQA) pursuant to Governor Newsom's March 1, 2025, Proclamation. The proposed treatments around the community of Taylorsville and Genesee were included in the *Indian Valley Community Defense Project Secretarial Suspension Authorization* dated June 17, 2025. The proposed treatments at UC Berkeley Forestry Field Camp were included in the *Baker Forest Fuels Reduction Project Secretarial Suspension Authorization* dated August 7, 2025. Activities on private lands will be implemented consistent with all conditions of the suspension authorizations, including being conducted in conformance with the EPP.

Activities on National Forest lands are statutorily exempt under Public Resources Code Section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1) for projects undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act, if the primary role of the state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those

projects. Treatments on National Forest Lands were reviewed in their entirety in the *North Quincy Wildfire Resiliency Project Environmental Assessment* and the *Claremont Forest Resiliency Project Environmental Assessment*, and authorized in the *North Quincy Wildfire Resiliency Project Final Decision Notice* signed on August 14, 2024, and the *Claremont Forest Resiliency Project Decision Notice* signed on April 7, 2023.

[Access the Project Details and Notice of Exemption \(Project 1822\)](#)

[Access the Indian Valley Community Defense Project Secretarial Suspension Authorization](#)

[Access the Baker Forest Fuels Reduction Secretarial Suspension Authorization](#)

e. Project #1827

Mount Crossman Community Fuel Break

Amador Fire Safe Council

\$382,008

Amador County

The Mount Crossman Community Fuel Break project (Project) is an 85-acre fuel break across private properties between the communities of Buckhorn and Barton, along Highway 88 in Amador County. The applicant, the Amador Fire Safe Council (AFSC), will construct a new 400- to 500-foot wide fuel break that is part of the regional fuel break strategy. The Project directly protects over 1,000 homes in eastern Amador County and adds to the overall effectiveness of a regional fuel break strategy. The Project was first proposed by the Mace Meadows Firewise Community through the AFSC Project proposal process. The funding for the planning and environmental compliance for this Project came from CAL FIRE. The AFSC has been working with CAL FIRE on a maintenance schedule in which all 13 landowners included in the Project are willing to participate.

CEQA Compliance: The Project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA guidelines section 15304 for Minor Alterations to Land.

[Access the Project Details and Notice of Exemption \(Project #1827\)](#)

f. Project #1830

Sly Park Fuels Reduction Project

El Dorado Resource Conservation District

\$800,000

El Dorado County

The Sly Park Fuels Reduction Project, as proposed by the El Dorado Resource Conservation District (RCD), will conduct 377 acres of fuels-reduction treatments on

Eldorado National Forest lands near the communities of Camino, Pollock Pines, and Pleasant Valley in El Dorado County. The project is located directly south of US Highway 50 in the Weber Creek watershed and is in the Placerville Ranger District of the Eldorado National Forest. Treatments are adjacent to and surrounded by low-medium density residential properties, US Highway 50, and other critical ingress/egress routes.

Strategically placed fuels-reduction treatments will complement and extend the continuity of existing treatments to create a fire-resistant landscape. The project is the final phase of the Fire-Adapted 50 – Sly Park Fuels Management Collaborative. To date, over 8,000 acres have been treated across jurisdictions in other phases of this project.

CEQA Compliance: The project is statutorily exempt under Public Resources Code Section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1) for projects undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act, if the primary role of the state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The project was reviewed in its entirety in the *Sly Park Fuels Reduction Project Decision Memo* signed on June 1, 2020.

[Access the Project Details and Notice of Exemption \(Project #1830\)](#)

g. Project #1836

Town of Washington Wildfire Defense

Nevada County Office of Emergency Services

\$1,027,721

Nevada County

The Town of Washington Wildfire Defense project has two critical goals of providing defensible opportunities to protect the town of Washington from wildfire and providing critical ingress for fire responders and egress for people to escape a fire. The Nevada County Office of Emergency Services (OES) will implement this project, which is entirely on Tahoe National Forest land, thinning up to 172 acres of heavily overgrown forest. The town of Washington is a small, isolated community on the banks of the South Yuba River, located about 13 miles northeast of Nevada City in Nevada County. The community sits at a strategic point between existing and planned shaded fuel breaks along both rims of the South Yuba River. Each summer, the town of Washington hosts as many as 1,500 visitors daily for RVing, off-highway vehicle use, camping, mining, hunting, and river recreation. The Washington area is identified in Nevada County’s 2025 Community Wildfire Protection Plan as a “Highest Priority Project Area.” Along with other planned and proposed projects on private and federal land, the town of Washington project will help complete a comprehensive protection effort of watershed and communities of the South Yuba River.

CEQA Compliance: The project is statutorily exempt under Public Resources Code Section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1) for projects undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-

severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act, if the primary role of the state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The project was reviewed in its entirety in the *Environmental Assessment for Washington Fuels Reduction Project with Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact* signed on June 3, 2004, with a confirmation of NEPA adequacy signed on January 30, 2026.

[Access the Project Details and Notice of Exemption \(Project #1836\)](#)

h. Project #1837

Protecting Highway 108's Communities, Economies, and Watersheds

Tuolumne County

\$876,822

Tuolumne County

The Protecting Highway 108's Communities, Economies, and Watersheds project will install a minimum of 280 acres of fuel breaks in eastern Tuolumne County. The applicant, Tuolumne County, will be creating shaded fuel breaks on Stanislaus National Forest land along Highway 108 and Crabtree Road that protect the community of Pinecrest and within the wildland urban interface near the community of Arastraville. The fuel breaks installed with this project will allow access for fire suppression activities and reduce the spread of catastrophic wildfire events, but will also act as key anchor points for future forest-management activities. The project is part of the larger Social and Ecological Resilience Across the Landscape (SERAL) 2.0 Project, a 120,000-acre landscape level forest-treatment plan developed by the US Forest Service in partnership with the local collaborative, Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions.

CEQA Compliance: The project is statutorily exempt under Public Resources Code Section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1) for projects undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act, if the primary role of the state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The project was reviewed in its entirety in the *Social and Ecological Resilience Across the Landscape 2.0 Final Environmental Impact Statement and Another Step in Collaboratively Moving Toward Resilience in the Stanislaus Landscape - Record of Decision (ROD-1)* signed on July 31, 2024, and *Forest Thinning in California Spotted Owl Protected Activity Centers (ROD-2)* signed on January 15, 2025.

[Access the Project Details and Notice of Exemption \(Project #1837\)](#)

i. Project #1838

Manton WUI Protection Project

Resource Conservation District of Tehama County

\$993,064

Tehama and Shasta Counties

The Manton WUI Protection Project (Project) will create strategic fuel breaks to provide a 630-acre defensible perimeter around the Manton community located in Tehama and Shasta counties approximately 35 miles east of Red Bluff. Submitted by the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County and located on county-owned and private parcels, the Project will mitigate the rural communities' susceptibility to high-intensity wildfire and improve safety along ingress/egress routes. Manton is situated in the foothill zone between the valley and the Sierra-Cascades, an area with dense mixed conifer forest, heavy brush and ladder fuels, frequent summer drought, and steep terrain that accelerates fire spread and is classified as a Very High Wildfire Risk zone. It lies upslope of Battle Creek with spring-fed, cold year-round flows that provide critical habitat for the endangered Spring Run Chinook Salmon and other salmonids. The effort connects private property treatments with public lands, safeguards essential community services and evacuation routes, protects recreational resources and watershed health, and fits within a larger, landscape-scale approach to wildfire resilience in Tehama and Shasta counties.

CEQA Compliance: The Project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA guidelines section 15304 for Minor Alterations to Land.

[Access the Project Details and Notice of Exemption \(Project #1838\)](#)

j. Project #1839

Fresno County Wildfire Defense Accelerator: Operational Fuel Break Project

Sierra Resource Conservation District

\$993,541

Fresno County

The Fresno County Wildfire Defense Accelerator: Operational Fuel Break Project, through Sierra Resource Conservation District, will complete construction on strategic fuel breaks through pile burning and prescribed fire on a minimum of 1,000 acres, and a maximum of 5,000 acres. The project is located entirely on the Sierra National Forest, High Sierra Ranger District, near the community of Shaver Lake in eastern Fresno County. The Sierra National Forest has a backlog of over 15,000 acres of unburned piles in the wildland urban interface, preventing the utilization of their associated fuel breaks. These fuel breaks have been identified by the Sierra National Forest, thirteen Firewise Communities, and the CAL FIRE Unit Plan as top wildland urban interface priorities. This project targets the most critical 5,000 acres of that backlog. The areas these fuel breaks will protect span 82,000

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acres, include over 6,000 private parcels, aid in protecting two hydroelectric facilities at Big Creek and Shaver Lake, and include recreation amenities at Huntington Lake and China Peak. This area's defensible strategies are built off the five fuel breaks and Defensible Fuel Profile Zones set forth in the Sierra National Forest Land Management Plan, the High Sierra Ranger District Pile Burn Plan, and the CAL FIRE Unit Plan.

CEQA Compliance: The project is statutorily exempt under Public Resources Code Section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1) for projects undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act, if the primary role of the state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. As the project area spans five different U.S. Forest Service treatment projects, the activities were reviewed in their entirety in five separate NEPA analyses and decisions: the *Exchequer Restoration Project Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for the Exchequer Restoration Project* signed on March 4, 2019; the *Decision Memo for the Huntington Recovery Project* signed on May 4, 2022; the *Creek Fire Ecological Restoration Project Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact* and *Creek Fire Ecological Restoration Project Decision Notice* signed on June 23, 2023; the *High Sierra Fuelbreak Maintenance Project Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for High Sierra Fuelbreak Maintenance Project* signed on September 9, 2011; and the *Bald Mountain Project Environmental Assessment with Decision Notice for the Bald Mountain Project* signed on October 8, 2014.

[Access the Project Details and Notice of Exemption \(Project #1839\)](#)

Next Steps

Upon authorization by the Board, staff will file all adopted CEQA documentation and prepare agreements for each authorized grant.

Staff will continue due diligence for the three remaining proposals and will bring forward additional award recommendations to the June 2026 Board meeting. If the 10 grant awards recommended today are approved, a total of \$13,337,291 of the \$15 million available will have been awarded. Staff anticipate recommending awards for all remaining funds at the June 2026 Board meeting.

This will leave \$15.904 million in remaining Proposition 4 Early Action Wildfire funds. Staff intend to develop a revised set of Guidelines for Board approval later this fiscal year to expand project eligibility to include critical forest-health and wildfire-recovery projects that build resilience for communities, habitat, water supply, and other natural and regional values.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board:

- a. Authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Eldorado Community Defense Project 2025 project (1813), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$900,000 to United States Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.**

- b. 1. CEQA Determination**
Certify that it independently reviewed and considered the information in the Timber Harvesting Plan No. 2-23-00126-NEV, adopted by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and all mitigation measures required within; and if the Board concurs with the Timber Harvesting Plan No. 2-23-00126-NEV, find that the Timber Harvesting Plan complies with the conditions contained within CEQA Guidelines, section 15253, subd. (b) allowing SNC to rely on the Timber Harvesting Plan for its determination as a responsible agency under CEQA.
2. Project Determination
Authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Determination as a responsible agency for the Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Phase One (1817); authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Phase One (1817); authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,123,000 to Yuba Watershed Institute; and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

- c. Authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Lily Gap Vegetative Maintenance, Unit One project (1819), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$562,321 to Calaveras County Office of Emergency Services, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.**

- d. Authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Plumas Community Resilience Project (1822); find that the Plumas Community Resilience Project treatments on private lands fall under the suspension of state statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements that fall within the jurisdictions of the boards, departments, and offices within the CalEPA and the CNRA, (including, but not limited to, CEQA) pursuant to Governor Newsom's March 1, 2025 Proclamation; authorize a grant award in the amount of \$990,766 to Sierra Institute for Community and Environment; and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.**

- e. Authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Mount Crossman Community Fuel Break project (1827), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$382,008 to Amador Fire Safe Council, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.**
- f. Authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Sly Park Fuels Reduction Project (1830), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$800,000 to El Dorado Resource Conservation District, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.**
- g. Authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Town of Washington Wildfire Defense project (1836), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,027,721 to Nevada County Office of Emergency Services, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.**
- h. Authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Protecting Highway 108's Communities, Economies, and Watersheds project (1837), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$876,822 to Tuolumne County, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.**
- i. Authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Manton WUI Protection Project (1838), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$993,064 to the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.**
- j. Authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Fresno County Wildfire Defense Accelerator: Operational Fuel Break Project (1839), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$993,541 to Sierra Resource Conservation District, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.**

Exhibit A

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program SNC Project Number 1813

SNC ID Number: 1813

Applicant: United States Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest

Project Title: Eldorado Community Defense Project 2025

SNC Subregion: North Central

County(ies): El Dorado

Funding Amount Requested: \$900,000

Funding Amount Recommended: \$900,000

Total Project Cost: \$994,200

Funding Authority: Proposition 4, The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, California Budget Act of 2024 (SB103 Early Action Wildfire)

Project Scope / Description

The Eldorado Community Defense Project 2025, as proposed by the Eldorado National Forest (ENF), will implement a minimum of 350 acres of vegetation management treatments to reduce hazardous fuels and protect communities and critical infrastructure from wildfire in El Dorado County. The project area consists of two strategically located units on ENF lands. The first one is the Darling Ridge Unit on the Georgetown Ranger District near the communities of Georgetown, Garden Valley, and Volcanoville. The second one is the Sly Park Unit on the Placerville Ranger District in the community of Pollock Pines, near multiple housing subdivisions and Jenkinson Lake.

Existing conditions in both project units consist of high tree density and heavy surface fuel loads, where fire modeling predicts high-intensity, fast-spreading wildfire in the event of an ignition. Treatment types for both units include a mix of mastication and hand-cut and chip to reduce fuel loads and alter fire behavior. This will reduce the risk of high-intensity wildfire and result in the protection of communities, vital ingress/egress routes, and emergency-response assets. Treatments in the Darling Ridge Unit will create a nearly 3.5-mile-long fuel break along a landscape feature that is critical for community protection, wildfire suppression, and evacuation planning. Treatments in the Sly Park Unit will protect communities, an outdoor education center, ENF hotshot base and fire station, and El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) water facilities and infrastructure. This unit is near the

footprint of the 2021 Caldor Fire, so it will also help to protect some of the limited unburned forest remaining in the area.

The Darling Ridge Unit has been a focus of fuel-reduction work by ENF and private timberland and landowners for over 30 years. Recent work completed has resulted in nearly 4,000 acres treated and the creation of a strategic cross-jurisdictional fuel break and defense zone. The Sly Park Unit is also part of larger landscape-level treatments and initiatives such as Fire Adapted 50 and the South Fork American River Cohesive Strategy. It is adjacent to work previously funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) on EID lands around Jenkinson Lake.

The ENF's Fuels Management Department will lead implementation of this project, ensuring that all planned treatments are completed efficiently and maintained over time. They have a proven track record of successfully implementing and completing large-scale forest-health projects on ENF lands. They also have extensive experience administering fuels-reduction grants from CAL FIRE, Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), and multiple fire safe councils.

Partners on this project include the El Dorado Resource Conservation District, who will administer contracts on the Darling Ridge Unit; the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, who will be involved in burn unit preparation and cultural stewardship; the California Conservation Corps, who will be contracted to complete fuel-reduction work; and the CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Crews, who will also provide fuels-management work. Funding for the Growlersburg crew and the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians will be provided by ENF and is already secured. The ENF will also provide the in-kind funding for their project management and administration costs.

The Eldorado Community Defense Project 2025 supports the SNC Strategic Plan and Proposition 4 by completing treatments that will reduce wildfire risk, protect vulnerable communities, and safeguard critical ingress/egress routes for multiple communities in El Dorado County. The project will also enhance ecological resilience of our public lands, preserve recreational access, and protect critical community assets like water infrastructure and fire stations.

Project Schedule

Project Tasks and Deliverables	Timeline
SNC Progress Reports	August 1 and February 1 throughout the duration of the project
Sly Park Unit Implementation	April 2026 – September 2027
Darling Ridge Unit Implementation	April 2026 – September 2027
SNC Final Report	November 2027
Estimated Project Completion Date	November 2027

Project Costs

Project Costs	SNC Funding
Sly Park Unit Implementation	\$250,000
Darling Ridge Unit Implementation	\$650,000
Administrative Costs	\$0
Total	

Project Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- El Dorado County Fire Safe Council
- Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Tribal Fire Department

Opposition:

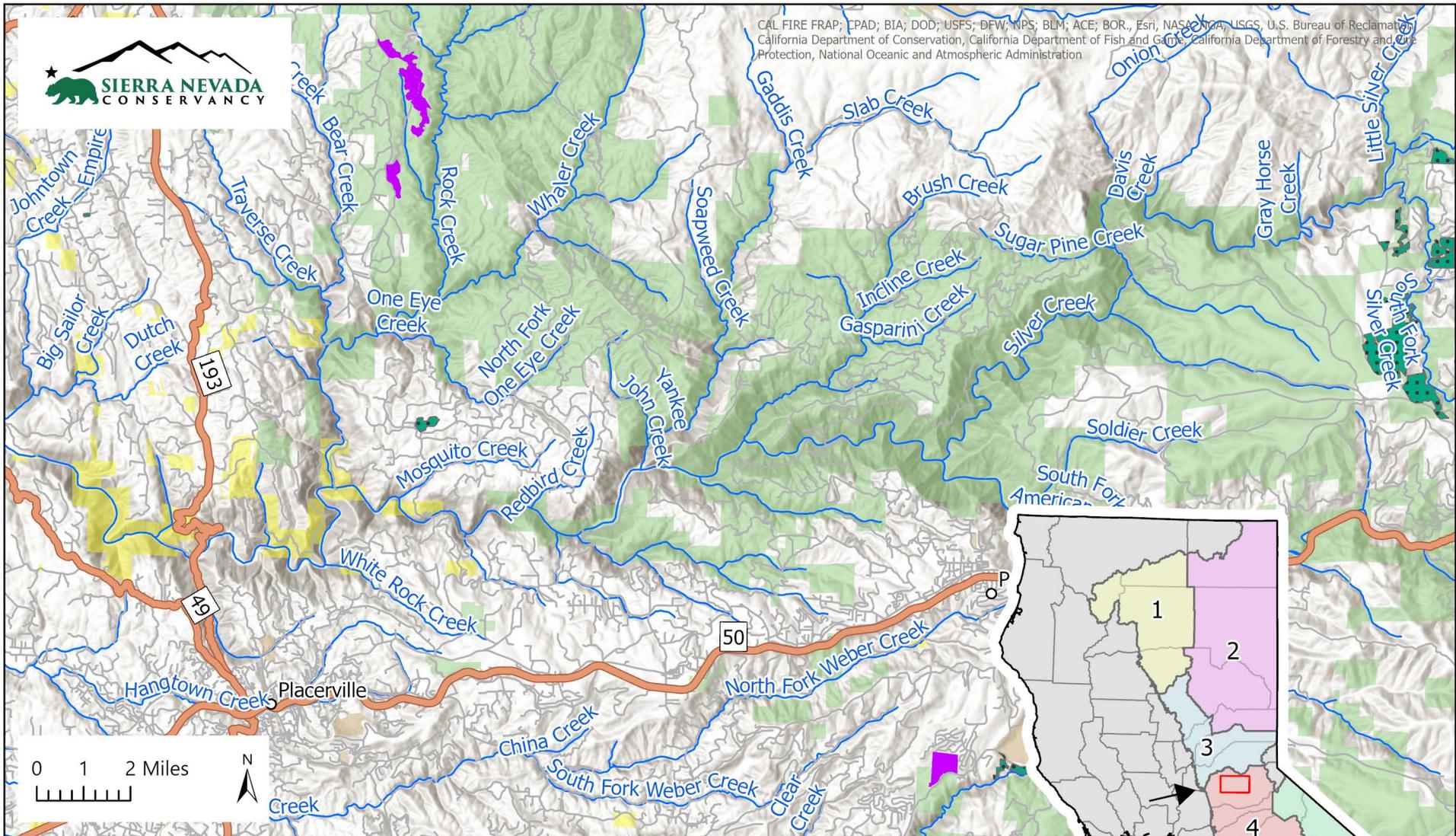
- None received

Project Performance Measures

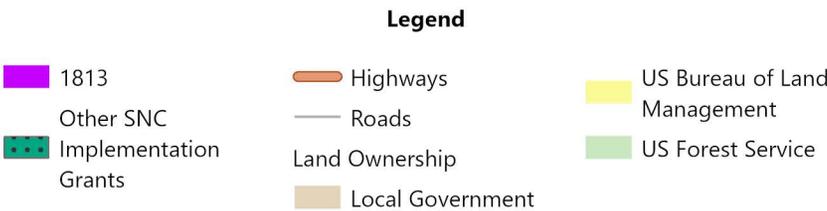
There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to identify one to three project-specific Performance Measures in their

application. Please note, Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified before the grant agreement is executed.

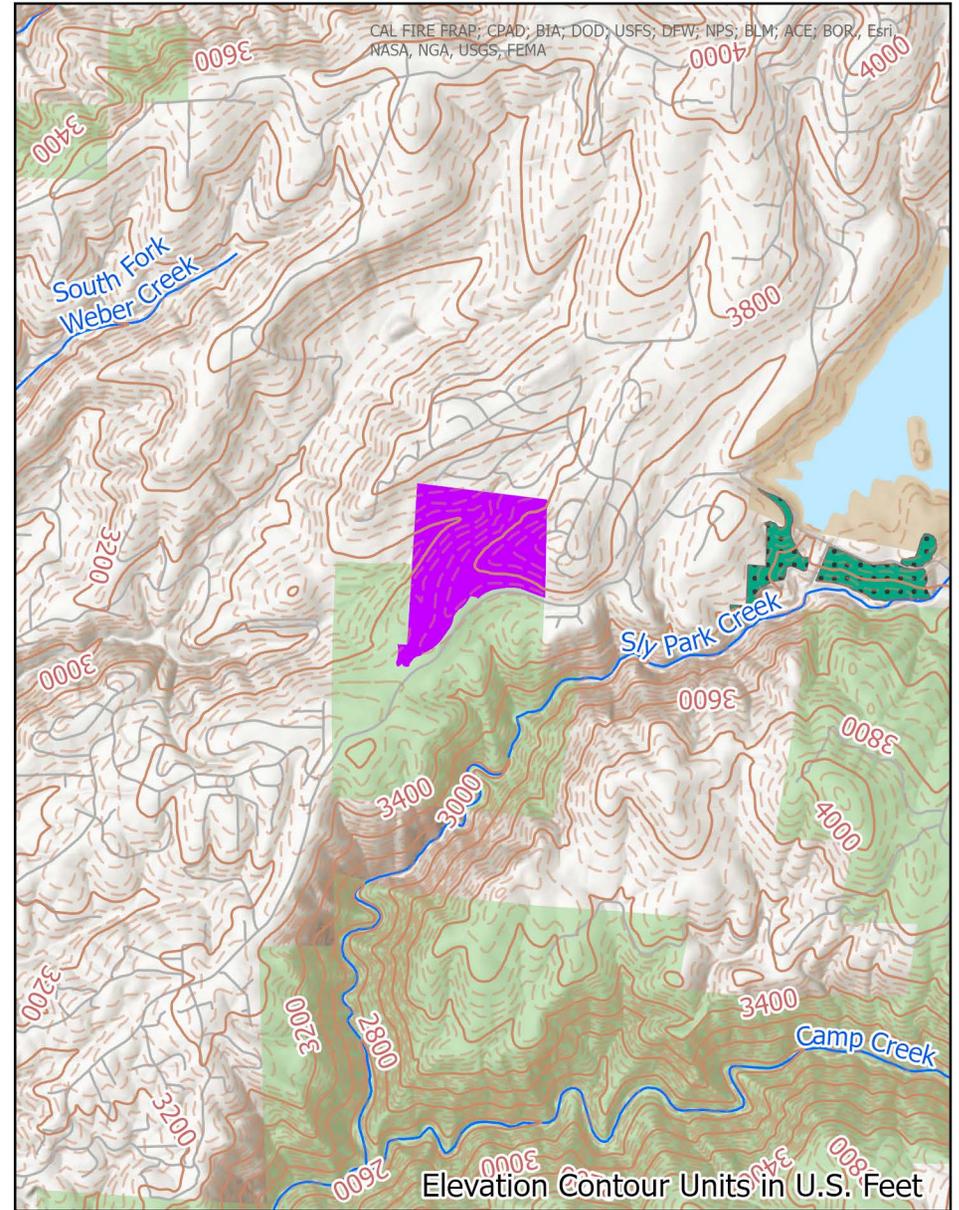
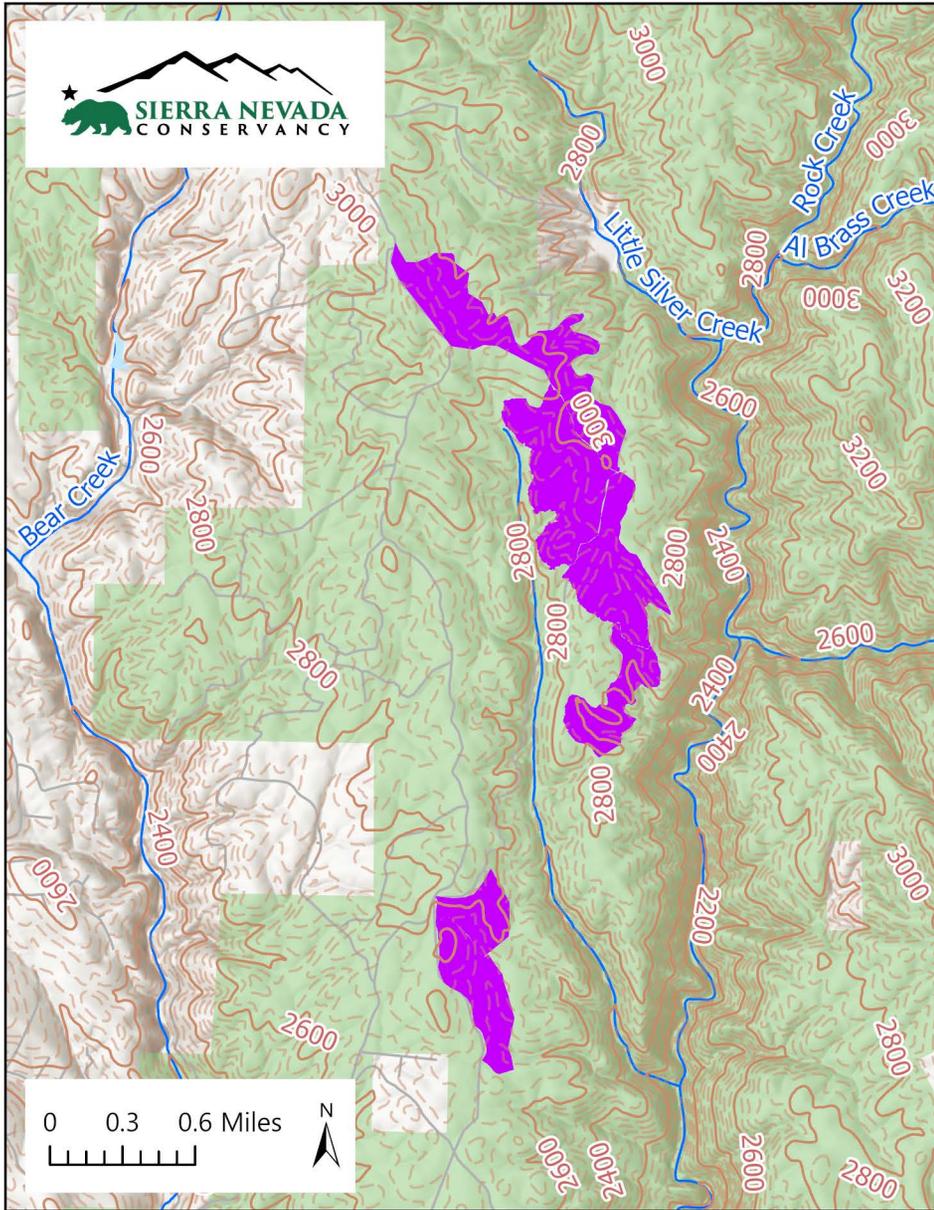
- Acres of Land Improved or Restored



1813: Eldorado Community Defense Project 2025
 USDA Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest



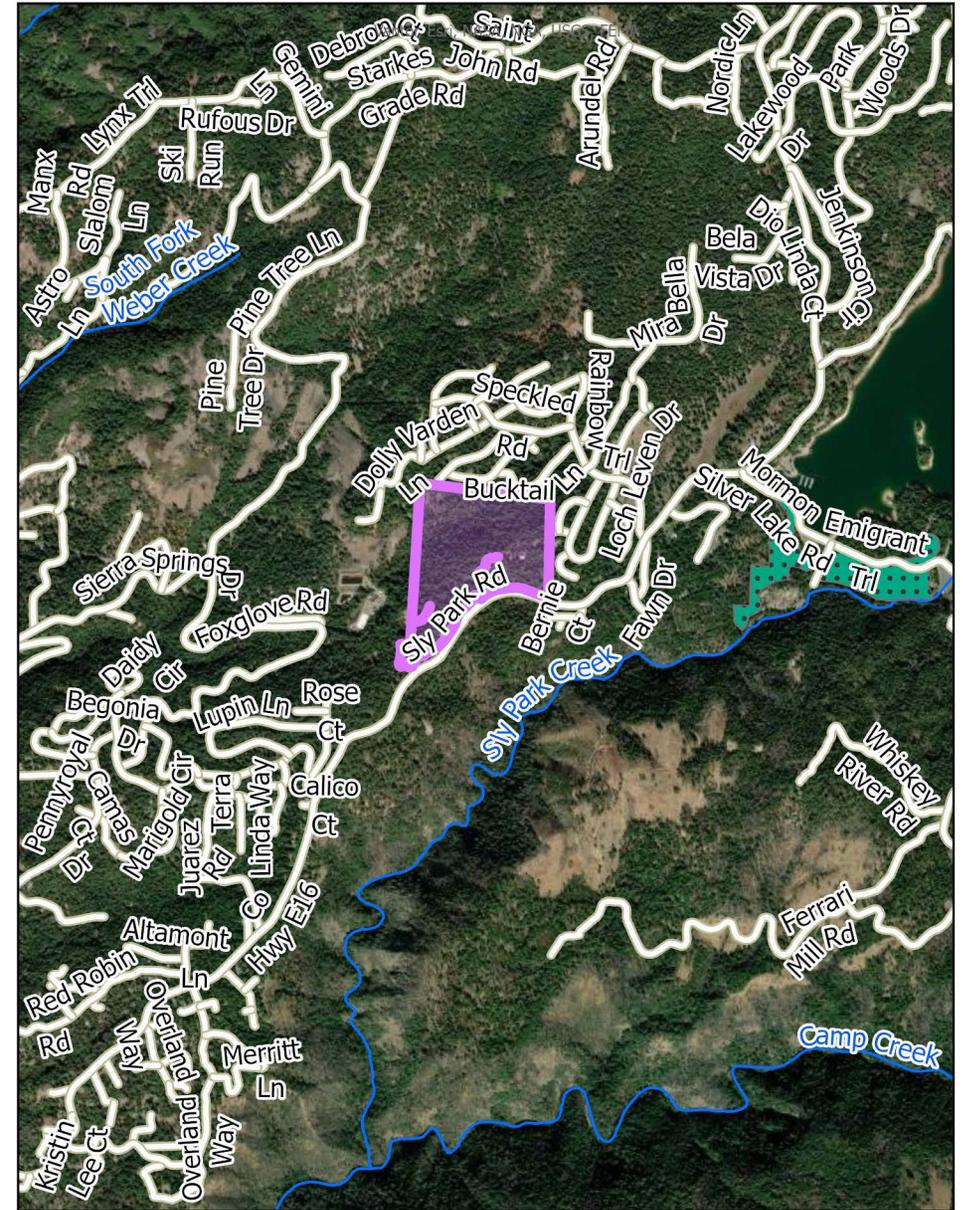
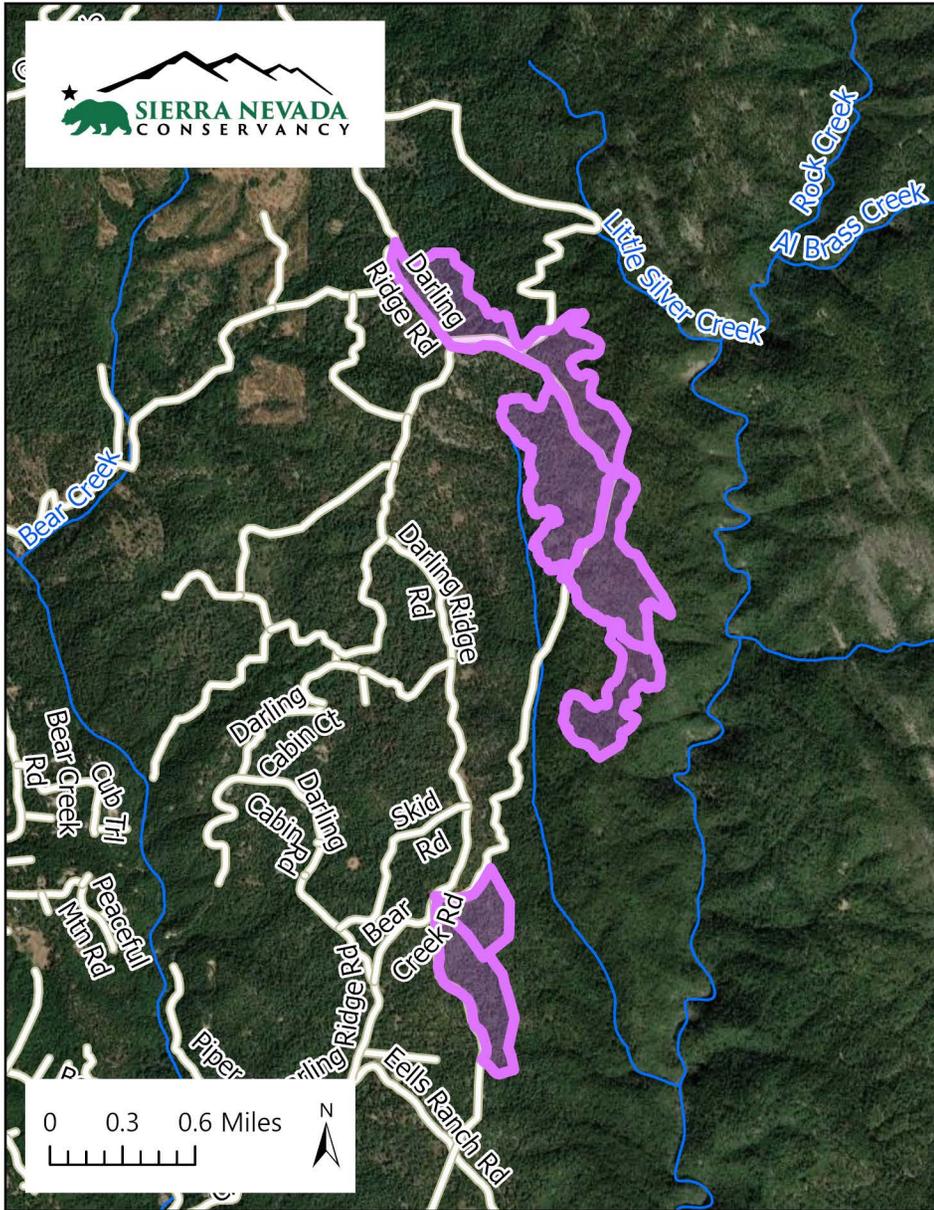
1. Northwest Subregion
2. Northeast Subregion
3. North Central Subregion
4. South Central Subregion
5. Southeast Subregion
6. Southwest Subregion



1813: Eldorado Community Defense Project 2025

USDA Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest





1813: Eldorado Community Defense Project 2025

USDA Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest

Legend

- 1813
- Other SNC
- Implementation Grants
- Roads

To: Governor's Office of Land Use and
Climate Innovation
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Lead Agency
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

To: El Dorado County Recorder - Clerk
360 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667I

Project Title: Eldorado Community Defense Project 2025 (SNC1813)

Project Location – Specific: There are two general treatment locations, both on Eldorado National Forest lands. 1) Georgetown Ranger District, Darling Ridge area, near the communities of Georgetown, Garden Valley, and Volcanoville. Approximately 4.5 miles SE of Georgetown, 5.8 miles NE of Garden Valley. Treatment center at approximately -120.760, 38.874 degrees. 2) Placerville Ranger District by the community of Pollock Pines. Approximately 0.7 miles west of Jenkinson Reservoir and 2.8 miles south of Pollock Pines, along the north side of Sly Park Road. Treatment center at approximately -120.593, 38.717 degrees.

Project Location - City: 1) Near
Georgetown, Garden Valley. 2) Near
Pollock Pines.

Project Location - County: El Dorado

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding to the Eldorado National Forest (ENF) to complete between 350 to 400 acres of vegetation management treatments to reduce hazardous fuels and protect communities and critical infrastructure from wildfire in El Dorado County. Existing conditions consist of high tree density and heavy surface fuel loads, where fire modeling predicts high-intensity, fast-spreading wildfire in the event of an ignition. Planned treatment types for both units include a mix of mastication to reduce brush and small diameter timber, up to 12" DBH and hand-cut and chip to reduce fuel loads and alter fire behavior. This will reduce the risk of high-intensity wildfire and result in the protection of communities, vital ingress/egress routes, and emergency-response assets. Treatments in the Darling Ridge Unit will create a nearly 3.5-mile-long fuel break along a landscape feature that is critical for community protection, wildfire suppression, and evacuation planning. Treatments in the Sly Park Unit will protect communities, an outdoor education center, ENF hotshot base and fire station, and El Dorado Irrigation District water facilities and infrastructure.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

United States Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest
100 Forni Road Placerville, CA 95667
Jacobie Waters, Forest Fire Management Officer
(530) 414-3470
Jacobie.waters@usda.gov

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Pub. Resources Code, section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1)

Reasons why project is exempt: Public Resources Code, section 4799.05 statutorily exempts from CEQA projects for prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel-reduction projects, or to related activities included in the project description, undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The SNC has authorized/approved the use of the funding for the ENF to conduct fuels-reduction treatments on National Forest lands. The project was reviewed in its entirety under NEPA by the Eldorado National Forest in the *Chiquita Prescribed Burn Project Categorical Exclusion Decision Memo* signed on September 7, 2018; the *Tobacco Gulch Ecological Restoration Project Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact* signed on June 5, 2017; and the *Environmental Assessment for Marshall Mines Fuels Reduction Project with Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Notice* signed on June 24, 2008 with a *Confirmation Of NEPA Adequacy* signed on December 19, 2025.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mary Akens

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-450-5177

If filed by applicant: N/A

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project:
Yes ___ No ___

Signature:_____

Title:_____

Date:_____

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Exhibit A

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program SNC Project Number 1817

SNC ID Number: 1817

Applicant: Yuba Watershed Institute

Project Title: Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Phase One

SNC Subregion: North Central

County(ies): Nevada

Funding Amount Requested: \$1,123,000

Funding Amount Recommended: \$1,123,000

Total Project Cost: \$1,123,000

Funding Authority: Proposition 4, The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, California Budget Act of 2024 (SB103 Early Action Wildfire)

Project Scope / Description

The larger Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project consists of 1,032 acres of federal public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and 160 acres of contiguous private lands under conservation easement with Bear Yuba Land Trust. The Yuba Watershed Institute (YWI) will implement Phase One through this grant, which will treat 152 acres on BLM lands and 43 acres on private lands to reduce fuel loading. The project is located in Nevada County, about three miles north of Nevada City, on the south rim of the South Yuba River canyon. The purpose of the project is to establish and maintain a continuous 400-ft-wide ridgetop shaded fuel break system to reduce wildfire intensity, protect ingress/egress, and safeguard nearby communities around Nevada City and the South Yuba River canyon.

Phase one will treat 195 acres using a variety of treatment methods. Treatments on BLM lands include hand thinning and mechanical treatments. Approximately 75 acres will be hand-thinned and chipped, with chips to be hauled off the site. Approximately 64 acres will be mechanically masticated or hand-thinned and chipped, with chips dispersed on site. Thirteen acres will be hand-thinned and piled for future burning. Phase one will also treat 43 acres of private land through biomass harvesting, with chips to be hauled to a biomass facility or used locally. The private land will also receive understory broadcast burning. Fuels treatments will focus on small-diameter trees and shrubs up to 10 inches in

diameter. This removes ladder fuels and surface fuel continuity while retaining larger, fire-resilient trees to maintain canopy cover and ecological function. Biomass harvest units on the private lands may also remove selected trees greater than 10 inches in diameter where needed to achieve stand improvement.

This project is part of a larger landscape-scale effort. It builds off the nearby Hoyt-Purdon Fuel Reduction and Prescribed Fire Project (SNC #1254 planning grant and SNC #1550 implementation grant). The goal is to create a continuous system of shaded fuel breaks and ecological restoration treatments along the south side of the South Yuba River canyon. Building on this foundation, the YWI has been meeting with Nevada County Office of Emergency Services, CAL FIRE, and other partners to advance a broader strategy that would connect Round Mountain, Hoyt-Purdon, and the county's Sierra Foothill Forest Climate Resilience Project through strategic fuels reduction on the private lands in between. This larger effort, still in the beginning stages and not yet formally named, would mirror the South Yuba Rim project on the canyon's north side. Together, these coordinated projects would form an interconnected landscape-level fuel-break system.

The YWI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, originally formed to support efforts to improve the condition of the 'Inimim Forest on BLM land on the north edge of the South Yuba River, but has expanded to other projects in Nevada County and has become an integral partner with the county. The YWI has implemented three phases of work on the 'Inimim Forest through SNC grants. Additionally, Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has funded other planning and implementation grants to the YWI, including planning for this Round Mountain project. The SNC funded the planning and nearly complete implementation of the Little Deer Creek project, which is mixed BLM and private lands. The private landowner on Phase One of this project has been an active steward of the land, including the use of understory burning, and has a strong relationship with YWI.

The Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Phase One has been developed in collaboration with the BLM, Bear Yuba Land Trust, and private landowners. The YWI will lead and is responsible for project implementation, including contractor oversight, treatment layout, and monitoring. The larger vision for the project—establishing a strategic fuel break network along the south side of the South Yuba River canyon—has been discussed and refined through multiple collaborative venues, including the Yuba Forest Network, the Nevada County Quarterly Wildfire Stakeholders Group, and direct coordination with local CAL FIRE leadership, including Battalion Chief Mickey Chizek. Local Firewise Communities within and adjacent to the project area have been actively engaged and are supportive of the work.

The phase one fuel break system ties directly into a growing network of fire-resilience projects across the region. The project is near essential community services and critical infrastructure, including evacuation routes serving nearby residential areas and regional

road systems. It also lies adjacent to popular recreation areas, including the BLM-managed South Yuba Recreation Area and Edwards Crossing—a State Park and well-used river access point. Positioned on the south canyon rim, the fuel break will protect communities from north-wind-driven upslope runs exiting the canyon, while also checking southwest (diurnal) fire spread both from within the canyon and toward it.

Project Schedule

Project Tasks and Deliverables	Timeline
Land tenure agreements with private landowners	January – March 2026
Contractor bidding and project layout	Summer 2026
Progress Report #1	August 1, 2026
Hand-thinning, roadside chipping/haul off (75 acres)	October 2026 – February 2027
Mechanical mastication/tracked chipping (64 acres)	October 2026 – February 2027
Hand-thinning and piling for later burning (13 acres)	October 2026 – February 2027
Biomass harvest of private lands (43 acres)	Fall 2026 – Spring 2027
Progress Report #2	February 1, 2027
Progress Report #3	August 1, 2027
Prescribed broadcast burning on private lands (26 acres)	Fall 2027
Progress Report #4	February 1, 2028
Post-treatment monitoring and mapping	Spring 2028
Progress Report #5	August 1, 2028
Estimated Project Completion Date	September 30, 2028

Project Costs

Project Costs	SNC Funding
Project Management, Travel, Supplies	\$104,773
Registered Professional Forester	\$20,000
Fuels Thinning	\$699,250
Biomass Harvest	\$172,000
Understory Burning	\$39,000
Administrative Costs	\$87,977
Total	\$1,123,000

Project Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Nevada County Office of Emergency Services
- Bear Yuba Land Trust
- Lake Vera-Round Mountain Neighborhood Association
- Greater Cement Hill Firewise Community
- First Rain Land Stewardship
- Janaia Donaldson (private landowner)

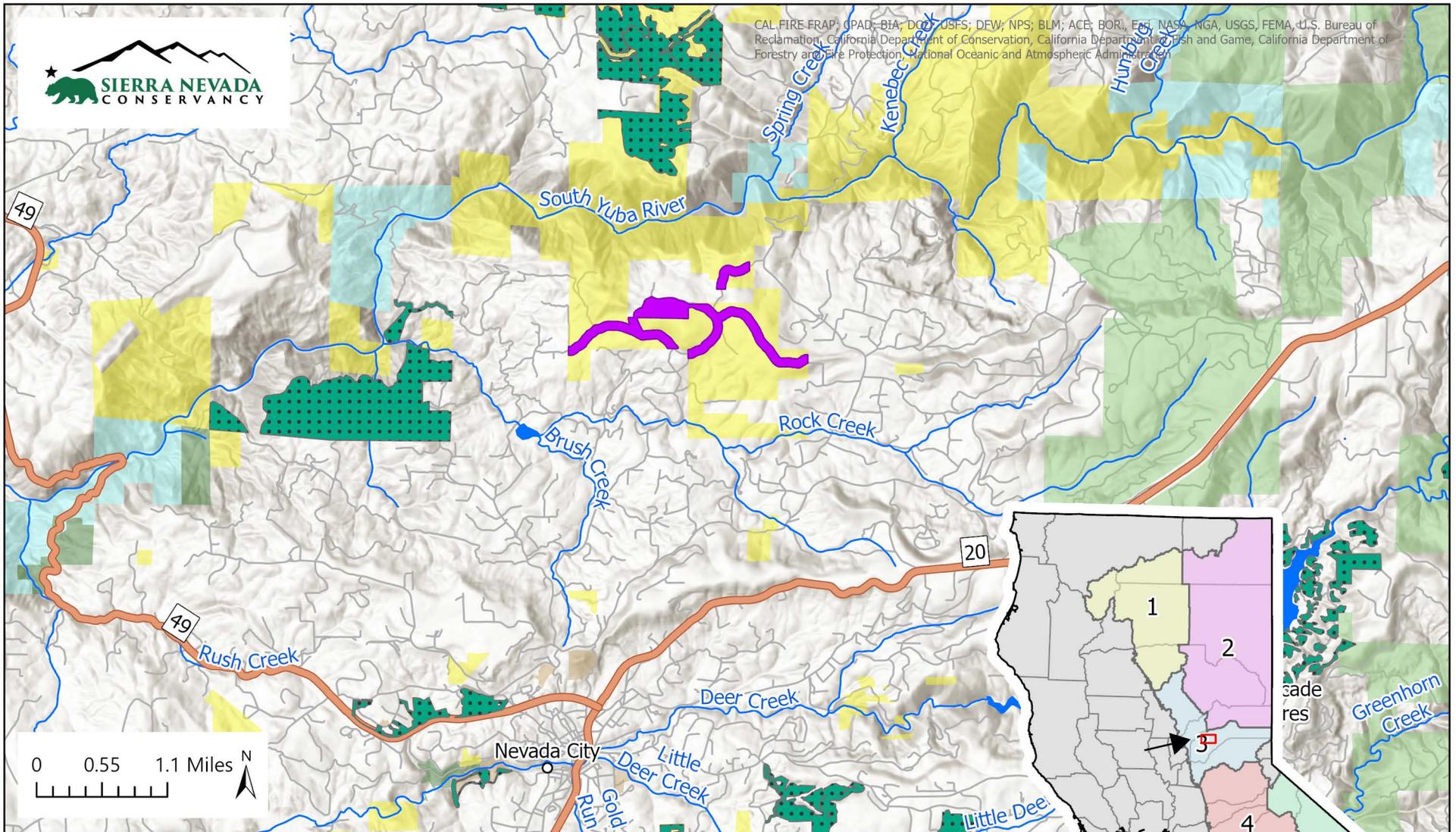
Opposition:

- None received

Project Performance Measures

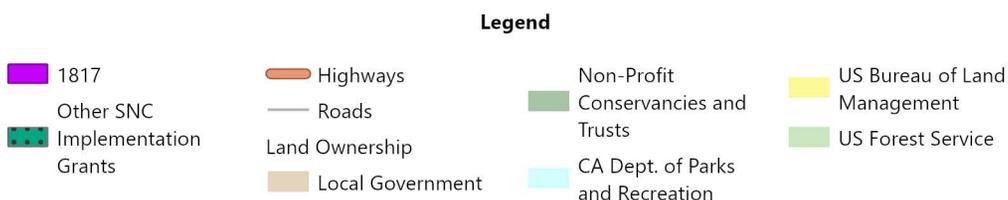
There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to identify one to three project-specific Performance Measures in their application. Please note, Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified before the grant agreement is executed.

- Acres of Land Improved or Restored

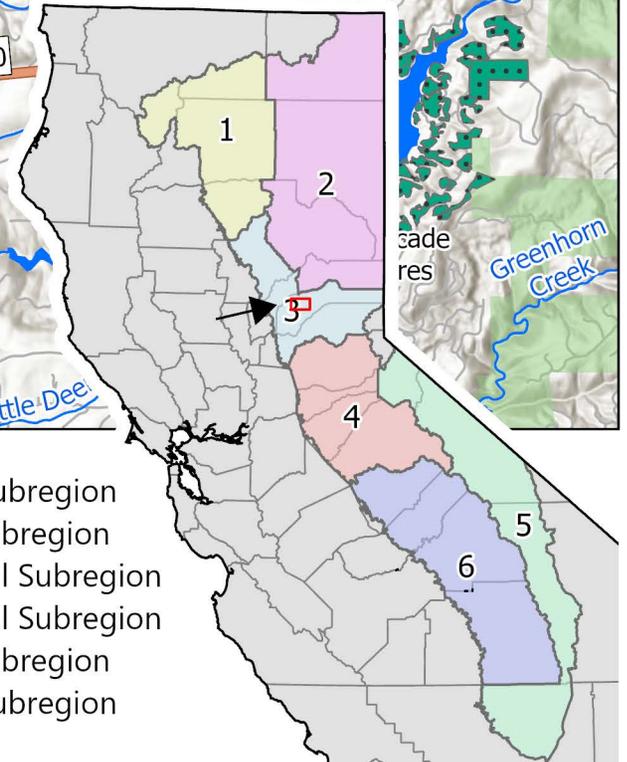


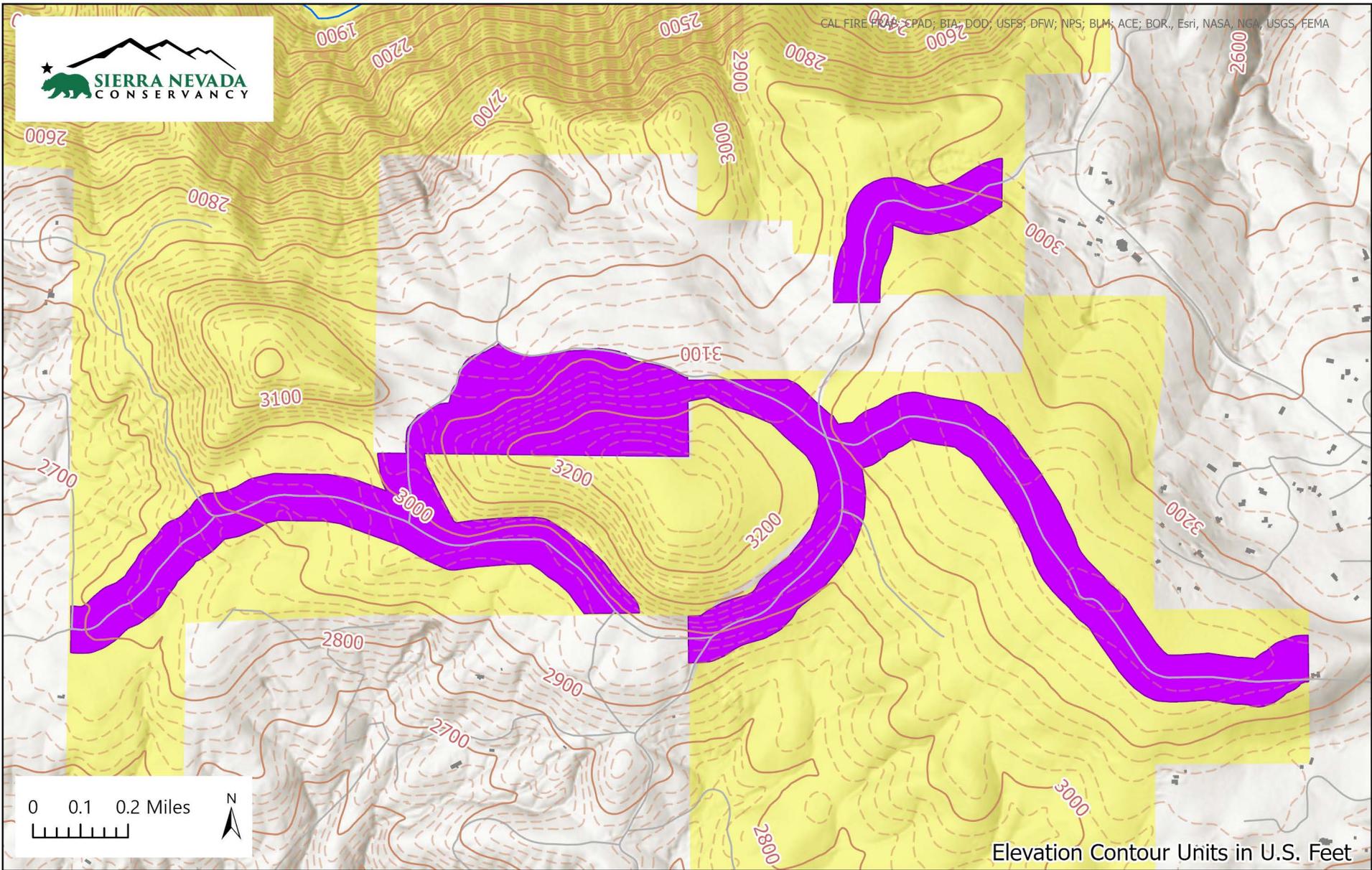
1817: Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Phase One

Yuba Watershed Institute



1. Northwest Subregion
2. Northeast Subregion
3. North Central Subregion
4. South Central Subregion
5. Southeast Subregion
6. Southwest Subregion





**1817: Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project
Phase One**

Yuba Watershed Institute

Legend

- 1817
- Building Footprints
- Roads
- Land Ownership
US Bureau of Land Management



1817: Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Phase One

Yuba Watershed Institute

Legend

 1817

 Roads

To: Governor’s Office of Land Use and
Climate Innovation
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

To: California Natural Resources Agency
Via: CRP-NOD@resources.ca.gov

From:
Public Agency:
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603
Mary Akens
(530) 450-5177

Lead Agency (if different from above):
California Department of Forestry and
Fire Protection
6105 Airport Road
Redding, CA 96002
Adam Deem (530) 224-2488

SUBJECT: *Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 or 15252, subd. (b) of the Public Resources Code*

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): NA

Project Title: Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Phase One (SNC1817)

Project Applicant:
Yuba Watershed Institute
PO Box 2198, Nevada City, CA 95959
Chris Friedel, Executive Director
530-955-1822
chris@yubawatershedinstitute.org

Project Location (include county): Approximately three miles north of Nevada City, on the South Rim of the South Yuba River Canyon, on the north side of Round Mountain, along Merrimas Way. MDBM T17N R9E S19.

Project Description: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding to the Yuba Watershed Institute (YWI) to implement fuels-reduction treatments on 43 acres of private forestland. The purpose of the project is to establish and maintain a continuous 400-ft-wide ridgetop shaded fuel break system to reduce wildfire intensity, protect ingress/egress, and safeguard nearby communities around Nevada City and the South Yuba River canyon. All work will be performed in compliance with the California Forest Practices Act and the adopted Modified Timber Harvest Plan No. 2-23-00126-NEV, Round Mountain MTHP, approved by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection on November 2, 2023, with a Minor Deviation approved on February 6, 2026. Treatments include 43 acres of biomass harvesting with chips removed to a biomass facility and 26 acres of a broadcast understory prescribed burn. Fuels treatments will focus on small-

diameter trees and shrubs up to 10 inches in diameter. This removes ladder fuels and surface fuel continuity while retaining larger, fire-resilient trees to maintain canopy cover and ecological function. Biomass harvest units may also remove selected trees greater than 10 inches in diameter where needed to achieve stand improvement. Mechanical treatments will be completed by a Licensed Timber Operator under the direction of a Registered Professional Forester. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection will monitor compliance with the terms of the Timber Harvesting Plan.

This is to advise that the **Sierra Nevada Conservancy (Responsible Agency)** has approved the above-described project on **March 6, 2026**, and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

1. The project **will not** have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Modified Timber Harvesting Plan (Plan No: 2-23-00126-NEV, Round Mountain MTHP) was adopted by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to Chapter 8, commencing with section 4511 of Part 2 of Division 4 of the Public Resources Code. The Timber Harvest Plan meets the requirements of a Substitute Document pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15252. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is using the substitute document in its approval of the project as a Responsible Agency, consistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15253 (a) and (b).
3. Mitigation measures **were** a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan **was** adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations **was not** adopted for this project.
6. Findings **were not** made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Modified Timber Harvesting Plan with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the general public at:

The State of California CALTREES Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration website, records for MTHP 2-23-00126-NEV, at https://aca-prod.accela.com/CALTREES/Cap/CapDetail.aspx?Module=TH_Document&TabName=TH_Document&capID1=REC23&capID2=00000&capID3=007QH&agencyCode=CALTREES&lsToShowInspection=

Signature (Public Agency): _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code
Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code

To: Governor's Office of Land Use and
Climate Innovation
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Lead Agency
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

To: Nevada County Clerk-Recorder
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 210
Nevada City, CA 95959

Project Title: Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project, Phase One (SNC1817)

Project Location – Specific: Bureau of Land Management lands approximately three miles north of Nevada City, on the South Rim of the South Yuba River Canyon, along the following roadways around Round Mountain: Hudson Way, Merrimas Way, Rock Creek Road, and Moonlight Trail. Treatment center at approximately -121.002, 39.317 degrees.

Project Location - City: 3 mi north of
Nevada City

Project Location - County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding to the Yuba Watershed Institute (YWI) to partner with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to implement fuels-reduction treatments on 152 acres. The purpose of the project is to establish and maintain a continuous 400-ft-wide ridgetop shaded fuel break system to reduce wildfire intensity, protect ingress/egress, and safeguard nearby communities around Nevada City and the South Yuba River canyon. Treatments on BLM lands include hand-thinning and mechanical treatments. Approximately 75 acres will be hand-thinned and chipped, with chips to be hauled off the site. Shrubs and trees would be hand-cut with chainsaws. Residual trees would be limbed up, retaining at least 1/3 of live crown. Cut material would be disposed of using a tow-behind chipper or tracked chipper. Approximately 64 acres will be mechanically masticated or hand-thinned and chipped, using a tow-behind chipper or tracked chipper with chips dispersed on site. Whenever feasible or warranted by resource concerns, equipment that minimizes ground disturbance would be used. Thirteen acres will be hand-thinned and piled for future burning. Shrubs and trees would be hand-cut with chainsaws. Residual trees would be limbed up retaining at least 1/3 of live crown. Cut material would be lopped and scattered, placed in piles and disposed of through prescribed pile burning or left as a wildlife pile.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:
Yuba Watershed Institute
PO Box 2198, Nevada City, CA 95959

Chris Friedel, Executive Director
530-955-1822
chris@yubawatershedinstitute.org

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Pub. Resources Code, section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1)

Reasons why project is exempt: Public Resources Code, section 4799.05 statutorily exempts from CEQA projects for prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel-reduction projects, or to related activities included in the project description, undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The SNC has authorized/approved the use of the funding for the YWI to partner with BLM to conduct fuels-reduction treatments on BLM forestlands. The project was reviewed in its entirety in the BLM's *Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Environmental Assessment with Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record* signed on January 14, 2025.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mary Akens

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-450-5177

If filed by applicant: N/A

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project:
Yes ___ No ___

Signature:

Title:

Date:

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Exhibit A

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program SNC Project Number 1819

SNC ID Number: 1819

Applicant: Calaveras County Office of Emergency Services

Project Title: Lily Gap Vegetative Maintenance, Unit One

SNC Subregion: South Central

County(ies): Calaveras

Funding Amount Requested: \$562,321

Funding Amount Recommended: \$562,321

Total Project Cost: \$572,221

Funding Authority: Proposition 4, The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, California Budget Act of 2024 (SB103 Early Action Wildfire)

Project Scope / Description

The Lily Gap Vegetative Maintenance, Unit One project (Project) is an approximately 161-acre fuels-reduction project in northern Calaveras County near the communities of Bummerville and West Point to reduce fire hazard and improve forest-health conditions on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) forestland. The Calaveras County Office of Emergency Services (CCOES) will treat and maintain a shaded fuel break that the BLM initially installed in 2013 by removing ground and ladder fuels and thinning the overstory by approximately half.

The Project lies at approximately 3500 feet in elevation and is dominated by a mixed conifer forest type. The original treatment in 2013 was carried out by the BLM and consisted of removal of all conifers smaller than eight inches and mastication of nearly all ladder and ground fuels. It has been nearly 12 years since the original treatment was completed and much of the ladder fuels have grown back. Additionally, there are populations of noxious weeds that have been identified within the Project site, such as Spanish broom and oblong spurge. The Project will consist of two phases; the first phase will consist of masticating ladder and ground fuels and all conifers smaller than 11 inches in diameter. Trees will be spaced approximately 25-35 feet apart. Some snags and downed logs will be retained on every acre for wildlife habitat. Prior to any mastication, migratory bird nest surveys will be completed by a wildlife biologist and will continue through

construction, as required. The second phase will consist of a targeted herbicide treatment to minimize regrowth from sprouting species and to control the noxious weed populations.

The Project is adjacent to many fuels-reduction projects in the immediate area. Lily Gap Unit Two is another BLM parcel, just north of the Project, that was completed with SNC funding in 2020. The CalAm Forestry Team was able to find additional funding to complete a fuel break that connects the Lily Gap Unit Two to the Mokelumne River and meets up with the SNC-funded Tiger Creek Fuel Break and Watershed Protection Project, which was completed in 2024. The Project is also near the SNC-funded South Fork Mokelumne River Watershed Restoration Project, completed in 2021, and the soon-to-be-completed Bummerville/Blizzard Mine Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration Project. The combination of these various projects make up some of the Highway 26 Wildfire Defense System, which is a locally driven effort to install a series of fuel breaks along the rim of the Mokelumne River to protect the nearby communities and watershed.

The CCOES is a department within the local government of Calaveras County. This will be the second SNC project implemented by this agency. The CCOES has been instrumental in working alongside the Stanislaus National Forest to remove hazard trees along the Highway 4 corridor in Calaveras County, and are nearing completion of the McKays Strategic Fuel Break. Members of the CCOES also administered the County Tree Mortality Program that treated over 7,100 hazard trees along county roads. The BLM is a public land-management agency under the Department of the Interior and manages approximately 14,500 acres of scattered, low-elevation parcels in the Mokelumne River watershed.

Primary Project partners include the BLM Mother Lode Field Office and the CalAm Forestry Team. The BLM will provide oversight and guidance on Project operations. The CalAm Forestry Team, consisting of a group of local natural resource professionals, will manage on-the-ground operations of the Project in close coordination with CCOES. Additional Project funding has been estimated at \$9,900 of in-kind support from these two partners.

The Project directly supports the SNC's Strategic Plan as well as the goals of the Proposition 4 Climate Bond. The Project adds to the resilience of the Highway 26 Wildfire Defense System and indirectly protects multiple nearby communities and water resources infrastructure on the Mokelumne River. The treatments prescribed will reduce fire hazard and improve forest and watershed health conditions on public lands.

Project Schedule

Project Tasks and Deliverables	Timeline
Six Month Progress Reporting	August 2026 February, August 2027
Bird Nest Surveys	May – December 2026
Mastication of 161 Acres	June – December 2026
Targeted Herbicide Treatment	May – June 2027
Estimated Project Completion Date	December 31, 2027

Project Costs

Project Costs	SNC Funding
Project Management	\$5,200
Field Support (RPF and Survey work)	\$12,850
Mastication	\$386,400
Herbicide	\$84,525
Administrative Costs	\$73,346
Total	\$562,321

Project Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Bureau of Land Management, Mother Lode Field Office

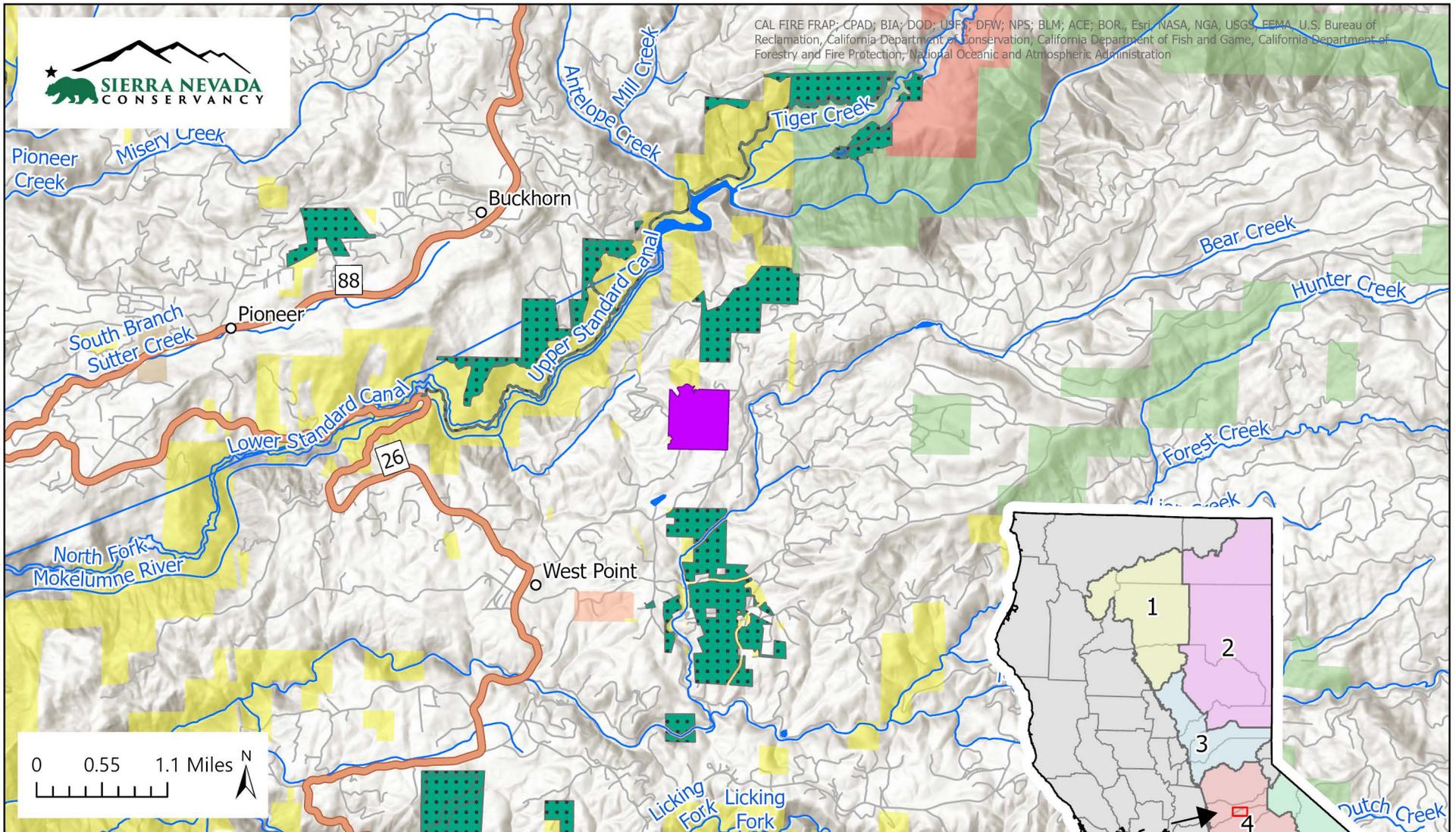
Opposition:

- 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



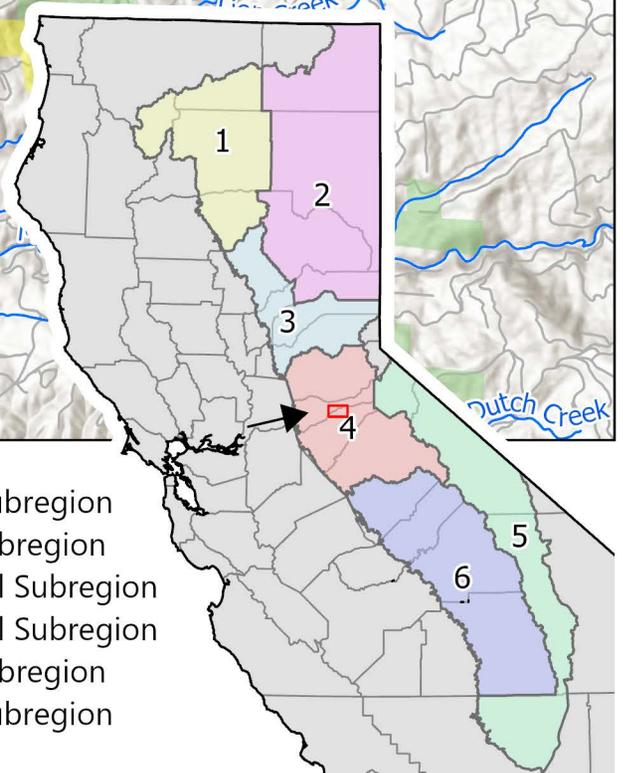
Lily Gap Vegetative Maintenance, Unit One

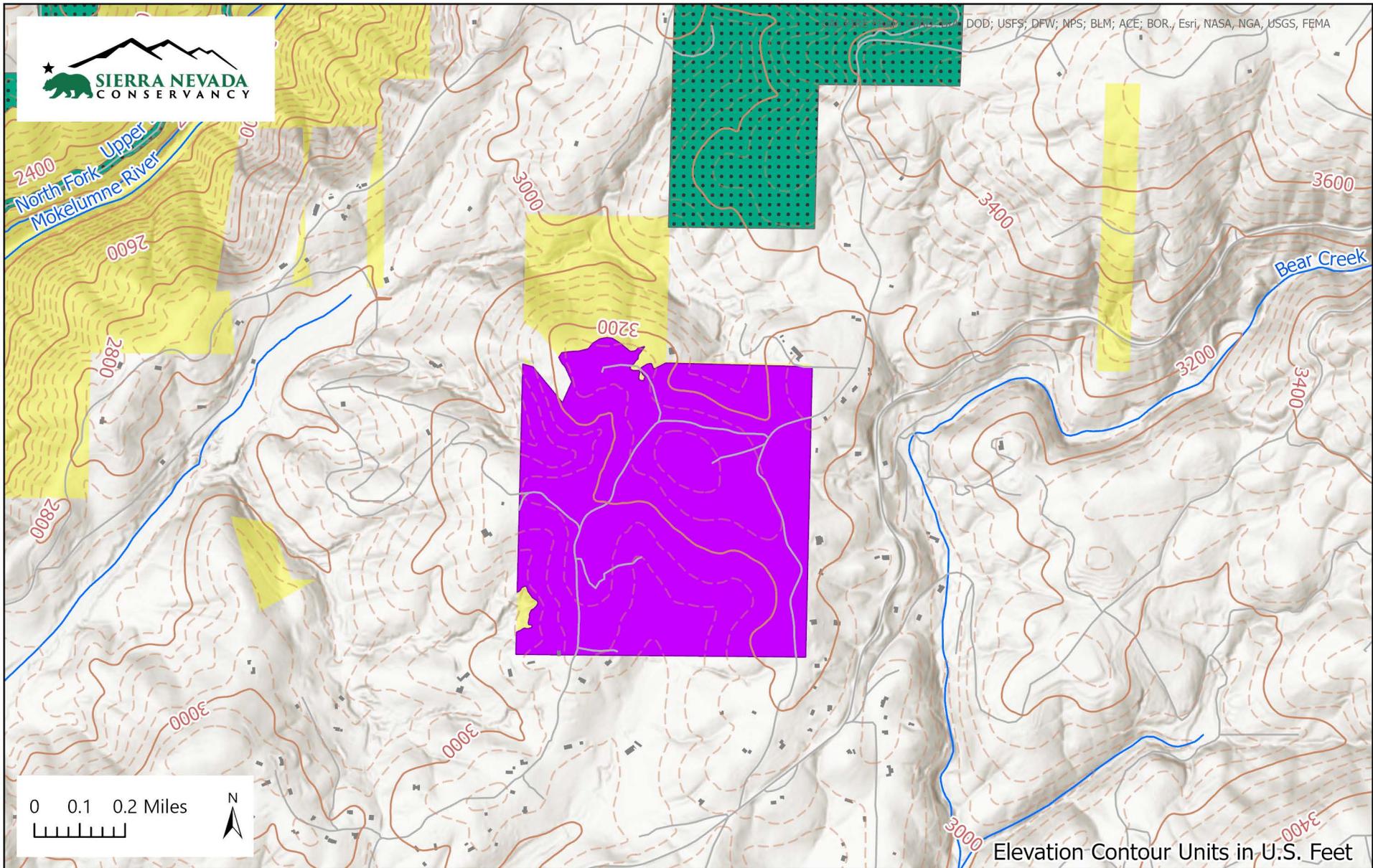
Calaveras County Office of Emergency Services

Legend

1819	Highways	CA Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection	US Bureau of Land Management
Other SNC Implementation Grants	Roads	US Bureau of Indian Affairs / Tribal	US Forest Service
	Land Ownership		
	Local Government		

1. Northwest Subregion
2. Northeast Subregion
3. North Central Subregion
4. South Central Subregion
5. Southeast Subregion
6. Southwest Subregion



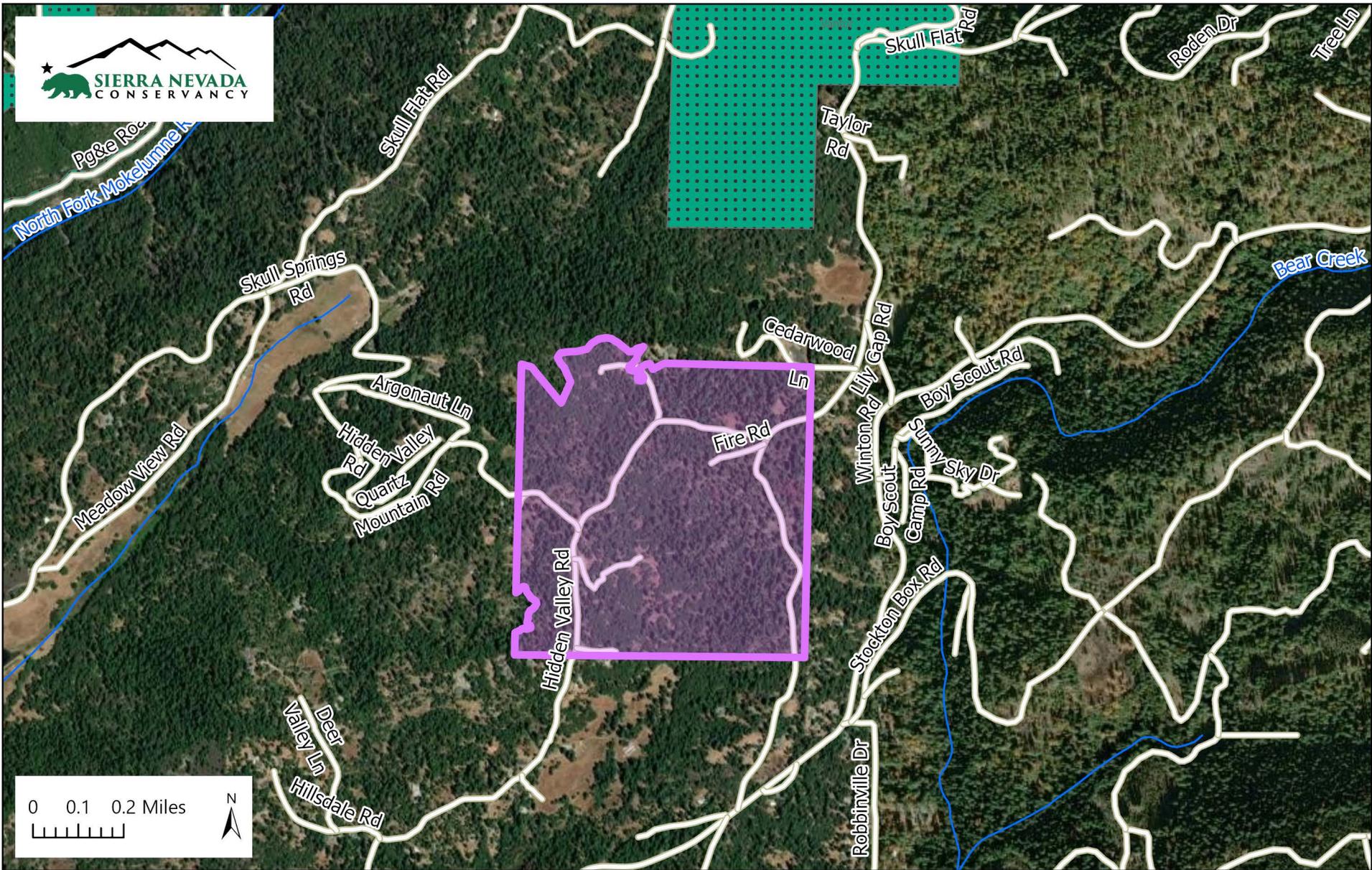


Lily Gap Vegetative Maintenance, Unit One

Calaveras County Office of Emergency Services

Legend

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
|  1819 |  Building Footprints | Land Ownership |
|  Other SNC Implementation Grants |  Roads |  US Bureau of Land Management |



Lily Gap Vegetative Maintenance, Unit One

Calaveras County Office of Emergency Services

Legend

- 1819
- Roads
- Other SNC
- Implementation Grants

To: Governor's Office of Land Use and
Climate Innovation
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Lead Agency
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

To: Calaveras County Clerk-Recorder
891 Mountain Ranch Road, Building D
San Andreas, CA 95249

Project Title: Lily Gap Vegetative Maintenance, Unit One (SNC1819)

Project Location – Specific: 161-acre unit of Bureau of Land Management land, approximately 1.6 miles northeast of the town of Bummerville, and 3.6 miles west/southwest of the town of Pioneer. The intersections of Hidden Valley Road, Quartz Mountain Road, and Lily Gap Road are within the project area. Treatment center at approximately -120.499, 38.412 degrees.

Project Location - City: Near
Bummerville, West Point

Project Location - County: Calaveras

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding to Calaveras County Office of Emergency Services (CCOES) to partner with the United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to implement an approximately 161-acre fuels-reduction project near the communities of Bummerville and West Point to reduce fire hazards to nearby communities and improve forest-health conditions on BLM forestland. The CCOES will treat and maintain a shaded fuel break that the BLM initially installed in 2013 by removing ground and ladder fuels and thinning the overstory by approximately half. The original treatment in 2013 was carried out by the BLM and consisted of removal of all conifers smaller than eight inches and mastication of nearly all ladder and ground fuels. It has been nearly 12 years since the original treatment was completed and much of the ladder fuels have grown back. Additionally, there are populations of noxious weeds that have been identified within the project site, such as Spanish broom and oblong spurge. The project will consist of two phases, the first phase will consist of masticating ladder and ground fuels and all conifers smaller than 11 inches in diameter. Trees will be spaced approximately 25-35 feet apart. Some snags and downed logs will be retained on every acre for wildlife habitat. The second phase will consist of a targeted herbicide treatment to minimize regrowth from sprouting species and to control the noxious weed populations.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Calaveras County Office of Emergency Services
Erik Holt, Director of Emergency Services, Calaveras County
891 Mountain Ranch Rd, Building A, San Andreas, CA 95249
209-754-6676
eholt@calaverascounty.gov

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Pub. Resources Code, section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1)

Reasons why project is exempt: Public Resources Code, section 4799.05 statutorily exempts from CEQA projects for prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel-reduction projects, or to related activities included in the project description, undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The SNC has authorized/approved the use of the funding for the CCOES to partner with the BLM to conduct fuels-reduction treatments on BLM forestlands. The project was reviewed in its entirety in the BLM *Statewide Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Treatments Programmatic Environmental Assessment* from August 2023, and the *Determination of NEPA Adequacy for the Lily Gap Vegetative Maintenance Project* signed on August 8, 2025.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mary Akens

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-450-5177

If filed by applicant: N/A

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project:
Yes ___ No ___

Signature:_____

Title:_____

Date:_____

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Exhibit A

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program SNC Project Number 1822

SNC ID Number: 1822

Applicant: Sierra Institute for Community and Environment

Project Title: Plumas Community Resilience Project

SNC Subregion: Northeast

County(ies): Plumas

Funding Amount Requested: \$990,766

Funding Amount Recommended: \$990,766

Total Project Cost: \$1,313,610

Funding Authority: Proposition 4, The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, California Budget Act of 2024 (SB103 Early Action Wildfire)

Project Scope / Description

The Plumas Community Resilience Project is an approximately 309-acre initiative focused on reducing wildfire risk, improving forest health, and supporting local workforce development by implementing treatments in the communities of Quincy, Meadow Valley, Taylorsville, and Genesee in Plumas County. Submitted by the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, the project includes treatments on private, non-industrial, university, and Plumas National Forest lands.

The project responds to the aftermath of multiple large-scale wildfires that have burned nearly two-thirds of the Plumas National Forest by implementing targeted fuel-reduction treatments and creating defensible space around key population centers and community assets. In Taylorsville and Genesee, hand-thinning, pile construction, and prescribed fire will be implemented across at least 155 acres of private, non-industrial forestland that expands an existing fuel break and is critical to protect Genesee's primary ingress/egress route. In Quincy, the Oakland Feather River Camp, a historic recreational facility located on Plumas National Forest land, will receive 68 acres of manual fuels reduction, ensuring the longevity of a camp facility that has connected over 200,000 East Bay residents to the Sierra since 1924. In Meadow Valley at the UC Berkeley Forestry Field Camp, 86 acres of university and Plumas National Forest lands will be hand-thinned, piled, and prepared for prescribed fire to reduce wildfire risk to historic infrastructure, protect educational

resources, and create continuous fuel breaks that connect to adjacent U.S. Forest Service treatment areas and enhance community protection. Other deliverables include hosting two community meetings in Taylorsville, a post-treatment field tour with local partners, employing at least 12 local crew members, providing work experience on at least 10 acres for a local crew, preparing for broadcast burning on approximately eight acres per year in partnership with TREX and/or Berkeley students.

Originating through the work of the Feather River Stewardship Coalition (FRSC), a collaborative network of tribal, local, state, and federal partners working to advance landscape-scale forest and community resilience, the project integrates with numerous existing and ongoing forest health and wildfire-resilience efforts in the vicinity, such as the 167,000-acre North Fork Forest Recovery Project, the 9,000-acre North Quincy Wildfire Resiliency Project, and the 30,000-acre Claremont Forest Resiliency Project. It complements previously funded SNC projects that include the 300-acre Taylorsville Community Defense Zone shaded fuel break (SNC 1404 and 1647), the North Quincy Planning Project (SNC RFFCP funding), and the UC Forestry Camp Project Planning and Claremont Forest Resiliency Projects (SNC 1228 and 1632).

The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Taylorsville, works to promote healthy and sustainable forests and watersheds by investing in the well-being of diverse rural communities and strengthening their participation in natural resource decision-making and programs. The organization has managed numerous SNC grants, including Restoring Fire Regimes in Lassen Volcanic National Park (SNC 1045 planning, 1210, and 1551), Taylorsville Community Defense Zone Project (SNC 1404 planning and 1647), and planning for the 100,000-acre West Lassen Headwaters Project (SNC 1548).

The project will be implemented by a team of local partners working with Sierra Institute for Community and Environment. They include the Feather River Resource Conservation District, Terra Fuego Resource Foundation, UC Berkeley, and UC Cooperative Extension. Wherever possible, the project will hire local contractors and forestry crews, and work with training partners to involve youth, tribal members, and underserved community members in stewardship and prescribed fire activities as a way to build long-term capacity for land stewardship in the region. The project is leveraged with \$322,844 of secured match that includes the following: CAL FIRE (\$150,000), USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant (\$150,000), landowner in-kind contributions (\$12,844), and in-kind support from Terra Fuego (\$10,000).

Situated within the Upper Feather River Watershed, the largest contributor to the State Water Project, the project aligns with SNC's Strategic Plan by investing in landscape-scale action (Healthy Forests and Watersheds goal). It also meets the goals of Proposition 4's goal to reduce wildfire risks through forest-health initiatives. The project will provide an

opportunity for the utilization of multiple local workforces, including newly trained tribal crews from the High Roads Training Partnership workforce development effort.

Project Schedule

Project Tasks and Deliverables	Timeline
Indian Valley Community Defense Zone: Complete at least 155 acres of hand-thinning and pile construction	April 1, 2026 - December 1, 2026
Indian Valley Community Defense Zone: Complete at least 155 acres of pile burning	December 1, 2026 - February 1, 2028
Oakland Feather River Camp: Complete 68 acres of manual fuels reduction	April 1, 2026 - December 1, 2027
UC Berkeley Forestry Field Camp: Complete 10 acres of hand-thinning and pile construction, and 76 acres of prescribed fire prep	April 1, 2026 - December 1, 2027
Host two community meetings in Taylorsville - one prior to and one during project implementation	April 1, 2026 - February 1, 2028
Organize a post-treatment field tour with local partners to showcase treatment outcomes and foster collaboration	December 1, 2027 - February 1, 2028
Employ at least 12 local crew members in implementation activities	April 1, 2026 - February 1, 2028
Provide hands-on work experience across at least 10 acres for a newly established local crew	April 1, 2026 - February 1, 2028
At UC Berkeley Forestry Field Camp, prepare for broadcast burning of approximately eight acres per year in partnership with TRES and/or Berkeley students.	April 1, 2026 - February 1, 2028
SNC six-month Progress Reports	Every 6 Months
Estimated Project Completion Date	March 1, 2028

Project Costs

Project Costs	SNC Funding
Project Management	\$165,880
Implementation – Sierra Institute	\$525,000
Implementation – FRRCD Contract	\$149,944
Implementation – UC Berkeley Contract	\$100,000
Supplies	\$3,000
Travel	\$1,400
Tribal Participation	\$5,000
Administrative Costs	\$40,542
Total	\$990,766

Project Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Feather River Resource Conservation District
- University of California Cooperative Extension
- Terra Fuego Resource Foundation
- Plumas National Forest - Mt. Hough Ranger District
- Feather River Stewardship Coalition
- Plumas County Board of Supervisors

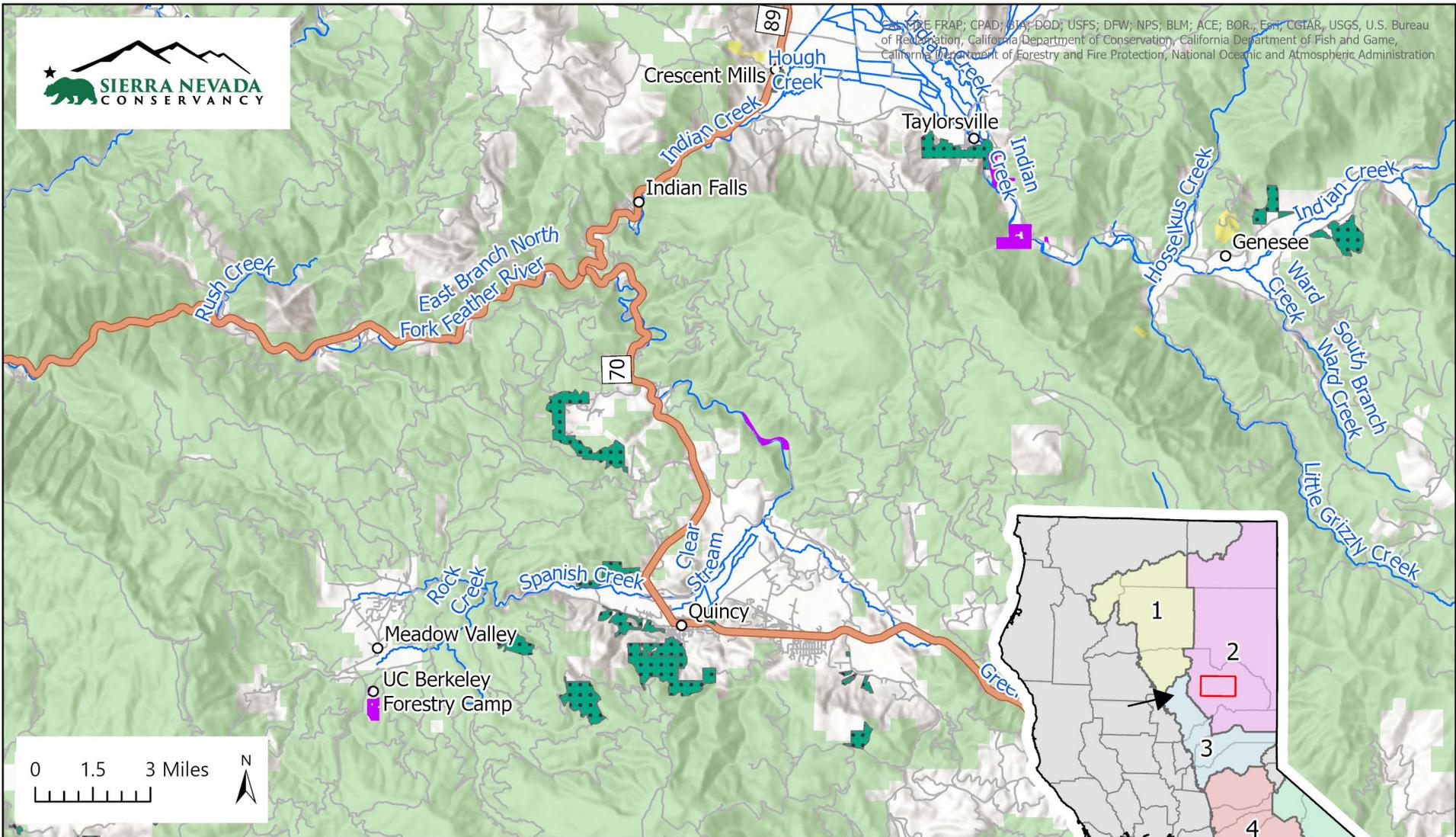
Opposition:

- 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

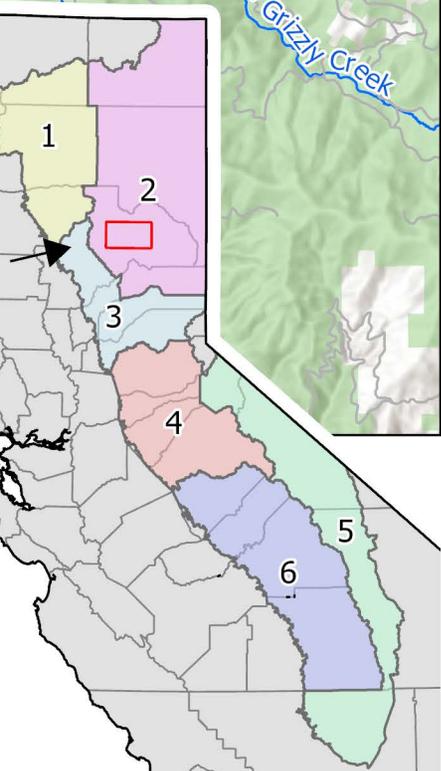


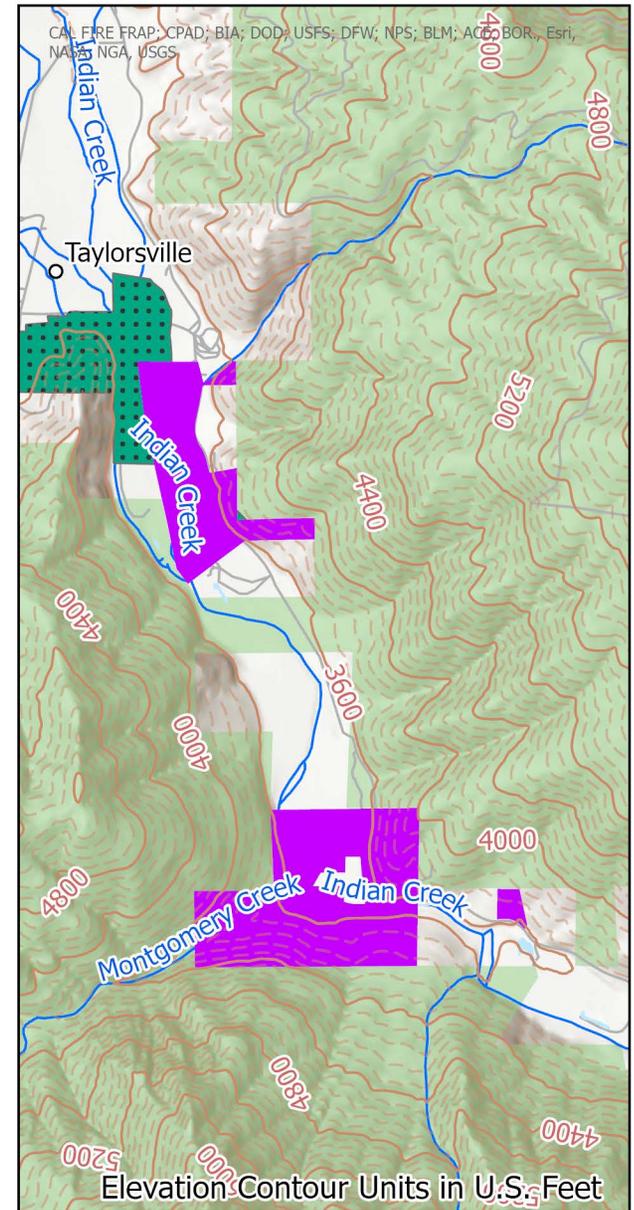
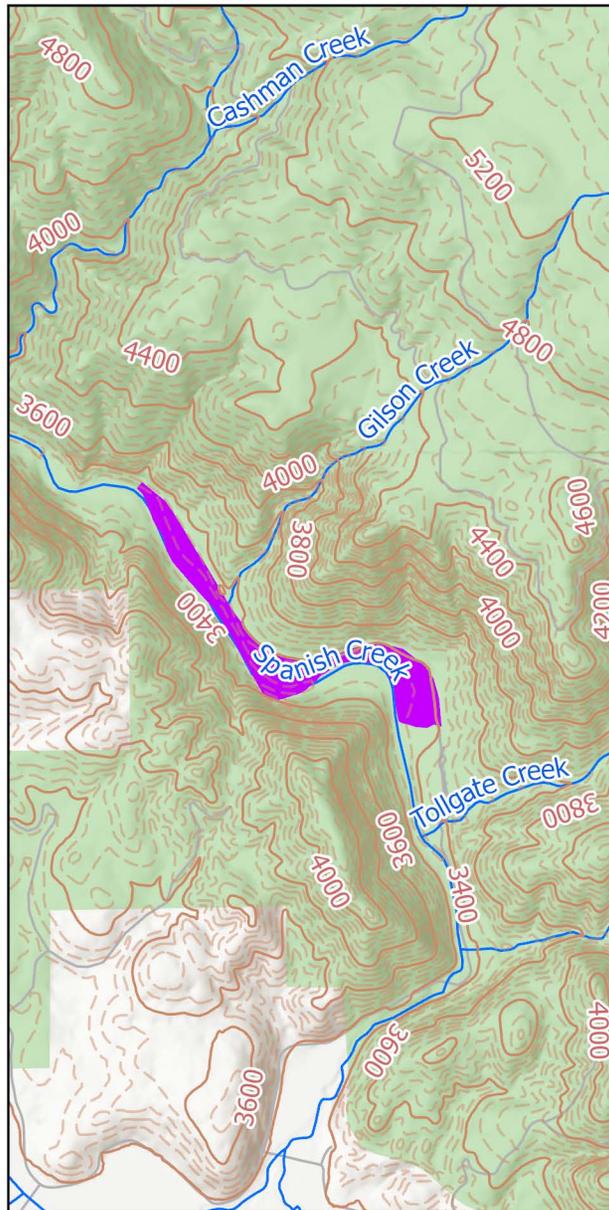
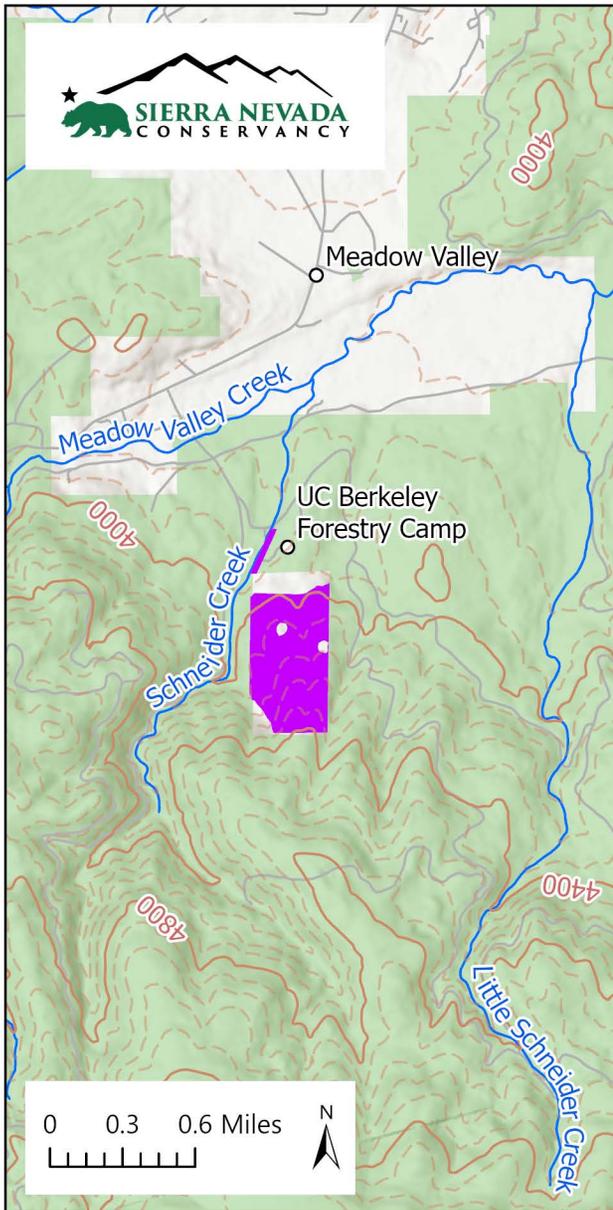
1822: Plumas Community Resilience Project
 Sierra Institute for Community and Environment

Legend

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|------------------------------|
| 1822 | Highways | Land Ownership |
| Other SNC | Roads | US Bureau of Land Management |
| Implementation Grants | | US Forest Service |

1. Northwest Subregion
2. Northeast Subregion
3. North Central Subregion
4. South Central Subregion
5. Southeast Subregion
6. Southwest Subregion

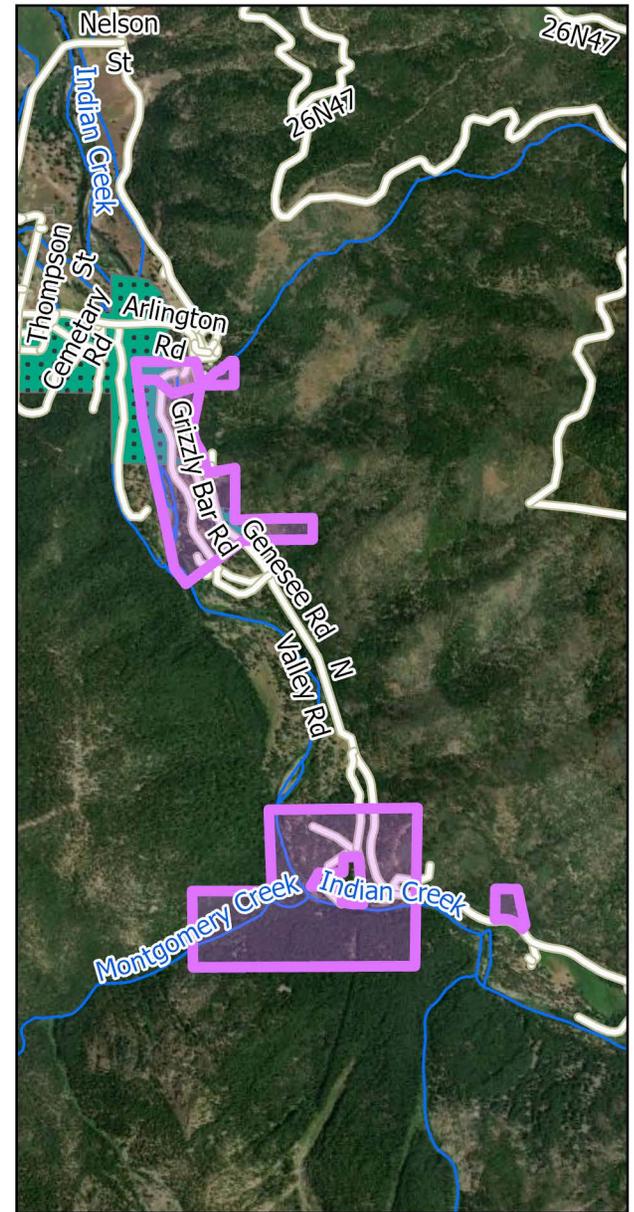




1822: Plumas Community Resilience Project

Sierra Institute for Community and Environment

- | | |
|---|---|
|  1822 |  Roads |
|  Other SNC |  Land Ownership |
|  Implementation Grants |  US Forest Service |



1822: Plumas Community Resilience Project

Sierra Institute for Community and Environment

Legend

- 1822
- Other SNC
- Implementation Grants
- Roads

To: Governor’s Office of Land Use and
Climate Innovation
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Lead Agency
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

To: Plumas County Clerk
520 Main Street, Room 102
Quincy, CA 95971

Project Title: Plumas Community Resilience Project (SNC1822)

Project Location – Specific: Two locations within Plumas National Forest. 1) Oakland Feather River Camp, along Oakland Camp Road. Approximately 1.6 miles north of Quincy Junction. Treatment center at approximately -120.918, 39.991 degrees. 2) University of California, Berkeley Forestry Field Camp, approximately 1 mile south of the community of Meadow Valley, between Schnider Creek Road and National Forest Road 24N31. Treatment center at approximately -121.064, 39.918 degrees.

Project Location - City: Near Quincy Junction

Project Location - County: Plumas

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding to the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment to partner with Plumas National Forest, Feather River Resource Conservation District, and University of California, Berkeley Forestry Field Camp to implement fuels reduction treatments in two locations in Plumas County. At Oakland Feather River Camp, a historic recreational facility located on Plumas National Forest land, partners will implement fuels-reduction treatments on 68 acres. Treatments will be manual fuels reduction thinning, using chainsaws to cut and human power to pile or scatter. Treatments would include felling trees, lopping and scattering and/or piling and later burning, or chipping. Hand-thinning would be used on trees up to 16” DBH but trees over 10” DBH would only rarely be cut, and harvesting would not occur. The treatment area focuses on a ¼ mile stretch of fuels treatment between the Union Pacific railroad track and Oakland Feather River Camp Road. This dead-end road is the only access to the camp facilities, and fuels-reduction treatments will protect this ingress/egress route. This project also contributes to broader fuel-break efforts surrounding Quincy and ensuring the longevity of a site that has connected over 200,000 East Bay residents to the Sierra since 1924. At the University of California, Berkeley Forestry Field Camp, partners will conduct hand-thinning on three acres of Plumas National Forest land between Schnider Creek and an access road to the Camp. This work will reduce fire-ignition risk along the roadway, protect an ingress/egress route, and complement an additional 65 acres of fuels treatments on adjacent land owned by the university. All work will be done consistent with Standard

Operating Procedures and Protective Measures specified in the Plumas National Forest NEPA Decisions authorizing the project activities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Sierra Institute for Community and Environment
Kyle Rodgers, Assistant Director
4438 Main Street, PO Box 11
Taylorsville, CA 95983
530-284-1022
krodgers@sierrainstitute.us

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Pub. Resources Code, section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1)

Reasons why project is exempt: Public Resources Code, section 4799.05 statutorily exempts from CEQA projects for prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel-reduction projects, or to related activities included in the project description, undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The SNC has authorized/approved the use of the funding for the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment to partner with Plumas National Forest to conduct fuels-reduction treatments on National Forest lands. The project was reviewed in its entirety in the Plumas National Forest *North Quincy Wildfire Resiliency Project Environmental Assessment*, with the *North Quincy Wildfire Resiliency Project Decision Notice* signed on August 14, 2024, and the *Claremont Forest Resiliency Project Environmental Assessment* with *Decision Notice* signed on April 7, 2023.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mary Akens

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-450-5177

If filed by applicant: N/A

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project:
Yes ___ No ___

Signature:

Title:

Date:

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Exhibit A

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program SNC Project Number 1827

SNC ID Number: 1827

Applicant: Amador Fire Safe Council

Project Title: Mount Crossman Community Fuel Break

SNC Subregion: South Central

County(ies): Amador

Funding Amount Requested: \$382,008

Funding Amount Recommended: \$382,008

Total Project Cost: \$410,708

Funding Authority: Proposition 4, The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, California Budget Act of 2024 (SB103 Early Action Wildfire)

Project Scope / Description

The Mount Crossman Community Fuel Break project (Project) is an 85-acre fuel break between the communities of Buckhorn and Barton, along Highway 88 in Amador County. The applicant, the Amador Fire Safe Council (AFSC), will construct a new 400- to 500-foot wide fuel break on private property that is part of the regional fuel break strategy.

The Project is approximately 3500 feet in elevation, with a vegetation composition made up primarily of ponderosa pines, California black oak, canyon live oak, and Pacific madrone. There is a strong understory dominated by white leaf manzanita. Treatment consists of a mix of mechanical mastication, where slope permits, and hand-thinning on steeper areas and closer to streams. Trees throughout the entire Project will be pruned to raise the canopy. A secondary treatment of targeted herbicide application will be applied, once the mechanical thinning has been completed to delay regrowth of sprouting species (e.g., oaks and madrone). The AFSC has been working with CAL FIRE on a maintenance schedule in which all 13 landowners included in the Project are willing to participate and will be conducting further education and outreach activities with these funds.

The AFSC has been successful in implementing a network of fuel breaks that span across the Mokelumne and Consumnes river watersheds and along Highway 88. Many of these fuel breaks have been installed with funding from the SNC including the Tiger Creek Fuel

Break, which recently was instrumental in stopping the Tiger Fire from growing and destroying multiple communities, and the AmCo project, which is treating all the scattered Bureau Land Management inholdings throughout the small rural communities along Highway 88. These two projects are just a few of the community-level fuel breaks that the AFSC has implemented over recent years.

The AFSC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to protect the people of Amador County from the catastrophic effects of wildfire through education and outreach, innovation, and action. The Project will be installed along portions of 13 different private landowners. These parcels have been selected because of their strategic location along a ridgeline and placement within the overall fuel break network.

The Project was first proposed by the Mace Meadows Firewise Community through the AFSC project proposal process. The Project was coordinated with the AFSC Projects Committee and the AFSC Board of Directors. The funding for the planning and environmental compliance for this project came from CAL FIRE. It is estimated that approximately \$29,000 will come from in-kind support from AFSC staff and its Registered Professional Forester.

This Project meets both the goals of the SNC’s Strategic Plan and the goals of Proposition 4. The Project directly protects over 1,000 homes in eastern Amador County and adds to the overall effectiveness of a regional fuel break strategy. Additionally, the treatments utilized will improve forest and watershed health.

Project Schedule

Project Tasks and Deliverables	Timeline
Six Month Progress Reports	August 2026 February, August 2027 February, August 2028
Fuels Reduction Treatments	June 2026 – June 2027
Herbicide Treatment	June 2028
Education and Outreach	June 2026 – December 2028
Estimated Project Completion Date	December 31, 2028

Project Costs

Project Costs	SNC Funding
Project Management	\$30,005
Registered Professional Forester	\$18,750
Fuels Reduction Treatments	\$255,000

Project Costs	SNC Funding
Herbicide Application	\$36,125
Supplies	\$3,000
Education and Outreach	\$4,400
Administrative Costs	\$34,728
Total	\$382,008

Project Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- CAL FIRE Amador-El Dorado Unit
- Amador County Board of Supervisors
- Amador Fire Protection District
- Amador Resource Conservation District
- Mace Meadows Firewise Community
- Amador Pines Firewise Community
- Andrews Lupe Ridge Firewise Community
- Cassinelli Ranch Firewise Community
- Fortress Firewise Association
- Jackson Pines
- Kirkwood Firewise USA
- La Mel Firewise Community
- Quartz Mountain Firewise Community

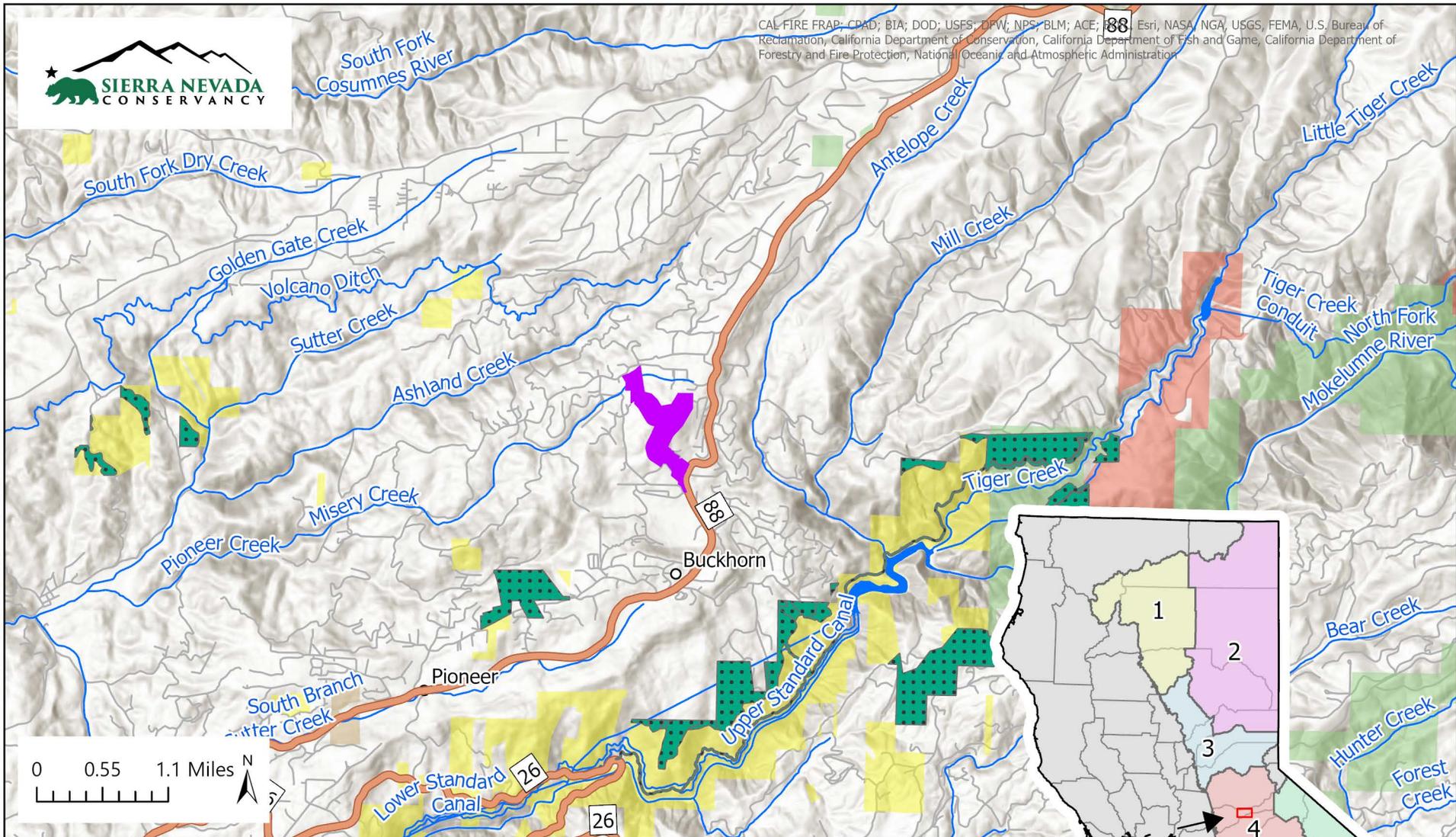
Opposition:

- 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

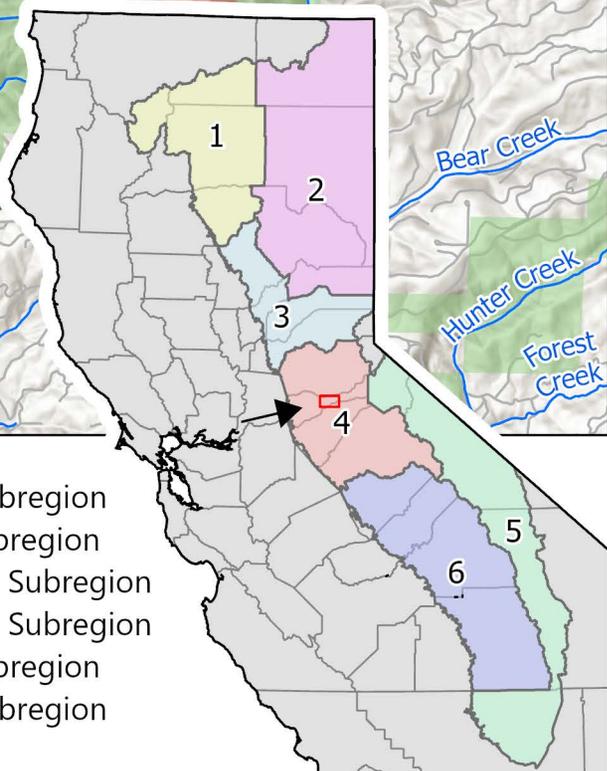


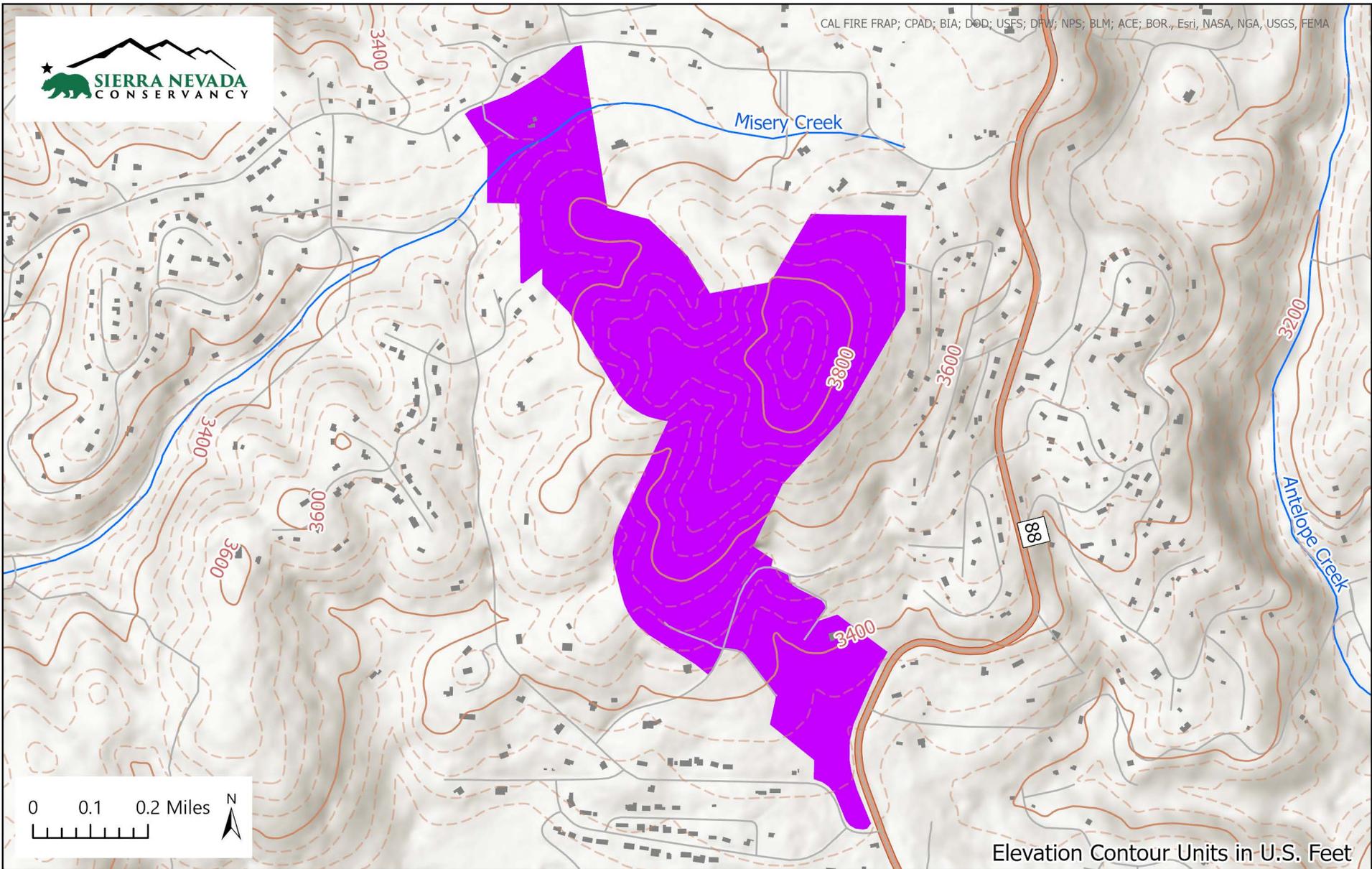
1827: Mount Crossman Community Fuel Break

Amador Fire Safe Council



1. Northwest Subregion
2. Northeast Subregion
3. North Central Subregion
4. South Central Subregion
5. Southeast Subregion
6. Southwest Subregion





1827: Mount Crossman Community Fuel Break

Amador Fire Safe Council

Legend

- 1827
- Building Footprints
- Highways
- Roads

To: Governor's Office of Land Use and
Climate Innovation
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Lead Agency
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Mount Crossman Community Fuel Break (SNC1827)

Project Location – Specific: Mount Crossman, on the west side of Highway 88, adjacent to the small community of Barton. Approximately three miles northeast of the town of Pioneer along Highway 88. Treatment center at approximately -120.535, 38.464 degrees.

Project Location - City: Barton

Project Location - County: Amador

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding to the Amador Fire Safe Council (AFSC) to create an approximately 85 acre, 1.4mi, 400- to 500 foot-wide shaded fuel break on the Mount Crossman ridge just north of the community of Buckhorn. The objective of the project is to create a shaded fuel break to protect habitable structures directly adjacent to the fuel break from catastrophic fire, protect the communities of Buckhorn and Pioneer, and protect water quality in the Mokelumne River watershed. The project area vegetation composition is made up primarily of ponderosa pines, California black oak, canyon live oak, and Pacific madrone. There is a strong understory dominated by white leaf manzanita. Treatment consists of a mix of mechanical mastication, where slope permits, and hand-thinning on steeper areas and closer to streams. Trees throughout the entire project will be pruned to raise the canopy. A secondary treatment of targeted herbicide application will be applied, once the mechanical thinning has been completed to delay regrowth of sprouting species (e.g., oaks and madrone).

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Amador Fire Safe Council
12200 B Airport Rd, Jackson, CA 95642
Amanda Watson, Coordinator
209-217-1090
amanda@amadorrccd.org

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land

Reasons why project is exempt: The project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation, which do not involve removal of mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. The minor land alterations proposed by the project consist of forestry treatments to reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health. The AFSC, in partnership with CAL FIRE, completed ground surveys and database searches for sensitive resources. The SNC reviewed the project, including the Environmental Review Report prepared by the AFSC, and concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to resources. The SNC reviewed the project and determined that the project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, and none of the exceptions to the exemptions apply to the project.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mary Akens

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-450-5177

If filed by applicant: N/A

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project:
Yes ___ No ___

Signature:

Title:

Date:

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Exhibit A

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program SNC Project Number 1830

SNC ID Number: 1830

Applicant: El Dorado Resource Conservation District

Project Title: Sly Park Fuels Reduction Project

SNC Subregion: South Central

County(ies): El Dorado

Funding Amount Requested: \$800,000

Funding Amount Recommended: \$800,000

Total Project Cost: \$3,849,968

Funding Authority: Proposition 4, The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, California Budget Act of 2024 (SB103 Early Action Wildfire)

Project Scope / Description

The Sly Park Fuels Reduction Project (Project), as proposed by the El Dorado Resource Conservation District (RCD), will conduct approximately 377 acres of fuels-reduction treatments near the communities of Camino, Pollock Pines, and Pleasant Valley in El Dorado County. The Project is located directly south of US Highway 50 in the Weber Creek watershed and is in the Placerville Ranger District of the Eldorado National Forest (ENF).

Forests in the Project area currently have an abundance of dense smaller trees, thick undergrowth, and a high density of surface fuels. These fuel conditions create a higher potential for severe, stand-replacing wildfire, which poses a significant threat to the safety of nearby communities and infrastructure. This Project will complete approximately 377 acres of strategically placed fuel-reduction treatments that complement and extend the continuity of existing treatments to create a fire-resistant landscape. This will be accomplished by a combination of treatment types, including mastication, pruning, and hand-thinning to lower tree density and reduce understory ladder and surface fuels.

This Project represents the final phase of the Fire-Adapted 50 – Sly Park Fuels Management Collaborative Project. To date, over 8,000 acres have been treated across jurisdictions in other phases of this project. This includes 260 acres of El Dorado Irrigation District lands that were treated with previous funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC). Units

in this final phase of the project are adjacent to and surrounded by low-medium density residential properties, US Highway 50, and other critical ingress/egress routes.

Established in 1940, the RCD is a local, independent, non-enforcement, non-regulatory, self-governed special district. The mission of the RCD is “to promote the responsible stewardship of our natural resources within our boundaries.” The RCD has a long and successful history of administering and completing grants from numerous funders, including the SNC. It also has a strong partnership with the ENF, the landowner for this project.

The RCD’s primary partner for this Project is ENF, which has completed the National Environmental Policy Act and associated environmental analysis for the Project, including field surveys. The ENF will also be responsible for long-term management of the Project. Another Project partner, the Camino-Pollock Pines Fire Safe Council, will assist with public workshops, field demonstration projects, and distributing information to surrounding communities.

This Project supports the SNC Strategic Plan and Proposition 4 by building on planning efforts aimed at increasing community resilience to wildfires and climate change impacts through careful and deliberate integration of plans and programs focused on protecting communities from the threats of wildfire. This will result in the implementation of cross-jurisdictional priorities for establishing safer routes for emergency response and evacuation of vulnerable communities during wildfire events, as well as increasing wildfire resilience of forested lands in the wildland urban interface.

Project Schedule

Project Tasks and Deliverables	Timeline
SNC Progress Reports	August 1 and February 1 throughout the duration of the project
Contracting for Registered Professional Forester and Vegetation Management	April 2026 – October 2027
Implementation of Vegetation Management	May 2026 – December 2027
Compliance Monitoring and Reporting, and SNC Final Report	May 2026 – December 2027
Estimated Project Completion Date	December 2027

Project Costs

Project Costs	SNC Funding
Project Management	\$50,000
Project Implementation	\$750,000
Administrative Costs	\$0
Total	\$800,000

Project Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- USDA Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest
- Rancho Del Sol Fire Safe Council

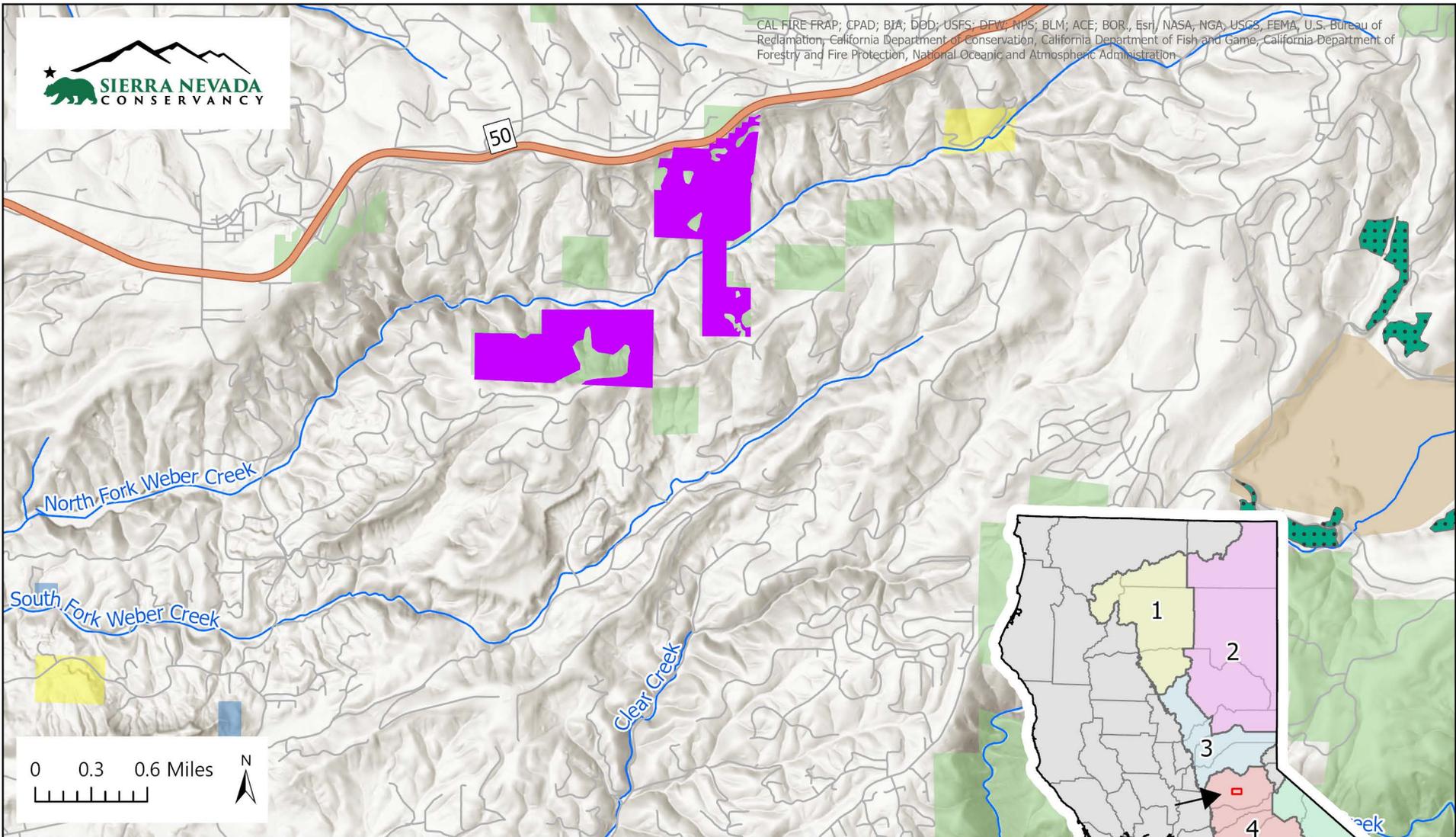
Opposition:

- 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



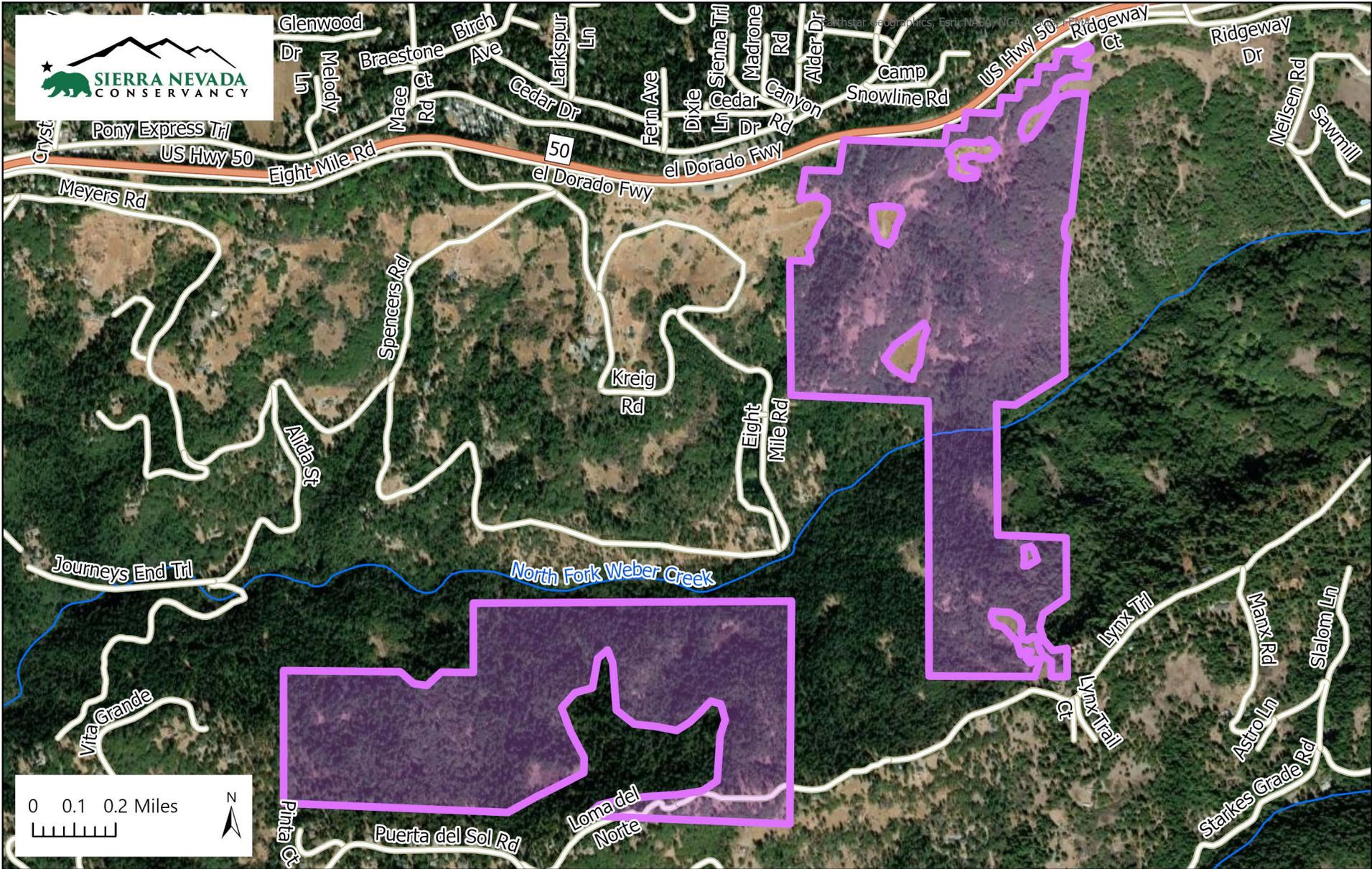
1830: Sly Park Fuels Reduction Project

El Dorado Resource Conservation District

Legend

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1830 | Highways | Other State Lands |
| Other SNC Implementation Grants | Roads | US Bureau of Land Management |
| | Land Ownership: Local Government | US Forest Service |

1. Northwest Subregion
2. Northeast Subregion
3. North Central Subregion
4. South Central Subregion
5. Southeast Subregion
6. Southwest Subregion



1830: Sly Park Fuels Reduction Project

El Dorado Resource Conservation District

Legend

- 1830
- Highways
- Roads

To: Governor's Office of Land Use and
Climate Innovation
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Lead Agency
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

To: El Dorado County Recorder - Clerk
360 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667I

Project Title: Sly Park Fuels Reduction Project (SNC1830)

Project Location – Specific: Eldorado National Forest, Placerville Ranger District, near the communities of Camino, Cedar Grove, and Pollock Pines in El Dorado County. The project is located directly south of US Highway 50, adjacent to the community of Cedar Grove. Project center at approximately -120.633, 38,735 degrees.

Project Location - City: Near Cedar
Grove, CA

Project Location - County: El Dorado

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is providing funding to the El Dorado Resource Conservation District (RCD) to partner with Eldorado National Forest (ENF) to conduct approximately 377 acres of fuels-reduction treatments near the communities of Cedar Grove, Camino, Pollock Pines, and Pleasant Valley in El Dorado County. Forests in the project area currently have an abundance of dense smaller trees, thick undergrowth, and a high density of surface fuels. These fuel conditions create a higher potential for severe, stand-replacing wildfire, which poses a significant threat to the safety of nearby communities and infrastructure. This project will complete 377 acres of strategically placed fuel-reduction treatments that complement and extend the continuity of existing treatments to create a fire-resistant landscape. This will be accomplished by a combination of treatment types, including thinning, chipping/mastication of brush and smaller trees, and hand treatments including brush cutting, hand-thinning, and pruning. The treatments will reduce tree density in selected stands and change the structure of live and dead vegetative material to lower tree density and reduce understory ladder and surface fuels.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

El Dorado Resource Conservation District
Mark Egbert, District Manager
100 Forni Road, Suite A. Placerville, CA 95667

Mark.Egbert@ca.usda.gov

530-957-3472

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Pub. Resources Code, section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1)

Reasons why project is exempt: Public Resources Code, section 4799.05 statutorily exempts from CEQA projects for prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel-reduction projects, or to related activities included in the project description, undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The SNC has authorized/approved the use of the funding for the RCD to work in partnership with the ENF to conduct fuels-reduction treatments on national forest lands. The project was reviewed in its entirety under NEPA by the ENF in the *Decision Memo for the Sly Park Fuels Reduction Project Categorical Exclusion*, signed on June 1, 2020.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mary Akens

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-450-5177

If filed by applicant: N/A

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project:
Yes ___ No ___

Signature:

Title:

Date:

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Exhibit A

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program SNC Project Number 1836

SNC ID Number: 1836

Applicant: Nevada County Office of Emergency Services

Project Title: Town of Washington Wildfire Defense

SNC Subregion: North Central

County(ies): Nevada

Funding Amount Requested: \$1,027,721

Funding Amount Recommended: \$1,027,721

Total Project Cost: \$1,129,921

Funding Authority: Proposition 4, The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, California Budget Act of 2024 (SB103 Early Action Wildfire)

Project Scope / Description

The Town of Washington Wildfire Defense project has two critical goals: providing defensible opportunities to protect the town of Washington from wildfire, and providing critical ingress for fire responders and egress for people to escape a fire. The Nevada County Office of Emergency Services (OES) will implement this project, which is entirely on Tahoe National Forest (TNF) land, thinning approximately 172 acres of heavily overgrown forest. The town of Washington is a small, isolated community on the banks of the South Yuba River, located about 13 miles northeast of Nevada City in Nevada County.

The OES will implement the project through its Good Neighbor Agreement with the TNF. This agreement allows for collaboration on shaded fuel breaks and evacuation-route improvements. The TNF Forest Fuels Planner has already used a series of Potential Operational Delineation (POD) lines to identify where treatments can best support containment and suppression efforts. There are only two roads in and out of Washington that connect to Highway 49: the paved Washington Road and the dirt Alpha Road. When the Washington Road has been blocked, the Alpha Road has been critical as the only other ingress/egress on the south side of the river. The project largely focuses on creating a fuel break along the Alpha Road, which is impinged upon by the existing heavy forest growth. The terrain is generally very steep, requiring hand-thinning. Approximately 172 acres will be treated through thinning and hand-piling of ladder fuels, dense surface fuels, and trees up

to 12 inches in diameter. Approximately 5.5 miles of containment line will be constructed around the treatment units and 1.4 miles of roadside treatment will help maintain nearly nine miles of evacuation routes along Washington and Alpha roads. Of this total, 11 to 30 acres, and 0.75 to 1.75 miles of fire line, will be completed by CHIRP Tribal crews.

The community sits at a strategic point between existing and planned shaded fuel breaks along both rims of the South Yuba River. Projects on the north rim include the nearly complete 'Inimim Forest projects on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land (previously funded by Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC)) and the South Yuba Rim planning project for Nevada County (also with major funding from SNC). On the south rim, projects between Washington and Nevada City include the Hoyt-Purdon project on private land (well underway with an SNC grant) and the recommended Round Mountain project. Along with other planned and proposed projects on private and federal land, the town of Washington project will help complete a comprehensive protection effort of watershed and communities of the South Yuba River.

The OES is the agency spearheading forest restoration for Nevada County. The OES has completed, or is currently implementing, forest health and fuels-reduction projects with grants from the U.S. Forest Service, CAL FIRE, and the Wildlife Conservation Board, as well as a CAL FIRE grant for additional planning and implementation. The OES is currently engaged in the South Yuba Rim planning project funded by the SNC. Nevada County is also building strong working relationships with local organizations with considerable experience in forest and watershed restoration, including those that have also worked extensively with the SNC. The Town of Washington Wildfire Defense project will be implemented on land managed by the TNF, which fully supports this project.

The TNF is fully engaged as a partner in this project and is committing \$92,200 in staff time, including fire specialists and biologists. CAL FIRE Washington Ridge crews will contribute \$10,000 in-kind, if crews are available.

Each summer, the Washington hosts as many as 1,500 visitors daily for RVing, off-highway vehicle use, camping, mining, hunting, and river recreation. Peak recreation season overlaps with peak fire danger, and off-highway vehicle activity has a high history of being an ignition source. The town of Washington area is identified in Nevada County's 2025 Community Wildfire Protection Plan as a "Highest Priority Project Area" because of modeled fire spread and canyon wind alignment. The goals of this project align directly with SNC's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Program priorities by protecting people and communities, promoting forest and watershed health, and improving regional resilience to wildfire.

Project Schedule

Project Tasks and Deliverables	Timeline
U.S. Forest Service develops specific unit prescriptions	April – May 2026
Contractor solicitations	May 2026
Implementation of forest thinning	June 2026 – November 2027
Progress Report #1	August 1, 2026
Progress Report #2	February 1, 2027
Progress Report #3	August 1, 2027
Progress Report #4	December 2027
Estimated Project Completion Date	January 1, 2028

Project Costs

Project Costs	SNC Funding
Project Management	\$47,196
Contractor Thinning	\$767,250
Thinning with CHIRP crews	\$67,225
Communication and Outreach	\$12,000
Administrative Costs	\$134,050
Total	\$1,027,721

Project Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Tahoe National Forest, Forest Supervisor
- CAL FIRE Nevada Yuba Placer Unit
- Washington Volunteer Fire Department
- The Town of Washington Firewise Community
- California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project

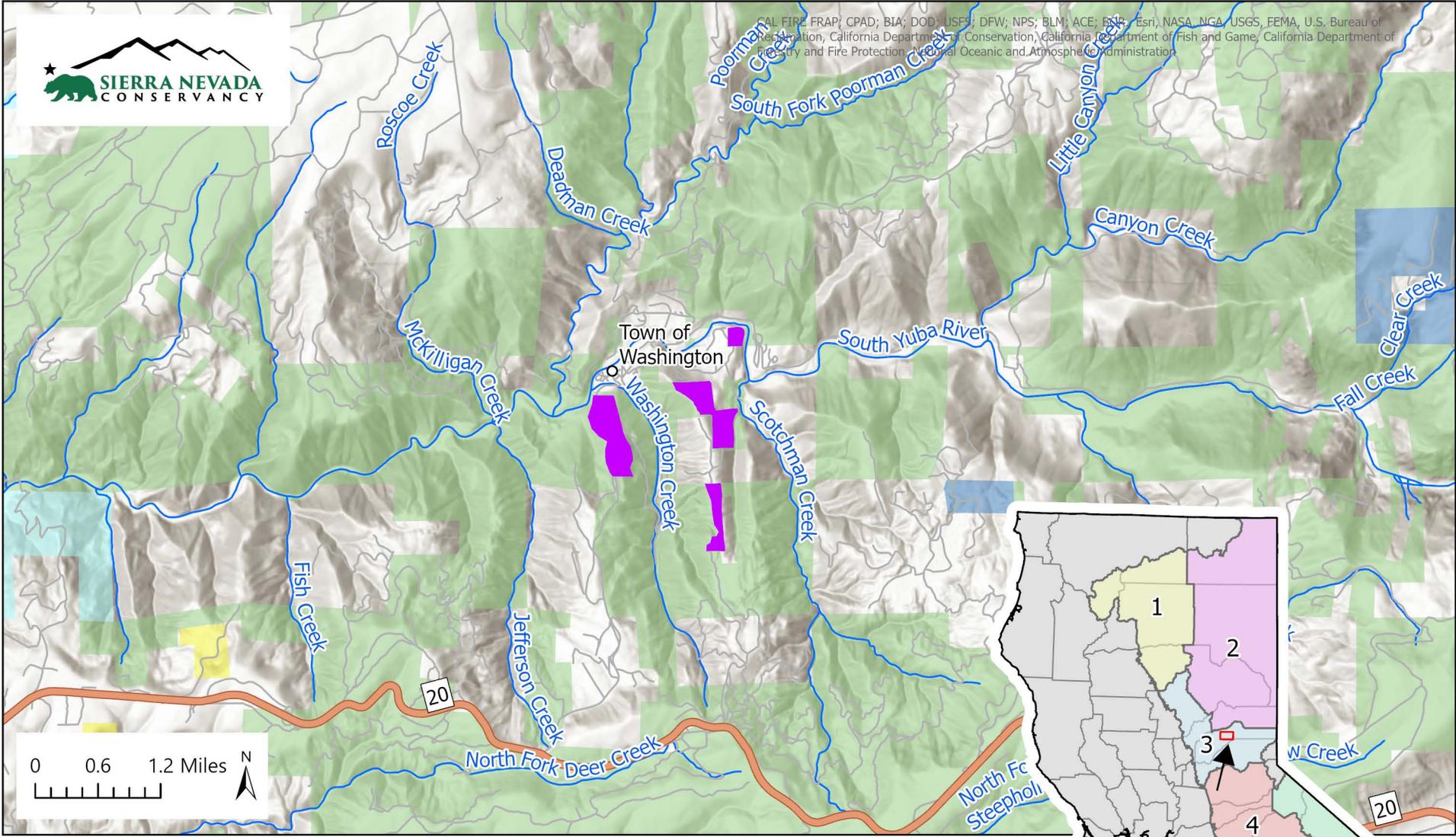
Opposition:

- 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

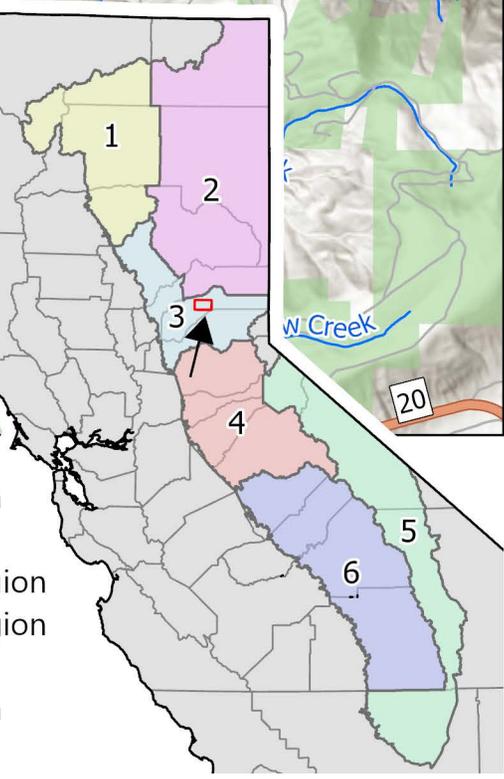


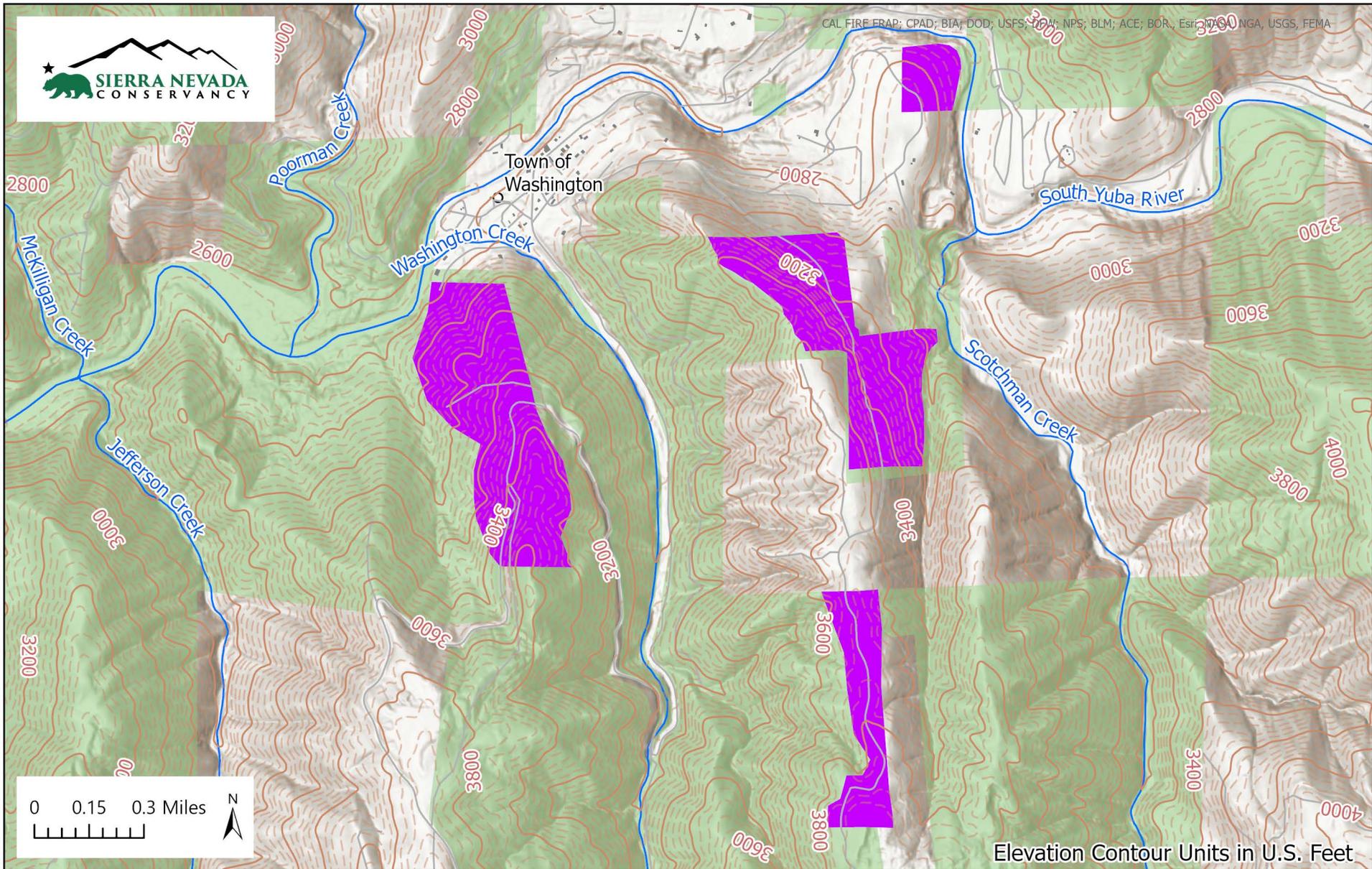
1836: Town of Washington Wildfire Defense
 Nevada County Office of Emergency Services

Legend

- 1836
- Highways
- Roads
- Land Ownership
CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation
- US Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- Other State Lands

1. Northwest Subregion
2. Northeast Subregion
3. North Central Subregion
4. South Central Subregion
5. Southeast Subregion
6. Southwest Subregion



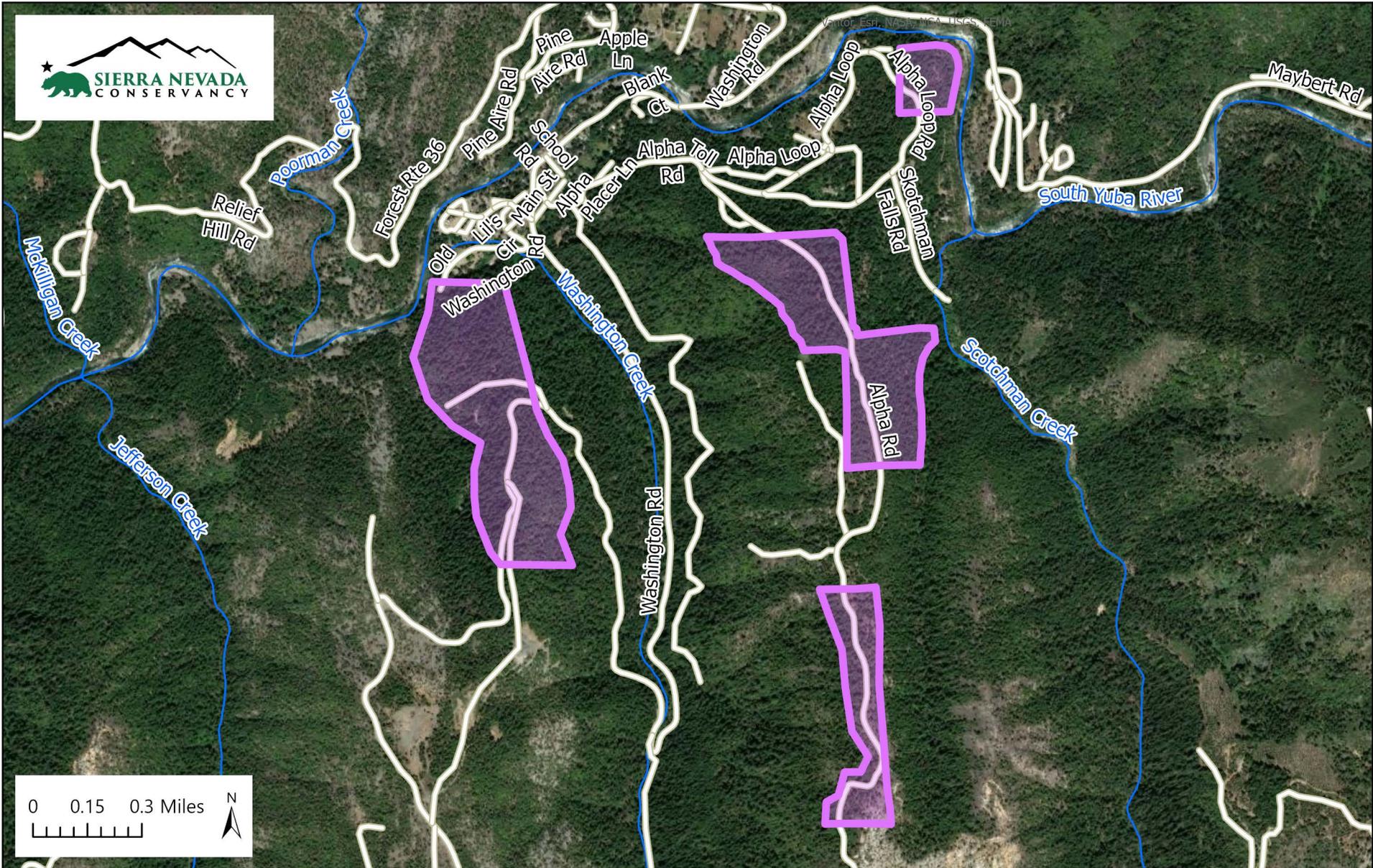


1836: Town of Washington Wildfire Defense

Nevada County Office of Emergency Services

Legend

- 1836
- Roads
- Building Footprints
- Land Ownership
- US Forest Service



1836: Town of Washington Wildfire Defense

Nevada County Office of Emergency Services

Legend

- proposed_1836
- Roads

To: Governor’s Office of Land Use and
Climate Innovation
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Lead Agency
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

To: Nevada County Clerk-Recorder
950 Maidu Ave
Nevada City, CA 95959

Project Title: Town of Washington Wildfire Defense (SNC1836)

Project Location – Specific: Tahoe National Forest lands adjacent to the town of Washington, about 13 miles northeast of Nevada City, along and near Alpha Road, Alpha Loop, and Washington Road. Treatment center at approximately -120.795, 39.353 degrees.

Project Location - City: Washington

Project Location - County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding to the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services to partner with the Tahoe National Forest to implement fuels-reduction treatments around the town of Washington. The purpose of the project is to provide defensible opportunities to protect Washington from wildfire, and critical ingress for fire responders and egress for people to escape a fire. Up to 172 acres will be treated through hand-thinning and hand-piling of ladder fuels, dense surface fuels, and trees up to 12 inches in diameter. Approximately 5.5 miles of containment line will be constructed around the treatment units, and 1.4 miles of roadside treatment will help maintain nearly nine miles of evacuation routes along Washington and Alpha roads. All work will be done consistent with Best Management Practices and Management Requirements specified in the Tahoe National Forest NEPA Decisions authorizing the project activities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Nevada County Office of Emergency Services
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 130, Nevada City, CA 95959
Alex Keeble-Toll, Director
530-470-2521
Alex.Keeble-Toll@nevadacountyca.gov

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Pub. Resources Code, section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1)

Reasons why project is exempt: Public Resources Code, section 4799.05 statutorily exempts from CEQA projects for prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel-reduction projects, or to related activities included in the project description, undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The SNC has authorized/approved the use of the funding for the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services to partner with Tahoe National Forest to conduct fuels-reduction treatments on National Forest lands. The project was reviewed in its entirety in the Tahoe National Forest's *South Yuba Roadside Fuel Break Project Categorical Exclusion Decision Memo* signed on May 5, 2015, and the *Environmental Assessment for Washington Fuels Reduction Project with Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact* signed on June 3, 2004 and a *Determination of NEPA Adequacy* signed on January 30, 2026.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mary Akens

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-450-5177

If filed by applicant: N/A

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project:
Yes __ No __

Signature:

Title:

Date:

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Exhibit A

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program

SNC Project Number 1837

SNC ID Number: 1837

Applicant: Tuolumne County

Project Title: Protecting Highway 108's Communities, Economies, and Watersheds

SNC Subregion: South Central

County(ies): Tuolumne

Funding Amount Requested: \$1,000,000

Funding Amount Recommended: \$876,822

Total Project Cost: \$2,168,750

Funding Authority: Proposition 4, The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, California Budget Act of 2024 (SB103 Early Action Wildfire)

Project Scope / Description

The Protecting Highway 108's Communities, Economies, and Watersheds project (Project) will install a minimum of 280 acres of fuel breaks in eastern Tuolumne County. The applicant, Tuolumne County (County), will be creating shaded fuel breaks along Highway 108 and Crabtree Road that protect the community of Pinecrest and within the wildland urban interface near the community of Arastraville. The Project is completely on the Stanislaus National Forest (Forest) and is part of the larger Social and Ecological Resilience Across the Landscape (SERAL) 2.0 Project.

The Project lies approximately between elevations of 3,900-5,700 feet and is primarily dominated by the Sierra Nevada mixed conifer forest type. Treatments will consist of roadside thinning reducing ground and ladder fuels up to 12 inches in diameter. Treatments will be a combination of mechanical mastication, hand-thinning, and pruning. Much like how the original SERAL project was developed, SERAL 2.0 will use fuel breaks to delineate between different operation zones. The fuel breaks installed with this Project will allow access for fire-suppression activities and reduce the spread of catastrophic wildfire events, but will also act as key anchor points for future forest-management activities.

The SERAL 2.0 project is a recently developed landscape level plan developed by the Forest in partnership with the local collaborative, Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions (YSS).

This 120,000-acre plan, signed in 2025, covers a massive swath of the Forest south of Highway 108 and complements the previously developed SERAL 1.0 plan, which is nearly the same size and covers forestland north of Highway 108. That being stated, the Project fits into a large landscape strategy designed to protect communities, infrastructure, and improve forest health.

The County holds a Master Stewardship Agreement with the Forest and has been implementing grant-funded forest-restoration projects since 2018. The County currently holds an SNC grant to implement fuel breaks on the SERAL project and has been successful in securing over \$35 million in grant funding to date. The Forest and the County are both members of the YSS collaborative and have been strong Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) partners for many years.

Primary partners on this Project include the Forest, the YSS Collaborative, and the Yosemite Rivers Alliance (YRA). The County has partnered with the YRA for field-management responsibilities throughout the implementation of SERAL and will continue to use its services for the implementation of SERAL 2.0. The Forest and YSS Collaborative will provide guidance and oversight to the implementation of the Project and will continue to provide and look for additional funding to implement other portions of the SERAL and SERAL 2.0 projects. The various tribes in the region, including the Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, and the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation have been heavily involved in the planning of SERAL 2.0.

The Project supports both the goals of the SNC Strategic Plan and those of Proposition 4. By installing these strategic fuel breaks, the County and the Forest are making incredible progress towards not only protecting local communities but critical water infrastructure, but important recreation and economic assets that benefit the region at large.

Project Schedule

Project Tasks and Deliverables	Timeline
Six-Month Progress Reports	August 2026 February, August 2027 February, August 2028
Fuels Reduction	June 2026 – December 2028
Estimated Project Completion Date	December 31, 2028

Project Costs

Project Costs	SNC Funding
Project Management	\$96,166
Fuels Reduction	\$700,945
Administrative Costs	\$79,711
Total	\$876,822

Project Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- CAL FIRE, Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit
- Tuolumne County Fire Safe Council
- Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions

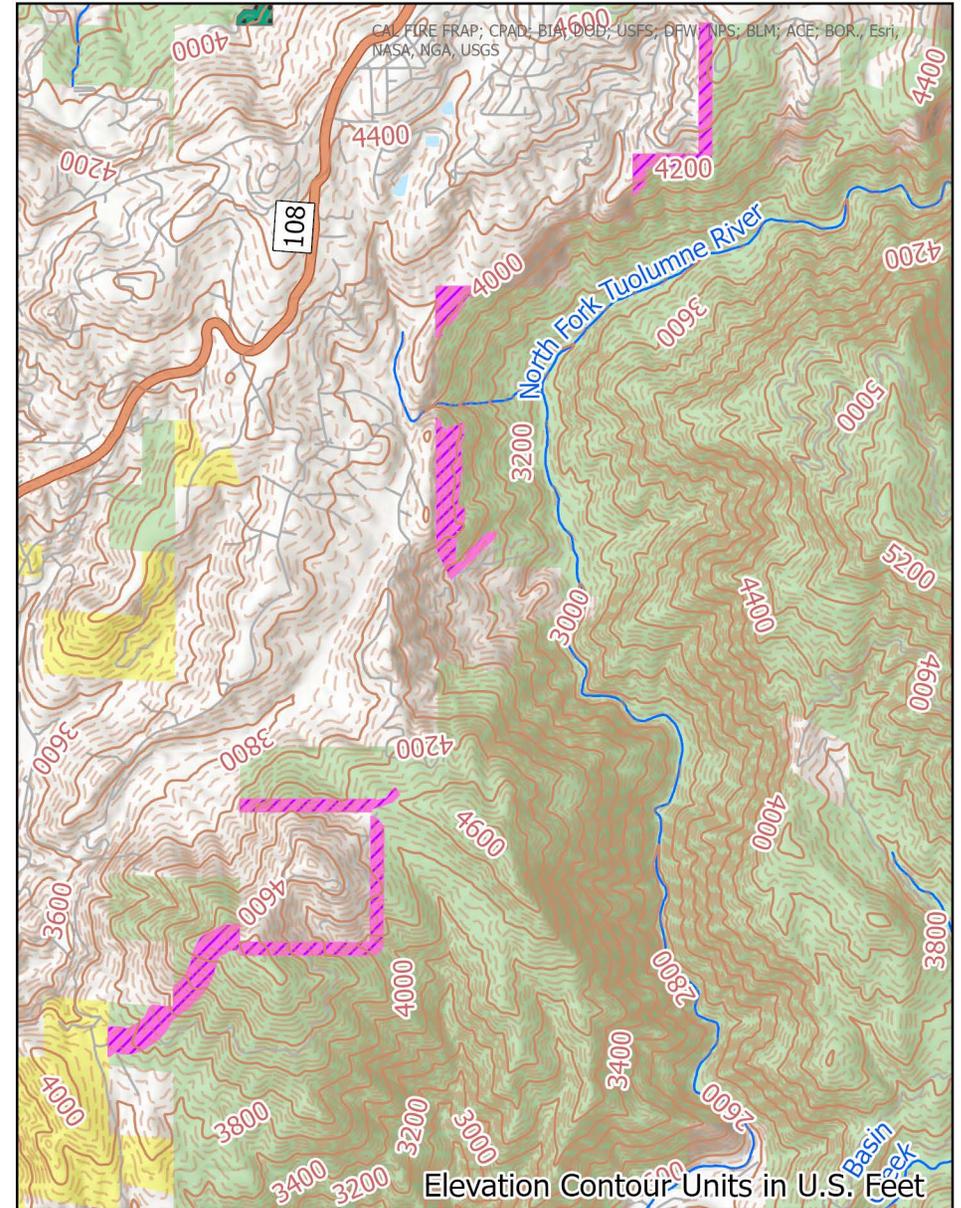
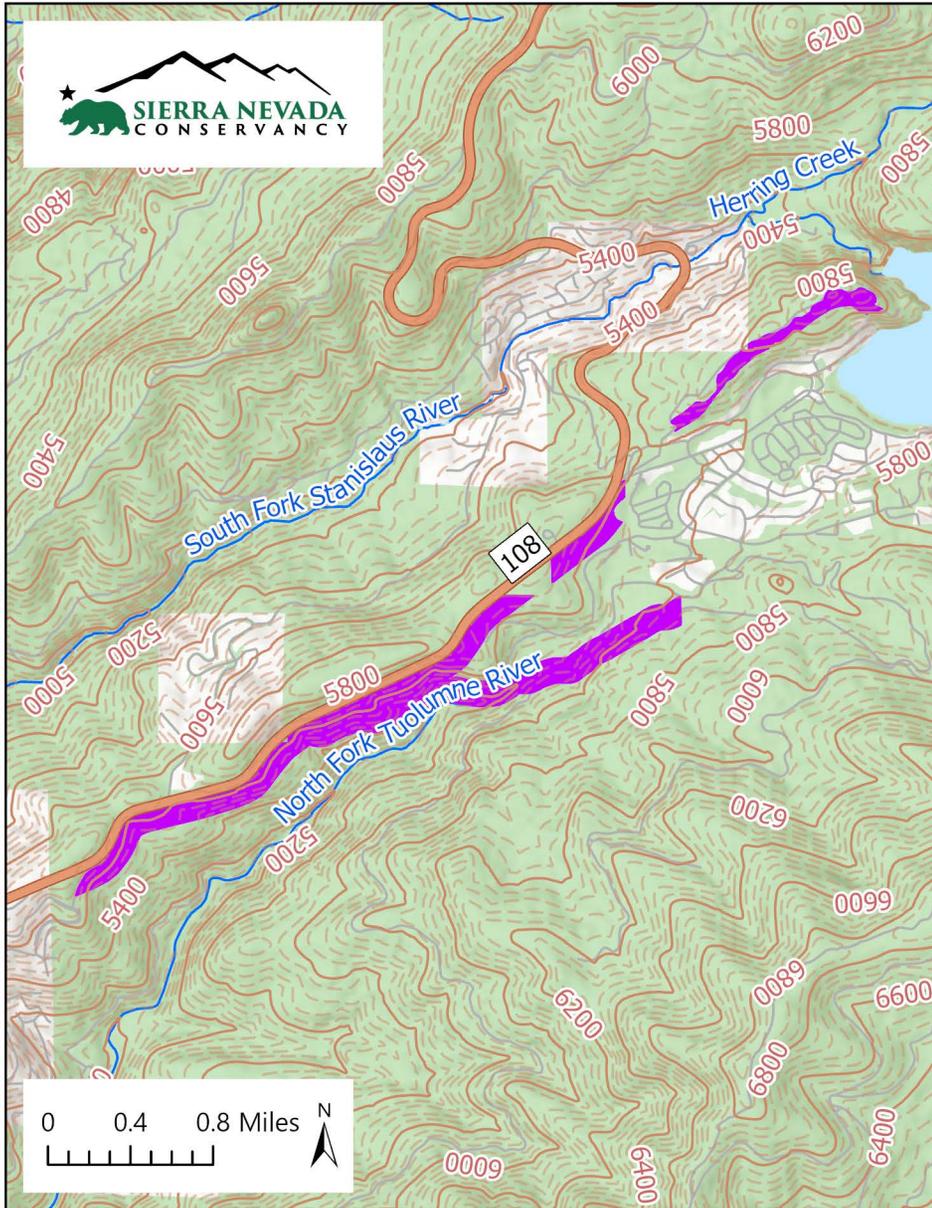
Opposition:

- 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



1837: Protecting Highway 108's Communities, Economies, and Watersheds

Tuolumne County

Legend

1837

Priority 1

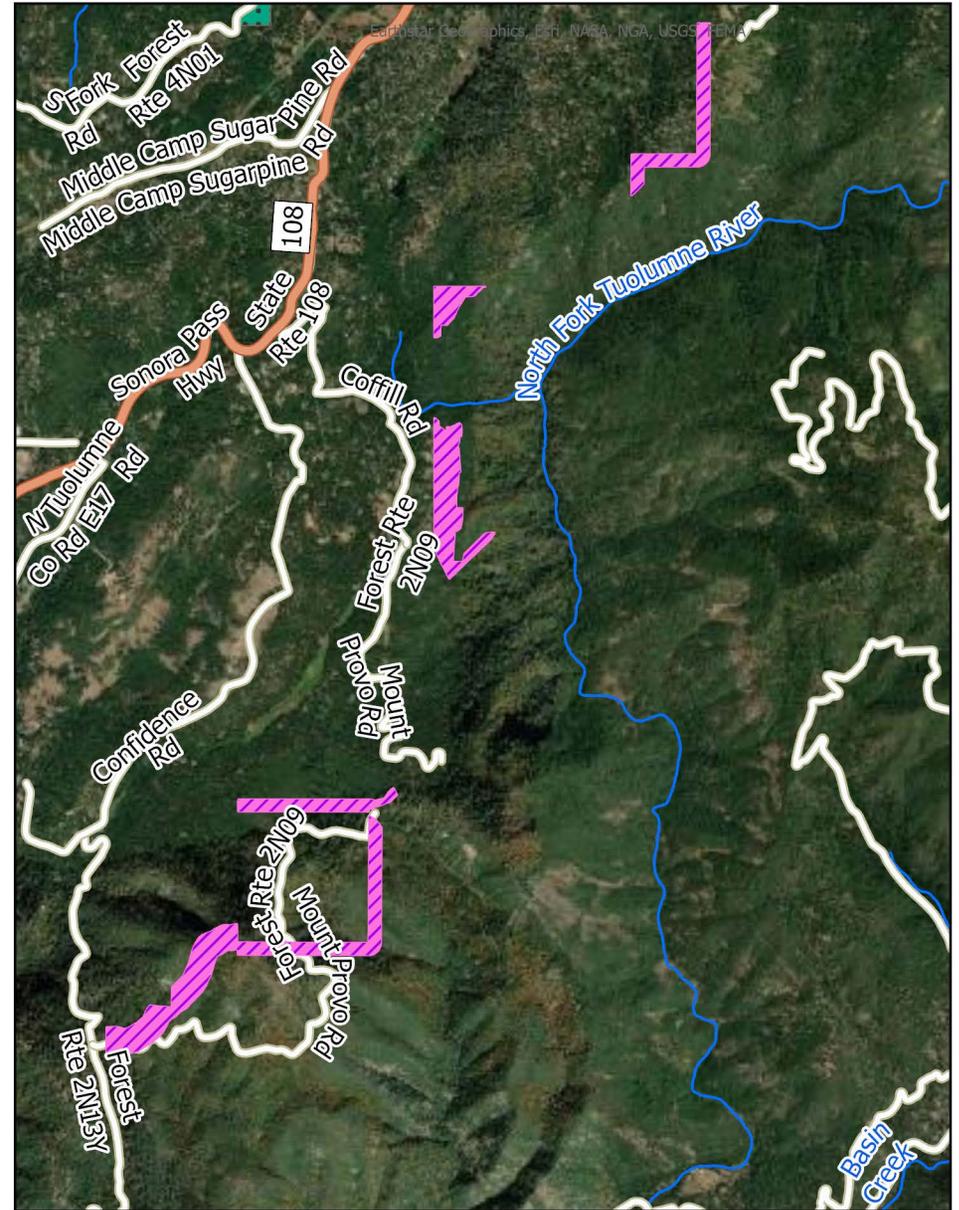
Priority 2

Highways

Roads

US Bureau of Land Management

US Forest Service



1837: Protecting Highway 108's Communities, Economies, and Watersheds

Tuolumne County

Legend

- 1837
- Priority 1
- Priority 2
- Highways
- Roads

To: Governor's Office of Land Use and
Climate Innovation
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Lead Agency
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

To: Tuolumne County Clerk
2 South Green St, Second Floor
Sonora, CA 95370

Project Title: Protecting Highway 108's Communities, Economies, and Watersheds
(SNC1837)

Project Location – Specific: Two locations in Stanislaus National Forest. 1) Adjacent to the north and west sides of the community of Pinecrest, along Highway 108 and Crabtree Road. Treatment center at approximately -120.018, 38.179 degrees. 2) On the southeast side of Highway 108, between the communities of Me-Wuk Village and Arastraville. Treatment center at approximately -120.633, 38.037 degrees.

Project Location - City: Near Pinecrest,
Arastraville

Project Location - County: Tuolumne

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is providing funding to Tuolumne County to partner with the Stanislaus National Forest to implement between 280 and 406 acres of fuel breaks in eastern Tuolumne County to protect nearby communities and infrastructure from wildfire. Treatments will consist of roadside thinning reducing ground and ladder fuels up to 12 inches in diameter. Treatments will be a combination of mechanical mastication, hand-thinning, and pruning. The fuel breaks installed with this project will allow access for fire-suppression activities and reduce the spread of catastrophic wildfire events, but will also act as key anchor points for future forest-management activities. The project is part of the larger Social and Ecological Resilience Across the Landscape (SERAL) 2.0 landscape-level plan developed by the Stanislaus National Forest in partnership with the local collaborative, Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:
Tuolumne County
Caitlin Henry, Senior Management Analyst
2 South Green Street, Sonora, CA 95370
209-533-5561
chenry@co.tuolumne.ca.us

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Pub. Resources Code, section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1)

Reasons why project is exempt: Public Resources Code, section 4799.05 statutorily exempts from CEQA projects for prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel-reduction projects, or to related activities included in the project description, undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The SNC has authorized/approved the use of the funding for Tuolumne County to work in partnership with the Stanislaus National Forest to conduct fuels-reduction treatments on national forest lands. The project was reviewed in its entirety under NEPA by the Stanislaus National Forest in the *Social and Ecological Resilience Across the Landscape 2.0 Final Environmental Impact Statement and Another Step in Collaboratively Moving Toward Resilience in the Stanislaus Landscape - Record of Decision (ROD-1)* signed on July 31, 2024, and *Forest Thinning in California Spotted Owl Protected Activity Centers (ROD-2)* signed on January 15, 2025.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mary Akens

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-450-5177

If filed by applicant: N/A

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project:
Yes ___ No ___

Signature:

Title:

Date:

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Exhibit A

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program SNC Project Number 1838

SNC ID Number: 1838

Applicant: Resource Conservation District of Tehama County

Project Title: Manton WUI Protection Project

SNC Subregion: Northwest

County(ies): Tehama, Shasta

Funding Amount Requested: \$993,064

Funding Amount Recommended: \$993,064

Total Project Cost: \$1,325,858

Funding Authority: Proposition 4, The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, California Budget Act of 2024 (SB103 Early Action Wildfire)

Project Scope / Description

The Manton WUI Protection Project (Project) will create strategic fuel breaks to provide a 630-acre defensible perimeter around the Manton community located in Tehama and Shasta counties, approximately 35 miles east of Red Bluff. Submitted by the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County (RCDTC) and located on county-owned and private parcels, the Project will mitigate the rural communities' susceptibility to high-intensity wildfire and improve safety along ingress/egress routes.

Manton is situated in the foothill zone between the valley and the Sierra-Cascades, an area with dense mixed conifer forest, heavy brush and ladder fuels, frequent summer drought, and steep terrain that accelerates fire spread and is classified as a "Very High Wildfire Risk" zone. It lies upslope of Battle Creek with spring-fed, cold year-round flows that provide critical habitat for the endangered spring run Chinook salmon and other salmonids. To create a defensible perimeter, several types of treatments are planned. Hand-thinning and chipping on 310 acres will reduce ladder fuels and create canopy spacing to decrease risk of crown fire. Mastication of 120 acres will establish a network of connected fuel breaks and create defensible lines up to 200' in width that strategically protect the southern part of the wildland urban interface (WUI). Herbicide treatment on 200 acres of essential ingress/egress routes will aid in preventing resprouts and resurgent growth to leverage prior projects in the area and ensure their efficacy. The effort connects

private property treatments with public lands, safeguards essential community services and evacuation routes, protects recreational resources and watershed health, and fits within a larger, landscape-scale approach to wildfire resilience in Tehama and Shasta counties.

The Project is part of existing landscape-scale planning documents including the North Sacramento Valley Coalition's RFFC's District Priority Plan, the Tehama County 2017 CWPP, and the Tehama-Glenn Unit Fire Management Plan. Nearby forest health and watershed projects include the 350-acre Battle Creek Defensible Fuel Profile Zone Project, the Gray Gulch Mechanical Treatment Project on 4,439-acres of Lassen National Forest, and the Battle Creek Salmon & Steelhead Restoration Project that includes approximately 42 miles of Battle Creek plus six miles of tributaries for Chinook salmon and steelhead. The SNC has not previously funded work in this specific area.

Formed in 1987, the RCDTC works with the community to manage, conserve, improve, and enjoy the natural resources of Tehama County. They have one active project with SNC, Ishi Wilderness Fire Restoration Planning (SNC 1669), and several successfully completed projects that include Childs Meadow Fuel Reduction Planning (SNC 1002), Onion Ridge Fuel Reduction and Forest Health Improvement (SNC 1040), and Tramway Road Fuel Break Network (SNC 1061). The project will occur on land owned by Tehama and Shasta counties and one private landowner.

The Manton Fire Safe Council was instrumental in developing this grant and will be supporting its implementation. Local governmental agencies have been involved since the inception of the Project and assisted with obtaining encroachment permits for Project work. They include Tehama County Public Works, Tehama County Transportation Commission, and Shasta County Public Works. The total secured match is \$332,794 and includes funding from CAL FIRE (\$229,924), PG&E Wildfire Prevention (\$98,000), and Manton Fire Safe Council in-kind support (\$4,870).

The Project aligns with Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Strategic Plan by investing in landscape-scale action (Healthy Forests and Watersheds goal). It also meets the goals of Proposition 4's goal to reduce wildfire risks through forest-health initiatives. With 75 percent of the community over the age of 65 and a median household income of \$28,333.00 per year, Manton residents are a vulnerable community that will realize crucial benefits from the planned treatments.

Project Schedule

Project Tasks and Deliverables	Timeline
Develop operations systems for project	April 2026
Pre-work Tasks – Conduct updated CNDBB and archeological records searches, consult local tribe, flag riparian buffers, update ARC GIS maps, coordinate with CCC and Ishi Conservation Camp	April 2026
Hand-thinning and chipping on 310 acres	May – July 2026
Mastication on 120 Acres	October – November 2026
Herbicide treatment on 200 acres	August – September 2026
Post-project data collection	December 2026
Quarterly meetings with Manton Fire Safe Council	May – December 2026
Progress Reports	Every 6 months
Estimated Project Completion Date	December 31, 2026

Project Costs

Project Costs	SNC Funding
Project and Fiscal Management	\$51,728
Implementation – hand-thinning, chipping, mastication (RCBTC)	\$274,142
Implementation – hand-thinning, chipping, mastication (CCC and Conservation Crew)	\$230,210
Implementation – herbicide treatment	\$ 10,598
Supplies – PPE, fuel, flagging, herbicide/spraying supplies, mechanical parts, signage	\$32,548
Equipment Rentals – vehicles, masticator, chipper, chainsaws, skid steer, sprayers, trailers, porta potty	\$200,300
Training – cultural/heritage	\$2,000
Tribal Participation	\$10,000
Administrative Costs	\$181,538
Total	\$993,064

Project Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Manton Fire Safe Council

- Manton Parks
- Manton Education Council

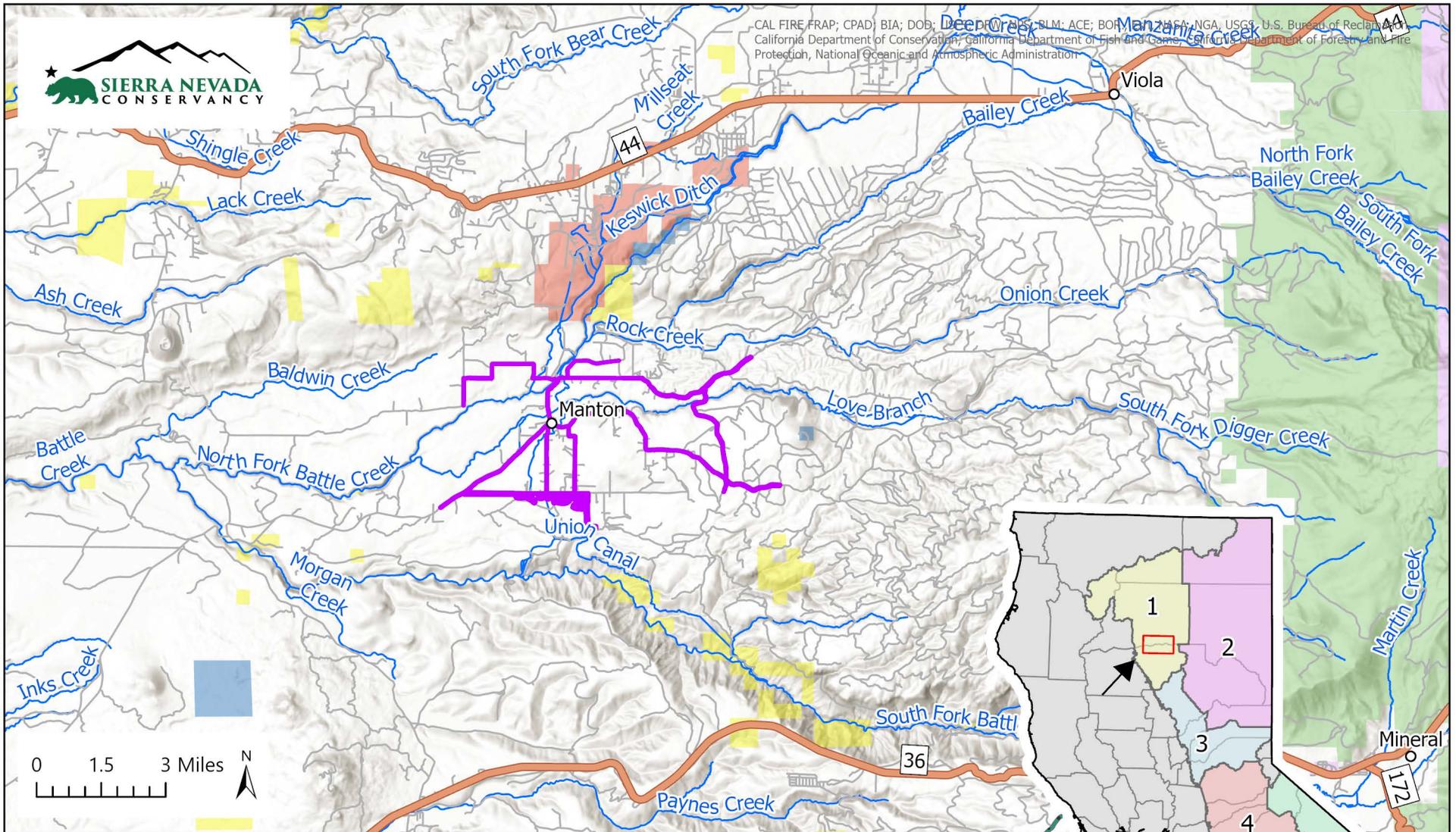
Opposition:

- 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



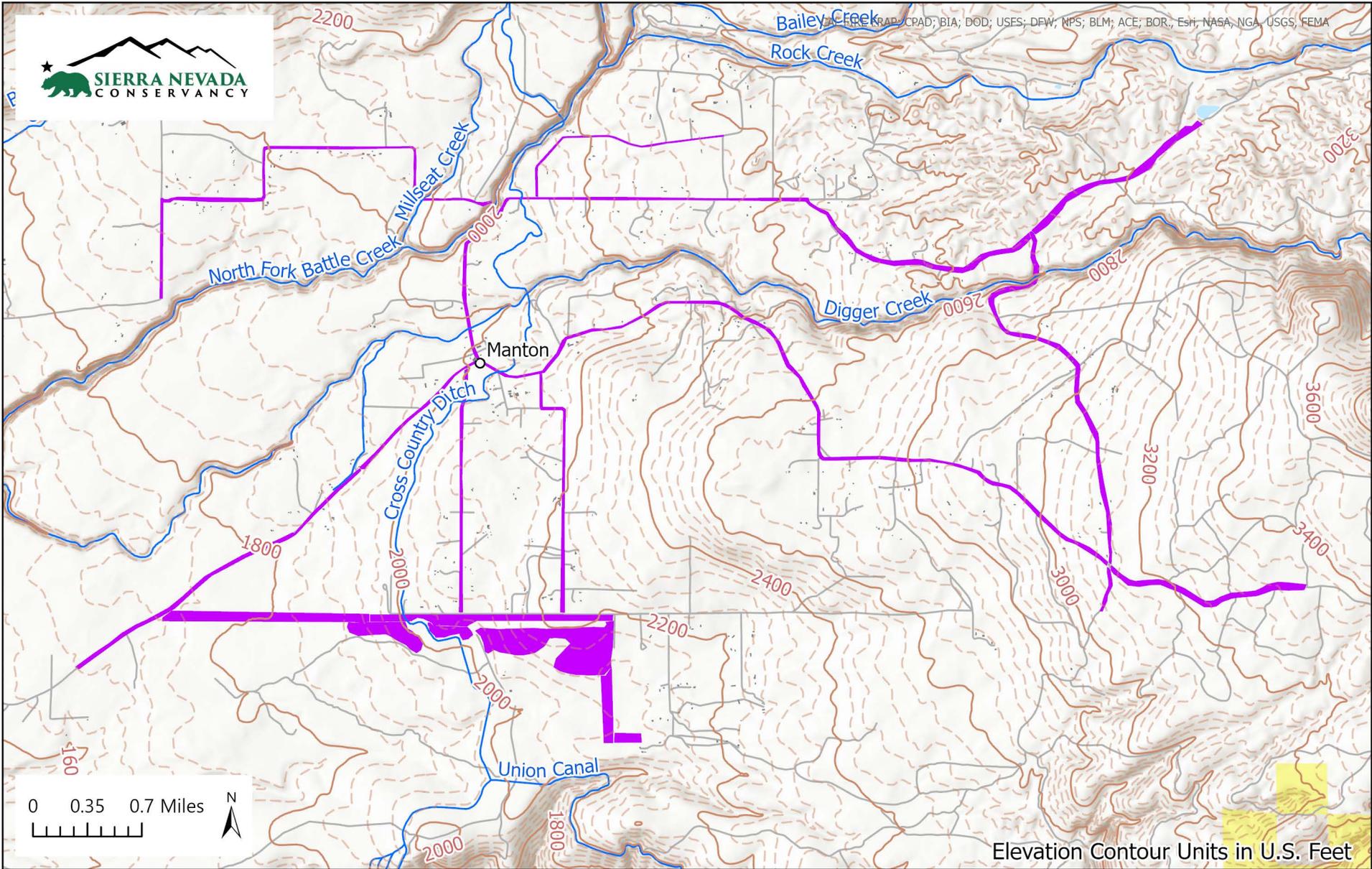
1838: Manton WUI Protection Project

Resource Conservation District of Tehama County

Legend

1838	Roads	Other State Lands	US National Park Service
Other SNC	Land Ownership	US Bureau of Land Management	
Implementation Grants	CA Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection	US Forest Service	
Highways			

1. Northwest Subregion
2. Northeast Subregion
3. North Central Subregion
4. South Central Subregion
5. Southeast Subregion
6. Southwest Subregion

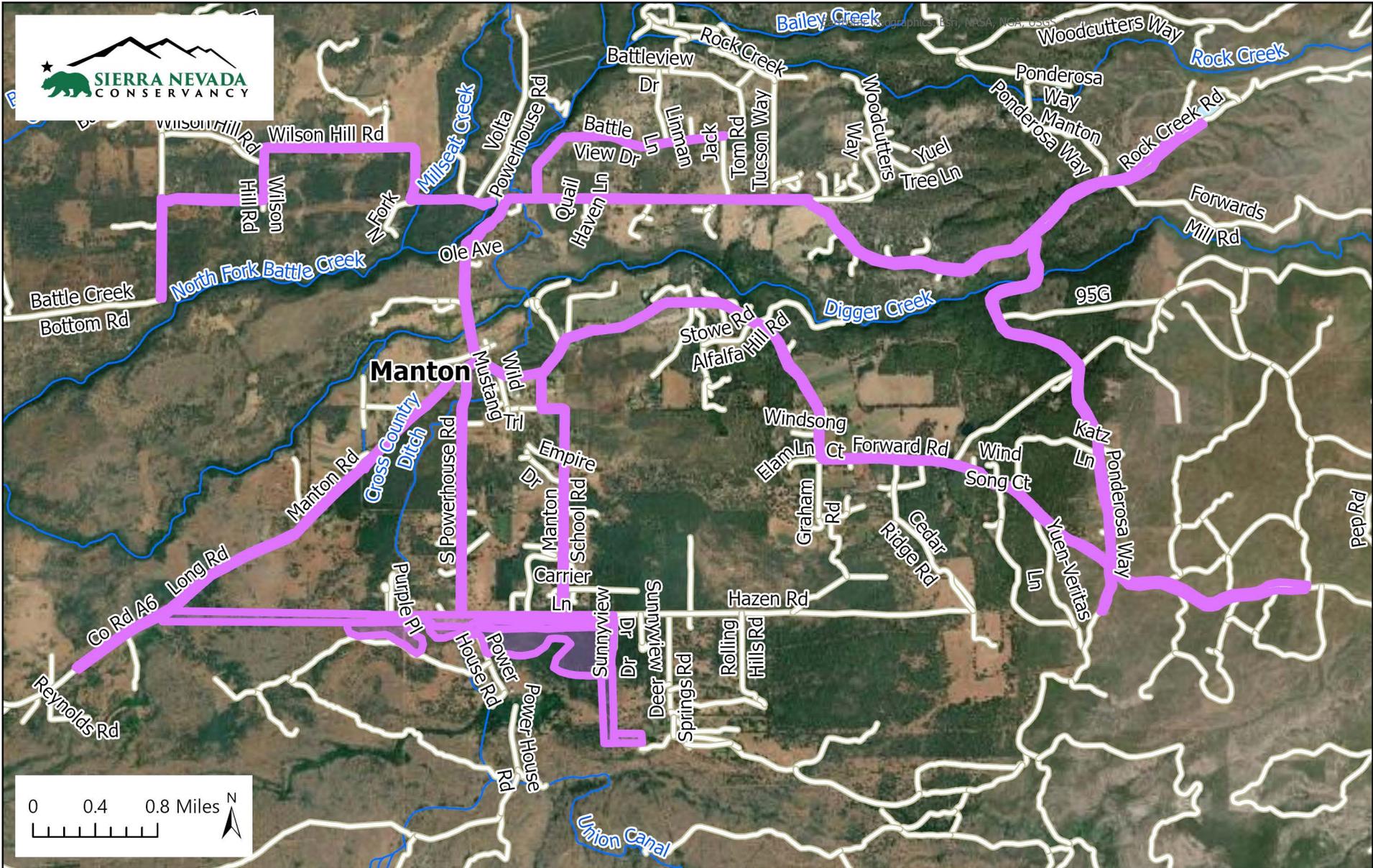


1838: Manton WUI Protection Project

Resource Conservation District of Tehama County

Legend

- 1838
- Roads
- Building Footprints
- Land Ownership
- US Bureau of Land Management



1838: Manton WUI Protection Project

Resource Conservation District of Tehama County

Legend

 1838

 Roads

To: Governor's Office of Land Use and
Climate Innovation
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Lead Agency
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Manton WUI Protection Project (SNC1838)

Project Location – Specific: Roadways around the perimeter of the community of Manton, approximately 35 miles east of Red Bluff and three miles south of Shingletown. Project area includes portions of the following roadways: Battle Creek Bottom Rd., Wilson Hill Rd., Battle View Dr., Rock Creek Rd., Manton Rd., South Powerhouse Rd., Forward Rd., Manton School Rd., Ponderosa Way, Hazen Rd., and Sunnyview Dr. Treatment center at approximately -121.896, 40.434 degrees.

Project Location - City: Manton

Project Location - County: Tehama,
Shasta

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding to the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County (RCBTC) to create strategic roadside fuel breaks to provide a 630-acre defensible perimeter around the Manton community. The project is located on county-owned and one private parcel and will mitigate the rural communities' susceptibility to high-intensity wildfire and improve safety along ingress/egress routes. The project area has dense mixed conifer forest, heavy brush and ladder fuels, frequent summer drought, and steep terrain that accelerates fire spread and is classified as a "Very High Wildfire Risk" zone. Fuels-reduction efforts will be achieved through a mix of treatments. Hand-thinning and chipping on 310 acres across six strategic roadways will reduce ladder fuels and create canopy spacing to decrease risk of crown fire. Mastication of 120 acres on the south side of Hazen Road will establish a network of connected fuel breaks and create defensible lines up to 200' in width that strategically protect the southern part of the wildland urban interface (WUI). Targeted herbicide spot or stump treatment across 200 acres of essential ingress/egress routes will aid in preventing resprouts and resurgent growth to leverage prior projects in the area and ensure their efficacy.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Resource Conservation District of Tehama County
202 Walnut Street, Red Bluff, CA 96080
Drew Barnhart, Project Manager

530-727-1294
dbarnhart@tehamacountyrcd.org

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land

Reasons why project is exempt: The project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation, which do not involve removal of mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. The minor land alterations proposed by the project consist of roadside fuel-reduction treatments to protect a community from the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Treatments will be in already-disturbed roadside areas, will retain existing land uses and will not change the underlying landform, drainage, or topography. Herbicide application will be conducted by licensed applicators in compliance with California Department of Pesticide Regulation and County Agricultural Commissioner requirements, including completion of all applicable pesticide use reporting. The RCDTC completed resource database searches, have omitted known sensitive locations from the treatment area, and have built standard protective measures, such as pre-implementation surveys, flagging and avoidance, and inadvertent archeological discovery procedures with appropriate tribal consultation and/or monitoring as needed. The SNC reviewed the project and concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to resources. The project has been independently reviewed and the SNC has determined that none of the exceptions in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 would apply.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mary Akens

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-450-5177

If filed by applicant: N/A

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project:
Yes __ No __

Signature:

Title:

Date:

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Exhibit A

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program SNC Project Number 1839

SNC ID Number: 1839

Applicant: Sierra Resource Conservation District

Project Title: Fresno County Wildfire Defense Accelerator: Operational Fuel Break Project

SNC Subregion: Southwest

County(ies): Fresno

Funding Amount Requested: \$993,541

Funding Amount Recommended: \$993,541

Total Project Cost: \$1,072,541

Funding Authority: Proposition 4, The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, California Budget Act of 2024 (SB103 Early Action Wildfire)

Project Scope / Description

The Fresno County Wildfire Defense Accelerator: Operational Fuel Break Project, led by the Sierra Resource Conservation District, will complete construction of strategic fuel breaks using techniques including pile burning, chipping, and prescribed fire on at least 1,000 acres. The project is located entirely on the Sierra National Forest, High Sierra Ranger District, near the community of Shaver Lake in eastern Fresno County.

The Sierra National Forest has a backlog of over 15,000 acres of unburned piles in the wildland urban interface, preventing the utilization of its associated fuel breaks. Completing these fuel breaks has been identified by the Sierra National Forest, 13 Firewise Communities, and the CAL FIRE Unit Plan as top wildland urban interface priorities. This project targets the most critical 5,000 acres of that backlog and will complete a minimum of 1,000 acres. The initial clearing along these fuel breaks, which is the most expensive and labor-intensive phase, has already been completed. Funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) will be used to complete the final steps necessary to operationalize the fuel breaks by treating piles that have already been collected and staged. On-the-ground activities will be completed by an internal Sierra Resource Conservation District crew specializing in prescribed fire and fuels management. This internal crew consists of experienced staff members with fire qualifications, including members who previously worked on the Sierra National Forest.

The areas these fuel breaks will protect span 82,000 acres, include over 6,000 private parcels, two hydroelectric facilities at Big Creek and Shaver Lake, and include recreation amenities at Huntington Lake and China Peak. This area's defensible strategies rely on fuel breaks and Defensible Fuel Profile Zones set forth in the Sierra National Forest Land Management Plan, the High Sierra Ranger District Pile Burn Plan, and the CAL FIRE Unit Plan.

The Sierra Resource Conservation District is currently operating 30 state, federal, and privately funded projects, including three other projects in the wildland urban interface, and a \$7 million forest-health project that includes prescribed fire. The organization is a close partner of the land manager, the Sierra National Forest, High Sierra Ranger District.

The Sierra National Forest, CAL FIRE, and 13 different Firewise Communities invested approximately \$10 million to construct the initial phases of the project's treatments. The fuel breaks have been unable to be completed due to US Forest Service staffing shortages and operational challenges. Additional support for this project has been secured for \$55,000 through a CAL FIRE Wildfire Resilience grant; and for \$24,000 through the U.S. Forest Service Emergency Restoration Program.

This project supports wildfire and forest resilience, climate adaptation, and regional workforce development goals that are outlined in the SNC Strategic Plan. Taking place within the Upper San Joaquin River watershed, protecting these communities and acreages will have downstream effects, such as increased water quality, more stable soils, better ecological integrity, and more predictable spring flows.

Project Schedule

Project Tasks and Deliverables	Timeline
Six-Month Progress Reporting	Every six Months
Project Initialization	September 2026
Begin Forest Treatments, Focusing on October-May	October 2026
Estimated Project Completion Date	November 1, 2028

Project Costs

Project Costs	SNC Funding
Project Management	\$667,699
Supplies and Equipment	\$235,520
Administrative Costs	\$90,322
Total	\$993,541

Project Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- The Fire Restoration Group
- Courtright Lake Village
- Huntington Association
- CAL FIRE, Fresno-Kings Unit
- Peterson Road Firewise Community
- Pine Ridge Firewise USA Community
- Timber Ridge Community
- Shaver Lake Fire Department
- Sierra National Forest
- California Conservation Corps
- Reedly College Wildland Fire Program
- Yosemite Sequoia Resource and Development Council

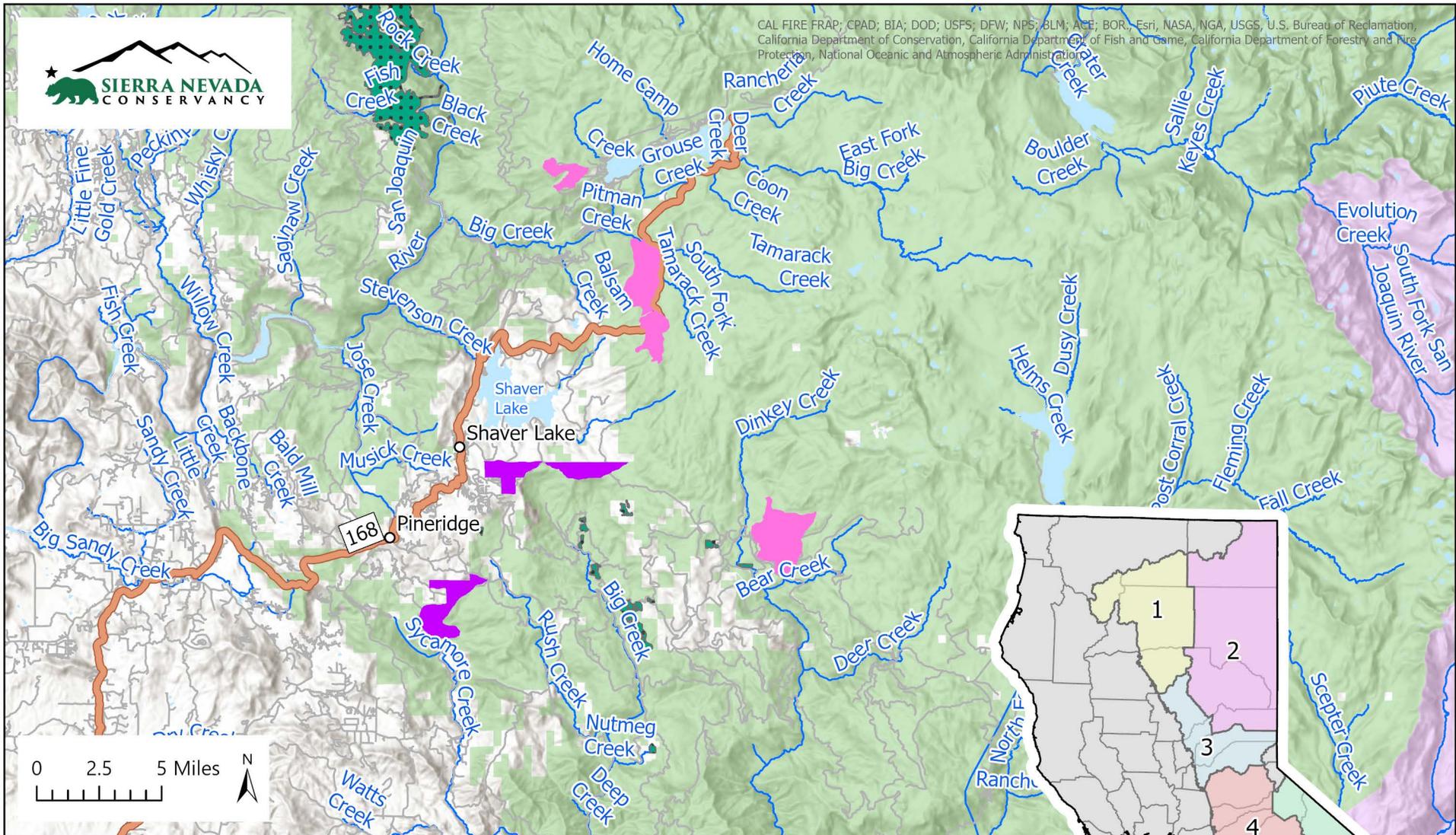
Opposition:

- None received

Project Performance Measures

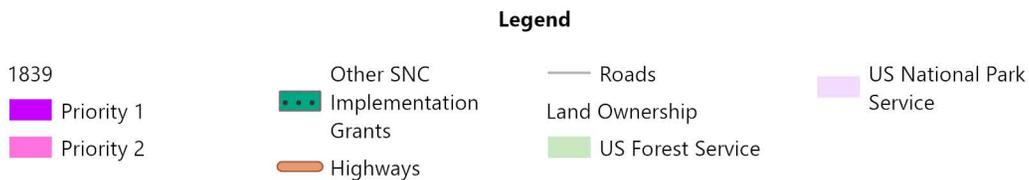
There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to identify one to three project-specific Performance Measures in their application. Please note, Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified before the grant agreement is executed.

- Acres of land improved or restored

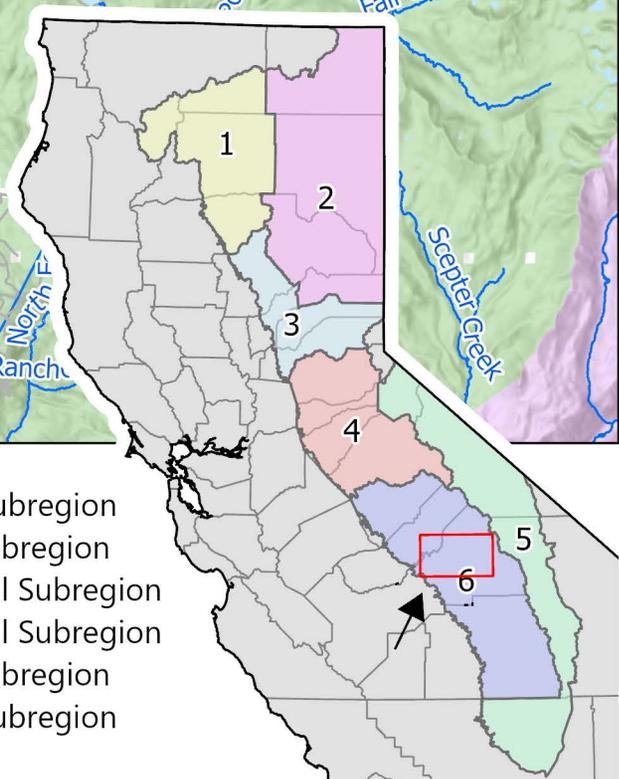


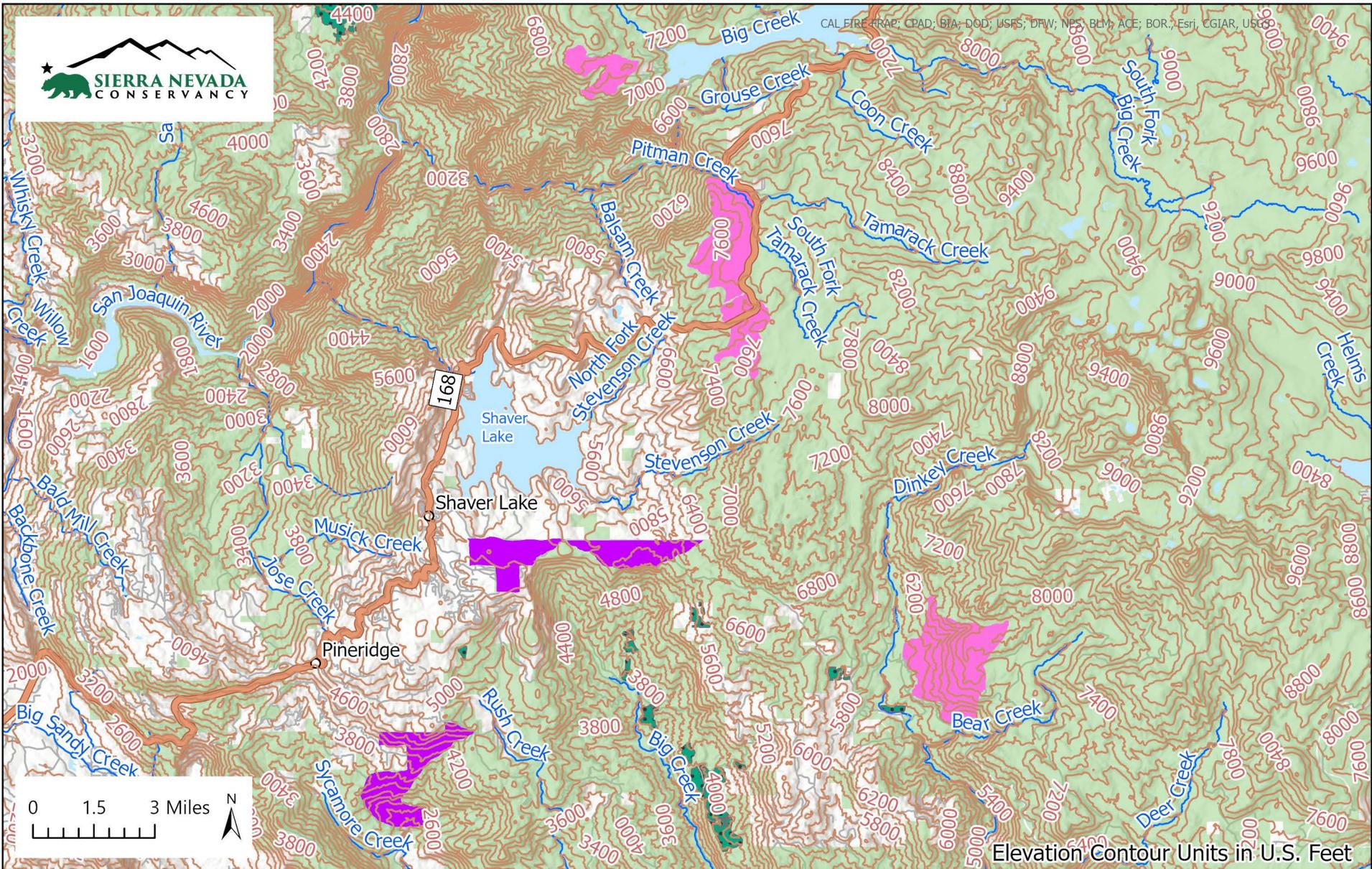
1839: Fresno County Wildfire Defense Accelerator: Operational Fuel Break Project

Sierra Resource Conservation District

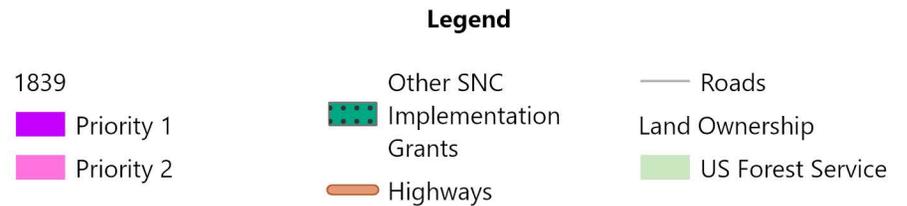


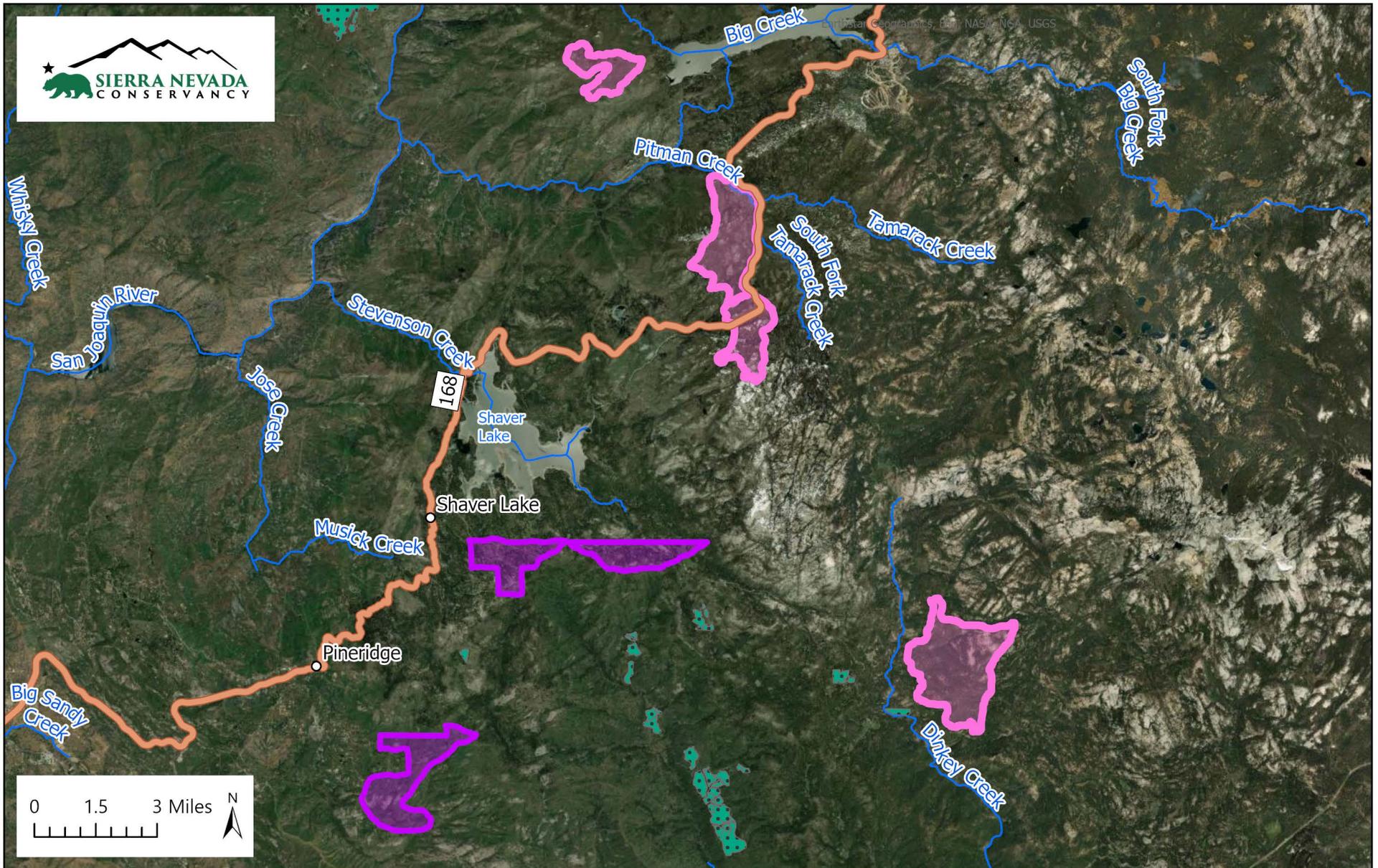
1. Northwest Subregion
2. Northeast Subregion
3. North Central Subregion
4. South Central Subregion
5. Southeast Subregion
6. Southwest Subregion





**1839: Fresno County Wildfire Defense Accelerator:
Operational Fuel Break Project**
Sierra Resource Conservation District





**1839: Fresno County Wildfire Defense Accelerator:
Operational Fuel Break Project**
Sierra Resource Conservation District

Legend

- | | |
|------------|-----------------------|
| 1839 | Other SNC |
| Priority 1 | Implementation Grants |
| Priority 2 | Highways |

To: Governor’s Office of Land Use and
Climate Innovation
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Lead Agency
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

To: Fresno County Recorder
1250 Van Ness Ave
Fresno, CA 93721

Project Title: Fresno County Wildfire Defense Accelerator: Operational Fuel Break Project (SNC1839)

Project Location – Specific: Five existing fuel breaks within Sierra National Forest, High Sierra Ranger District. 1) Mushroom Rock fuel break spanning between Mushroom Rock and Black Point Road, approximately 0.6 miles directly west of Huntington Lake, south of Black Point Peak. Center at approximately -119.256, 37.231 degrees. 2)Tamarack fuel break, approximately two miles south of Huntington Lake and three miles northeast of Shaver Lake in the vicinity of Tollhouse Road. Center at approximately -119.211, 37.167 degrees. 3) Swanson fuel break along Pine Ridge, approximately 0.8 miles south of Shaver Lake and 0.75 miles east of Old Bretz Mill, south of Swanson Meadow in the vicinity of Dinky Creek and Swanee roads. Center at approximately -119.271, 37.077 degrees. 4) Exchequer fuel break, approximately seven miles southeast of Shaver Lake and eight miles west of Courtright Reservoir, immediately west of Cabin Meadow, bounded on the north by Exchequer Meadow Road and on the west and south by McKinley Grove Road. Center at approximately -119.135, 37.062 degrees. 5) Vincent fuel break, approximately 3.6 miles east of Tollhouse, bounded on the west by North Fork Sycamore Creek in the vicinity of Peterson Road in the north and Cripe Road and Vincent Fire Road in the south. Center at approximately -119.326, 37.032 degrees.

Project Location - City: Near Huntington Lake, Shaver Lake, Tollhouse.

Project Location - County: Fresno

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding to Sierra Resource Conservation District to partner with Sierra National Forest to complete construction on strategic fuel breaks through pile burning and prescribed fire on a minimum of 1,000 acres, and a maximum of 5,000 acres. The project is located entirely on the Sierra National Forest, High Sierra Ranger District. There are five critical fuel breaks on which vegetation treatments have occurred to construct the fuel breaks, but there are now fuel piles left to be burned – the last activity needed to complete the fuel breaks. Sierra National Forest Fuels and Fire Management staff, as well as the Sierra Resource Conservation District Alignment Strategies Group Fire Crew, will conduct burn activities consistent with all National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) requirements and state and local regulations. The project will start working in the highest priority fuel breaks of Vincent and Swanson, and

then proceed into the second priority fuel breaks as conditions allow. The communities that will directly benefit from the project's pile burning and prescribed fire accomplishments include Shaver Lake and the greater area subdivisions, Cressman's, Peterson Road, Huntington Lake, Tamarack Ridge, Big Creek, Camp Sierra, Dinkey and 13 Firewise Communities of Shaver West, Shaver East, Ockenden, Sierra Cedars, Quartz Mountain, Bretz Mill, Peterson Road/Shaver Springs, Pineridge, Bald Mountain, Dinkey Creek, Courtright, Huntington Lake, and Camp Sierra.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Sierra Resource Conservation District
P.O. Box 693 Auberry, CA 93602
Kelly Kucharski, District Manager
(559) 855-5840
kkucharski@sierrarc.d.com

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Pub. Resources Code, section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1)

Reasons why project is exempt: Public Resources Code, section 4799.05 statutorily exempts from CEQA projects for prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel-reduction projects, or to related activities included in the project description, undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the NEPA if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The SNC has authorized/approved the use of the funding for the Sierra Resource Conservation District to partner with Sierra National Forest to conduct fuels-reduction treatments on National Forest lands. The project includes final treatments on five existing fuel breaks. Activities on each fuel break were reviewed in their entirety as documented in Sierra National Forest NEPA documents specific to each fuel break: the *Exchequer Restoration Project Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for the Exchequer Restoration Project* signed on March 4, 2019; the *Decision Memo for the Huntington Recovery Project* signed on May 4, 2022; the *Creek Fire Ecological Restoration Project Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact and Creek Fire Ecological Restoration Project Decision Notice* signed on June 23, 2023; the *High Sierra Fuelbreak Maintenance Project Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for High Sierra Fuelbreak Maintenance Project* signed on September 9, 2011; and the *Bald Mountain Project Environmental Assessment with Decision Notice for the Bald Mountain Project* signed on October 8, 2014.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mary Akens

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-450-5177

If filed by applicant: N/A

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project:
Yes ___ No ___

Signature:

Title:

Date:

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Date received for filing at OPR:_____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
March 5, 2026

Agenda Item 11: 1512 South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project Amendment

Background

In March 2023, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Governing Board authorized a grant to the County of Nevada (County) for #1512 South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project (Project) in the amount of \$214,666. The Governing Board determined the project was Statutorily Exempt under CEQA Guidelines section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies and categorically exempt under section 15306 Information Collection. The SNC filed a Notice of Exemption (SCH 2023030177).

The Project is cross-jurisdictional, all-lands planning towards 6,000 acres of fuels-reduction treatments on both private and public lands on the San Juan Ridge above the South Fork Yuba River. As conceived, the original \$858,665 planning project used multiple funding sources across multiple land ownerships. The County sought Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding for the majority of the project costs. The SNC portion of the project was to identify and complete CEQA for 800 acres of priority treatments within the 6,000-acre “strategic treatment area” on private land on the San Juan Ridge along the rim of the South Fork Yuba River. The majority of the SNC budget was for biological surveys. After Board authorization, SNC waited to enter into a grant agreement until all funding needed for the project was secured. The County secured California State Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) funding, and then FEMA funding in January 2024.

Before entering into an agreement, the SNC worked with the County to adjust the overall budget to optimize use of the different funding sources to complete the 6,000-acre project. Because the FEMA funding could not be used on federal land, the SNC shifted planning from the private land to federal land – specifically from planning for 800 acres of treatments on private land to planning on 1,800 acres of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Because the SNC was able to shift funding from private to public land, the County was able to utilize all the FEMA funding available. The primary deliverables from the SNC funding remained consistent – biological and other surveys leading to environmental compliance. The new tasks and deliverables include completing botanical and cultural resources surveys, raptor surveys, and a California spotted owl assessment.

The County and SNC entered into a grant agreement in May 2024, detailing SNC funding to be used for the planning activities on federal lands. A new Notice of Exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15262 and 15306 was filed on May 30, 2024 (SCH 2024051351).

Current Status

The SNC-funded part of the project is underway, with progress made on the botanical and raptor surveys. The grantee is requesting a \$50,000 augmentation to the grant budget, as well as some money shifting between budget lines. The County has experienced two cost overruns on the project. One is that the raptor surveys will be \$10,000 more than expected. The County anticipated that only one year of surveys would be needed, but the California Department of Fish and Wildlife directed that two years of surveys would be required.

The other, larger, issue is the substantial increased cost for the cultural surveys. The Yuba Watershed Institute (YWI) is the primary contractor to the County on this project, providing the experience and expertise to coordinate all the surveys. The YWI had received a bid of \$35,000 from an archaeologist that the organization had successfully contracted on numerous occasions—a bid that was substantially lower than other bids. Unexpectedly, the archeologist withdrew from the contract, and the YWI had to re-bid the cultural surveys, with the low bid coming in at \$85,000.

The County can offset the additional \$10,000 for the raptor surveys by reducing the Project management budget by \$10,000. They are seeking a \$50,000 grant augmentation to cover the higher cultural survey costs.

Augmentation Funding Source

The original grant award was authorized out of General Fund appropriated to SNC in the Budget Act of 2022, wildfire package. As projects funded through General Fund appropriations close, some projects end slightly under budget, leaving small amounts of unspent funding available to be redirected to other projects. The SNC has \$50,000 in unspent General Fund from the Budget Act of 2020 and Budget Act of 2022 wildfire packages, available to be used for the recommended augmentation.

[Access the Project Details and the Notice of Exemption \(Project #1512\)](#)

Next Steps

Upon authorization by the Board, staff will file the CEQA Notice of Exemption, amend grant agreement #1512 South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project with the County of Nevada, and the County of Nevada will proceed with project implementation under the amended agreement.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project (1512) amendment, approve the revised project scope per the Exhibit A, and authorize staff to amend the grant agreement with the County of Nevada.

Exhibit A

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience SNC Project Number 1512

SNC ID Number: 1512

Applicant: County of Nevada

Project Title: South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

SNC Subregion: North Central

County(ies): Nevada

Original Funding Amount: \$214,666

Additional Funding Amount Recommended: \$50,000

Total Recommended Award Amount: \$264,666

Total Project Cost: \$1,123,000

Funding Authority: Budget Act of 2020, General Fund, Wildfire
Budget Act of 2022, General Fund, Wildfire

Project Scope / Description

The South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project (Planning Project) is an all-lands effort coordinated by the County of Nevada to complete planning activities necessary to reduce wildfire vulnerability on private, state, and federal land along the San Juan Ridge in Nevada County. The overall Planning Project spans a 6,000-acre strategic planning area, which includes preparing 800 acres of private land for treatment implementation (with leveraged funding). This Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) grant will complete CEQA surveys needed to complete planning for treatment on 1,800 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands that are intermingled with and adjacent to the private lands planning area. The Planning Project is located above the north rim of the South Yuba River.

This grant will complete reconnaissance-level biological surveys, a cultural resource records search and cultural resource site survey, a raptor assessment, and a California spotted owl assessment. The County of Nevada will work with the Yuba Watershed Institute (YWI), which will coordinate all planning with BLM staff, including treatment unit delineation, prescription design, and cultural and biological resource survey design. The YWI staff will assist BLM, as needed, with preparation of all materials necessary for NEPA review, including project description and maps. Staff of the YWI will assist BLM with Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) consultation regarding California spotted owls and prepare a FWS Letter of Concurrence.

Projects that connect with this Planning Project on the San Juan Ridge include the Malakoff State Park Vegetation Management Project (VMP), a partnership between California State Parks and CAL FIRE to reduce fuels on 1,000 acres within the 3,700-acre North Bloomfield area; the Reader Ranch/Birchville Road VMP, a project consisting of 2,300 acres with 22 landowners involved, including the BLM; and the 'Inimim Forest Restoration Project, consisting of treatment of 1,200 acres of BLM land (with over \$2.5 million in funding from SNC under multiple grants).

This Planning Project is undertaken by Nevada County through the Office of Emergency Services (OES). The OES is working with the YWI, a local nonprofit organization with extensive expertise and experience in both planning and implementation of restoration projects, with past and current grants from the SNC. The SNC funded the Nevada County Recreation Master Plan (grant 1291-RT) with the county.

The SNC's portion of this Planning Project is entirely on BLM land managed by its Mother Lode Field Office.

This Planning Project is intimately connected with the planning effort on 6,000 acres of private land on the San Juan Ridge funded through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for \$772,800, leveraged with \$85,866 from Cal OES.

The Planning Project will increase the pace and scale of forest-health projects in an area with an unhealthy accumulation of fuels, reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire for 44,000 people and safeguarding water quality for the Wild and Scenic South Yuba River, which supplies water and power through the Yuba Water Agency to downstream users.

Project Schedule

Project Tasks and Deliverables	Timeline
Project Management	May 2024 – February 2027
Progress Reports, every six months	August 1, 2024 – February 1, 2027
Botanical Resources Survey and Report	April 2025 – August 2026
Cultural Resources Inventory Survey and Report	April 2026 – February 2027
Raptor Assessment Surveys and Report	March 2025 – October 2026
California Spotted Owl Assessment Surveys and Report	November 2026 – February 2027
Estimated Project Completion Date	March 1, 2027

Project Costs

Project Costs	SNC Funding
Project Management and Reporting, Including Travel	\$27,451
Botanical Surveys and Report	\$19,750
Cultural Resource Surveys and Report	\$85,000
Raptor Surveys and Report	\$95,000
California Spotted Owl Biological Assessment	\$12,000
Administrative Costs	\$25,465
Total	\$264,666

Project Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Yuba Watershed Institute
- Montezuma Ridge Firewise Community
- Lake Vera Round Mountain Firewise Community
- Outer Jackass Flats Firewise Community
- Salmon Mine-East Sages Firewise Community
- Lake City/Grizzly Hill Firewise Community
- Toller Ridge Court Firewise Community

- Hyatt/Blue Sage Firewise Community
- Harmony Ridge Firewise Community
- 17 letters of support from individuals

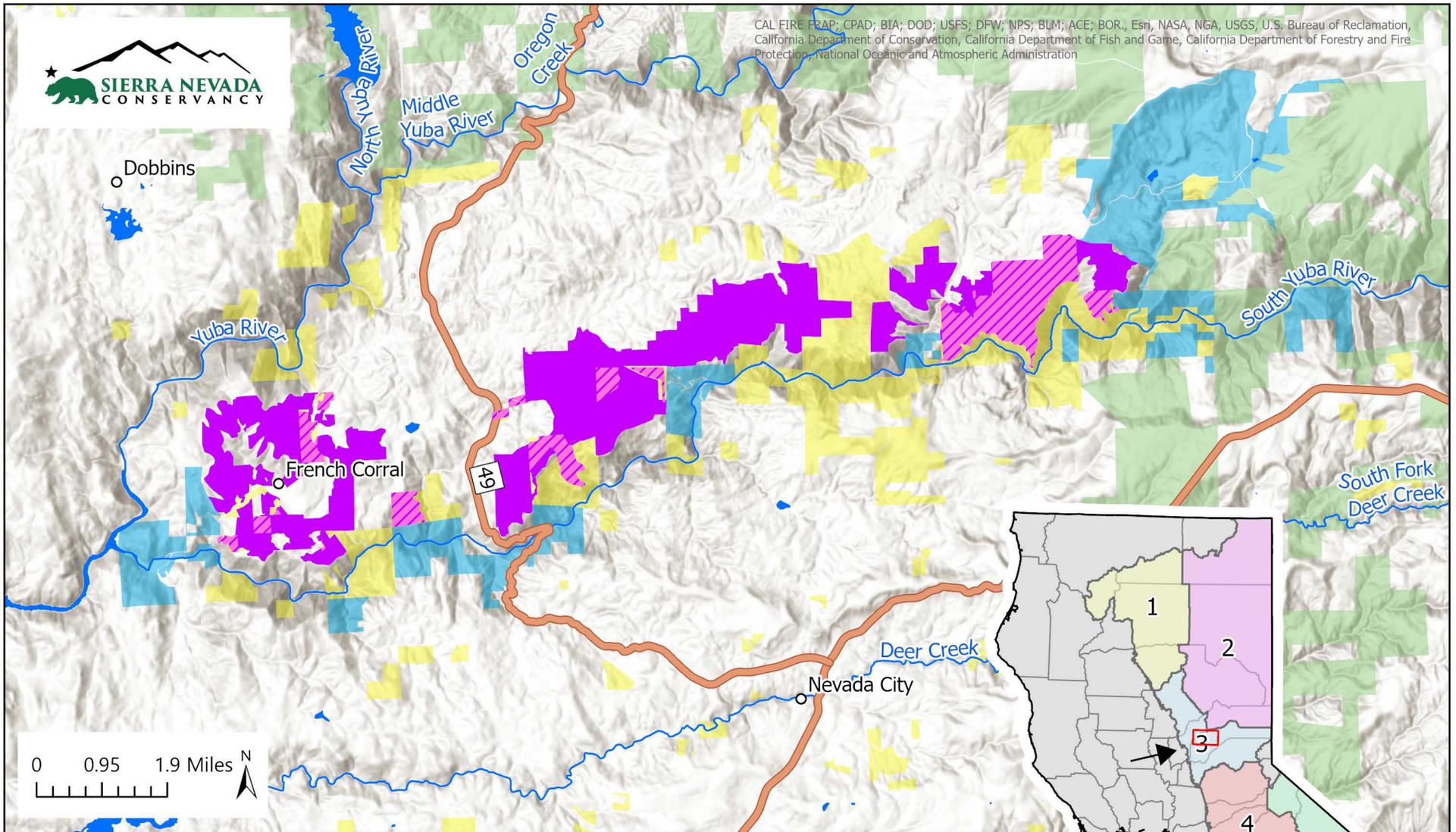
Opposition:

- 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.

- Number of Acres Completing Pre-Implementation Planning and Environmental Compliance

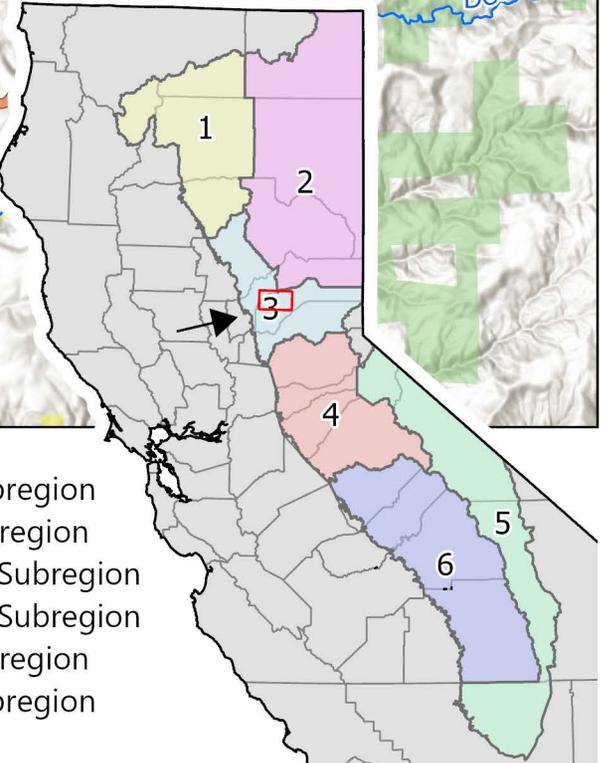


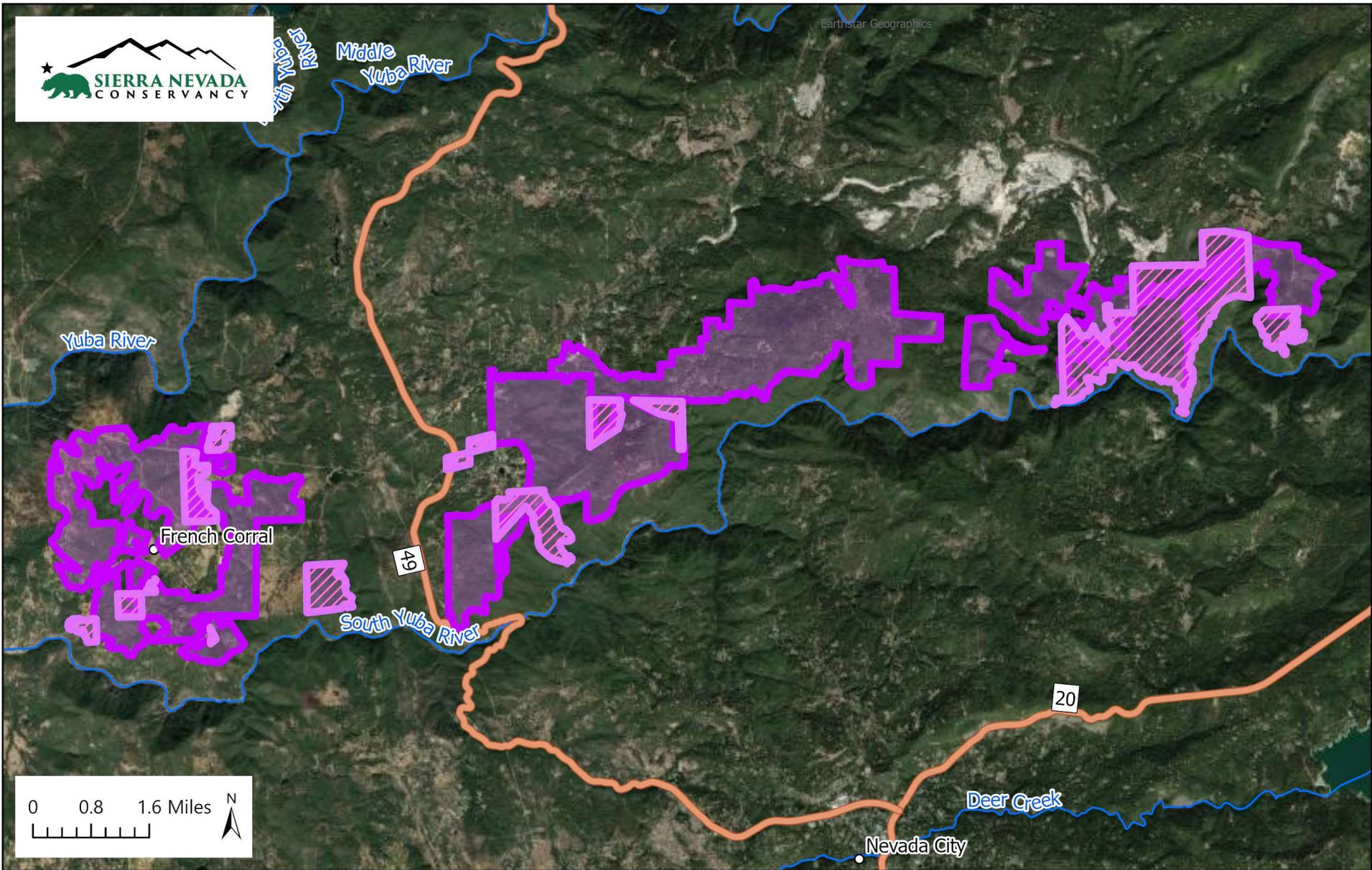
1512: South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

County of Nevada



1. Northwest Subregion
2. Northeast Subregion
3. North Central Subregion
4. South Central Subregion
5. Southeast Subregion
6. Southwest Subregion



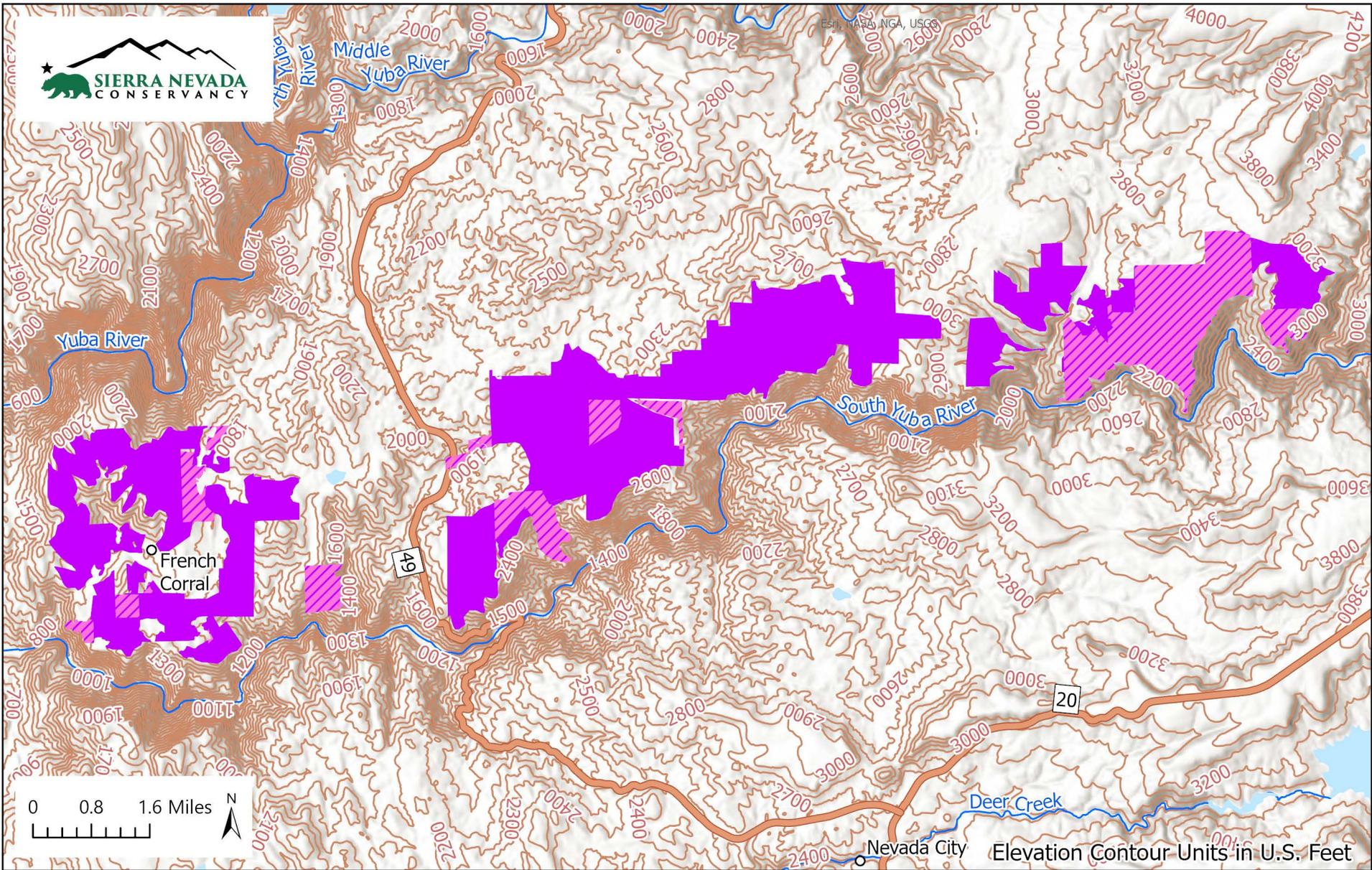


1512: South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

County of Nevada

Legend

- 1512 - BLM Parcels
- Private Parcels
- Highways



1512: South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

County of Nevada

Legend

 1512 - BLM Parcels

 Private Parcels

 Highways

To: Governor's Office of Land Use and
Climate Innovation
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Lead Agency
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project (SNC1512)

Project Location – Specific: U.S. Bureau of Land Management owned forested land on the San Juan Ridge in Nevada County, between the communities of Bridgeport and Lake City. Project center at approximately 39.19'30N/121.03'39W.

Project Location - City: Approx. three miles southeast of Sweetland, on the ridge between Bridgeport and Lake City.

Project Location - County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) will amend and augment with additional funding grant agreement #1512 with the County of Nevada. The County of Nevada is working in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to conduct planning activities toward potential future fuels-reduction treatments on 1,800 acres of BLM lands along the San Juan Ridge in Nevada County, between the communities of Bridgeport and Lake City. The amendment will enable complete raptor surveys and cultural surveys. Project activities include reconnaissance-level biological surveys, a cultural resource records search and cultural resource site survey, a raptor assessment, a California spotted owl assessment, and coordination with the BLM toward environmental compliance analysis for a potential future fuels-reduction and forest-health project. The planning activities aim to lead to actions that will reduce wildfire risk for over 44,000 residents in local communities and protect critical infrastructure and natural resources, including two state parks, the South Yuba River watershed, Tahoe National Forest, and BLM public lands.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

County of Nevada
Alex Keeble-Toll, Director of Emergency Services
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 130, Nevada City, CA 95959
530-265-1515
OES@nevadacountyca.gov

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Pub. Resources Code, section 21150; CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies

Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines, Section 15306 Information Collection

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is Statutorily Exempt under Pub. Resources Code, section 21150 and CEQA Guidelines, section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies as the project only involves planning studies for possible future actions that the SNC Board has not approved, adopted, or funded; there is no legally binding effect on later activities. The project is also categorically exempt under Section 15306 Information Collection because it consists of basic data collection and resource evaluation activities, which do not result in a disturbance to environmental resources. The proposed activities are for information gathering purposes and are part of a study leading to an action that a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The SNC has independently reviewed the project and determined that no exception under Section 15300.2 applies.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mary Akens

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-450-5177

If filed by applicant: N/A

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project:
Yes ___ No ___

Signature:

Title:

Date:

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
March 5, 2026

Agenda Item 12: Alpenglow Timber Sawmill Project (#1694) Update

Background

The California Budget Act of 2023 appropriated \$37 million in General Fund to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) for wildfire- and forest-resilience priorities. The SNC administered a grant cycle in 2023 to award the full \$35,150,000 dedicated to local assistance. Eligible grantees for the funding included public agencies, qualifying 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organizations, and tribal organizations. After proposals were received and evaluated, SNC staff selected one existing project for augmentation and recommended 21 new projects to the Board by December 2024.

As was presented to the Board, the Alpenglow Timber Sawmill Project (#1694) is located in eastern Nevada County on an existing 124-acre industrial property. The property is approximately 5.6 miles north of the town of Truckee in the vicinity of Hobart Mills and Prosser Reservoir and is adjacent to residential dwellings, Highway 89, and Tahoe National Forest. The Alpenglow project will develop a new sawmill with onsite employee housing and is designed to generate 5.4 million board feet of lumber per year with potential future expansion to manufacture cross-laminated timber panels, glue-laminated timber, and truss beams. The sawmill will provide a much-needed outlet for small diameter logs generated from local forest-health, hazard-fuel-reduction, and fire-recovery projects. The SNC funding will contribute to the sawmill facility's second boiler system to meet the winter kiln-drying and on-site commercial and residential peak heating demands, supporting efficient continuous year-round operations. Numerous funding sources are contributing to the sawmill facility, which is estimated to cost \$23.65 million.

The Alpenglow Timber Sawmill Project is led by Alpenglow Timber LLC. Together with its investor, Alpenglow Timber LLC has secured \$17.7 million for sawmill facility development through a combination of financing, equity investment, and CAL FIRE and USDA Forest Service grants. Primary project partners include Hundred Acre Wood as the property owner (and has issued Alpenglow Timber LLC a 34-year land-lease agreement), Crosscheck Services LLC (an affiliated logging and vegetation management company that holds a 20-year log supply agreement with Alpenglow and will also provide accounting and day-to-day finance services), and Mammoth Materials as lumber purchaser.

In December 2024, the SNC Board approved a grant award of \$1,544,950 to the Sierra Business Council (SBC) for the Alpenglow Timber Sawmill Project (#1694) and authorized staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

Current Status

In December 2025, and prior to obtaining a fully executed grant agreement, the Sierra Business Council respectfully declined the SNC grant due to the required provisions, restrictions, and conditions associated with the grant funds. In the declination letter SBC states, “SBC firmly supports the Alpenglow Timber Sawmill Project, and we are committed to assisting the project developer with successful implementation in any way we can. Moreover, we are steadfast in our mission and belief that forested rural communities will thrive with the appropriate investment in biomass utilization projects, such as the Alpenglow project.”

The SNC’s governing statute prevents SNC from providing a grant directly to Alpenglow, because it is not an eligible grantee under SNC’s governing statute. In an effort to support the Board’s December 2024 decision, the SNC has reached out to CAL FIRE, a co-funder of the Alpenglow Timber Sawmill Project, and informed them of SBC declining SNC’s grant. The Wood Products and Bioenergy team at CAL FIRE seeks to maintain and enhance the forest-sector workforce and businesses of California to promote healthy resilient forests throughout the state by supporting a diverse set of business development and workforce development projects. Under its governing statute, CAL FIRE also has the flexibility to make grants to businesses.

Next Steps

The SNC and CAL FIRE will continue conversations to find solutions on how to best support the Alpenglow Timber Sawmill Project.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board:

- 1. Authorize the SNC executive officer to transfer up to \$1,544,950 to CAL FIRE; and**
- 2. Delegate authority to the executive officer to approve and enter into an inter-agency contract and/or grant agreement consistent with the deliverables of Alpenglow Timber Sawmill Project (SNC 1694).**

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
March 5, 2026

Executive Officer Authorized Grant Agreement Amendments and Grant Awards

Grant Agreement Amendments

Pursuant to the Delegation of Authority approved by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Governing Board in June of 2022, the executive officer has the authority to:

- amend and modify the terms of any grant previously authorized by the SNC Board, in order to carry out the purposes of the Board authorization for such grant, including minor changes to scope or deliverables, and including increases in grant awards of up to 10 percent; provided, that funds are available, within the budgeted appropriation, to cover any such increase; and provided further, that the original stated purpose of the grant meets the original intent of the program from which it was funded; and provided further, that the SNC Board shall be notified upon modification of such grant and the modification shall be reported on at the following SNC Board meeting.
- amend and modify the terms, including substantive changes to scope, deliverables, and/or purpose of such a grant, including increases in grant awards up to 10 percent, when a change in condition or change in need arises due to an emergency; provided, that the nature of the emergency requires an amendment to be made before the following SNC Board meeting; and provided further, that funds are available within the budgeted appropriation to cover any such increase; and provided further, that the SNC Board shall be notified upon modification of such grant and such modification shall be reported on at the following SNC Board meeting. “Emergency,” as used in this provision, means a sudden, unexpected occurrence involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of or damage to life, health, property, or essential public services, and includes such occurrences as fire, flood, earthquake, or other soil or geologic movements, as well as such occurrences as riot, accident, or sabotage.

Between October 1, 2025, and January 31, 2026, the executive officer approved and executed eight SNC grant project amendments under this Delegation of Authority. If amendment activities might be subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an analysis was completed to determine if the project was exempt from CEQA, and Notices of Exemption were filed.

Amendments Executed Between October 1, 2025, and January 31, 2026

SNC #	Project Name	Grantee	County(ies)	Amendment Purpose
1288.1-RC	Blue Mountain Biomass Project	Sierra Business Council	Calaveras	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SNC-initiated amendment to revise the Grant Agreement with additional language assuring the equipment will be used for public benefit. • No additional funding required. • Amendment did not trigger CEQA environmental review and/or documentation.
1422.2-RT	Sierra Valley Wetlands Public Access Project	Feather River Land Trust	Plumas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Timeline and Project Completion Date Extension from February 2026 to February 2028. • No additional funding required. • Amendment did not trigger CEQA environmental review and/or documentation.
1437.1-LC	Long Gulch Ranch Preserve Phase II	Mother Lode Land Trust	Tuolumne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Timeline and Project Completion Date Extension from February 2026 to February 2028. • No additional funding required. • Amendment did not trigger CEQA environmental review and/or documentation.
1446.1-LC	Walton Homestead CE Planning	Lassen Land and Trails Trust	Lassen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Timeline and Project Completion Date Extension from February 2026 to February 2028. • No additional funding required. • Amendment did not trigger CEQA environmental review and/or documentation.
1454.1-RT	Lower Carpenter Valley Trailhead Improvements	Truckee Donner Land Trust	Nevada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Timeline and Project Completion Date Extension from February 2026 to February 2028. • No additional funding required. • Amendment did not trigger CEQA environmental review and/or documentation.

Executive Officer Authorized Grant Agreement Amendments and Grant Awards

SNC #	Project Name	Grantee	County(ies)	Amendment Purpose
1465.1-RT	Almanor Rail Trail Planning	Almanor Recreation and Park District	Plumas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project Timeline and Project Completion Date Extension from February 2026 to February 2028. ● No additional funding required. ● Amendment did not trigger CEQA environmental review and/or documentation.
1507.2	'Inimim Forest Restoration Project – Phase 3	Yuba Watershed Institute	Nevada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Amended the Advance clause of the Grant Agreement to adjust the percentage of funds retained for this project. ● No additional funding required. ● Amendment did not trigger CEQA environmental review and/or documentation.
1647.1	Taylorsville Community Defense Zone Implementation	Sierra Institute for Community and Environment	Plumas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Amended the project scope and a minor budget modification was made to allow for additional treatment on five more acres on an adjacent property. This additional acreage is covered under the Secretarial Suspension Authorization. ● No additional funding required. ● A CEQA Administrative Memo documenting the Secretarial Suspension Authorization was developed to accompany this amendment.

Grant Awards

Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP)

At the December 9, 2022, Board meeting, the SNC Governing Board granted the executive officer authority to enter into funding agreements with the California Department of Conservation to administer funds for the purposes of the RFFCP, provided that all grants authorized under this delegated authority meet the following criteria: 1) align with all RFFCP requirements; 2) meet the goals and objectives of the Watershed Improvement Program (WIP); and 3) be reported at regularly scheduled Board meetings. The SNC is distributing this funding directly to partners through subgrants and by providing Region-wide technical assistance. Further, as was presented by SNC staff to the Board, “Any grants requiring CEQA environmental review and documentation beyond a categorical exemption would be brought to the Board for authorization.” (December 9, 2022, Board Meeting, Staff Report, Agenda Item 12: Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Grant.)

Between October 1, 2025, and January 31, 2026, the executive officer approved, executed, and filed Notices of Exemption for six grant augmentations under the RFFCP Tribal Capacity Building Program, enabling the planning towards and/or implementation of demonstration projects.

SNC #	Project Name	Grantee	County(ies)	Project or Grant Purpose
1727-RFFCP	(RFFCP2022) Tribal Capacity Building Subgrant - Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation	American Indian Council of Mariposa/Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation	Mariposa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augmentation amount: \$100,000. • Enables purchase of equipment to increase the capacity of the tribe to complete vegetation management activities on tribal land and in support of partners. • CEQA Notice of Exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15061, subd. (b)(3).
1728-RFFCP	(RFFCP2022) Tribal Capacity Building Subgrant - California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP)	California Heritage Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP)	Nevada Yuba Sierra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augmentation amount: \$100,000. • Enables purchase of a mini-excavator with mastication head, as well as hands-on training on using and maintaining the equipment. The equipment will increase the capacity of the tribe to complete vegetation management activities on tribal land and in support of partners. • CEQA Notice of Exemption pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.56, subdivision (a).
1729-RFFCP	(RFFCP2022) Tribal Capacity Building Subgrant - Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians	American Indian Council of Mariposa/Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation	Calaveras	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augmentation amount: \$100,000. • Complete planning and environmental compliance towards future vegetation management treatments on tribal allotment land.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEQA Notice of Exemption pursuant to Pub. Resources Code, Section 21102 and CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262.
1732-RFFCP	(RFFCP2022) Tribal Capacity Building Subgrant - Fort Bidwell Indian Community	Fort Bidwell Indian Community of Fort Bidwell Reservation of California	Modoc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augmentation amount: \$100,000. • Coordinate with Bureau of Indian Affairs to complete planning and environmental compliance towards at least one forestry, fire prevention or fuels-reduction projects on tribal lands; and potential implementation of the project. • CEQA Notice of Exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15061, subd. (b)(3) and Pub. Resources Code, Section 21102 and CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262.
1733-RFFCP	(RFFCP2022) Tribal Capacity Building Subgrant - Mono Lake Kootzaduka’a Tribe	Mono Lake Kootzaduka’a Tribe		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augmentation amount: \$100,000. • Continued capacity-building activities, including preparation and planning for the creation of a tribally led conservation crew, including development of a Traditional Stewardship Plan, policies, partnerships, and funding needs. • CEQA Notice of Exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15061, subd. (b)(3) and Pub. Resources Code,

				Section 21102 and CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262.
1737-RFFCP	(RFFCP2022) Tribal Capacity Building Subgrant-Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians	Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians	Tuolumne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augmentation amount: \$100,000. • Supports the assessment, planning, and permitting towards the eradication of invasive plant species on tribal land. • CEQA Notice of Exemption pursuant to Pub. Resources Code, Section 21102 and CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
March 5, 2026

Key Meetings and Presentations

December 2025 – February 2026

December 2-3: CNRA All Directors Convening: Executive Officer Angie Avery and Deputy Executive Officer Amy Lussier attended this meeting held at the CNRA Building in Sacramento.

December 3: The Understory Reforestation Conference: Policy & Outreach Division Chief Brittany Covich attended the first day of this two-day conference presented by the California Reforestation Pipeline Partnership held at The Grounds in Roseville. She participated in the “Policy to Action” panel focused on overcoming social and political hurdles to getting work done on the ground. The purpose of the event was to facilitate community learning and exchange to bridge the science management gap and advance critical conversations about landscape management after fire.

December 12: CA Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force Quarterly Meeting: Executive Officer Angie Avery, Deputy Executive Officer Amy Lussier, Field Operations & Grants Division Chief Andy Fristensky, and Policy & Outreach Division Chief Brittany Covich attended this meeting held in the CNRA Auditorium in Sacramento.

December 16: CNRA All Legislative Team Meeting: Policy & Outreach Division Chief Brittany Covich and SNC policy staff attended this meeting held in the CNRA Media Room in Sacramento.

January 29: California’s 1st Nature-Based Solutions Summit: Executive Officer Angie Avery and Policy & Outreach Division Chief Brittany Covich attended this event held at the CNRA Building in Sacramento.

February 3: Outdoors for All Convening: Field Operations & Grants Division Chief Andy Fristensky attended this event held at the CNRA Building in Sacramento. He gave a brief presentation to highlight how SNC is advancing state Outdoors for All goals. The purpose of the event was to convene a broad network of leaders, groups, and champions to celebrate the progress California has made in advancing Outdoors for All, strengthen the commitment to institutionalizing shared priorities, and spark new ideas to expand outdoor access to more Californians.

February 13: Tahoe Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI) Steering Committee Meeting: Executive Officer Angie Avery and Field Operations & Grants Division Chief Andy Fristensky attended this collaborative meeting.



11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205, Auburn, CA 95603 | 530-823-4670 | sierranevada.ca.gov

California Natural Resources Agency
Attn: Deputy Secretary Lisa Lien-Mager
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

December 29, 2025

**Subject: Support for Securing the Interconnection Agreement Needed to Advance the
Camptonville Woody Biomass Energy Project**

Dear Deputy Secretary Lien-Mager:

On behalf of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, I am writing to express strong support for the advancement of Engeman Camptonville Green Energy LP's (ECGE) woody biomass energy facility proposed Yuba County, and serving the North Yuba River Watershed, and to respectfully urge the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) to assist in securing the project's Generator Interconnection Agreement (GIA). Finalizing this interconnection is essential to enabling construction of this long-planned green energy infrastructure project that directly supports the State's wildfire risk reduction, forest resilience, and climate goals.

Yuba County (along with Sierra County) is home to the North Yuba Forest Partnership (NYFP), which has already secured over \$100 million to complete forest management and ecological restoration across 300,000+ acres in and around the county. This work will span decades and is central to California's strategy to reduce catastrophic wildfire risk, restore watershed health, and build climate-resilient rural economies.

However, for these forest-health investments to achieve their intended benefits, the landscape urgently needs local, scalable, and legally compliant disposal pathways for the massive volumes of woody waste and hazardous fuels generated by restoration treatments. The proposed ECGE woody biomass facility directly fills this infrastructure gap. When complete, it will:

- Remove approximately 50,000 tons per year of hazardous forest biomass from high-risk areas in the North Yuba watershed.
- Convert this material into renewable, locally sourced power, exporting 3 MW to the grid under BioMAT, while supporting onsite operations.
- Reduce harmful emissions from open burning and catastrophic wildfire events.

- Provide a critical “anchor” for local forest-business development, supporting jobs and stabilizing Yuba County’s rural economy.
- Create a replicable model for additional forest-resilience energy facilities across the Sierra Nevada.

The Yuba River watershed has thus far avoided the scale of catastrophic fires seen elsewhere in the state, but it remains surrounded by high-severity fire-risk zones. Establishing this facility now is essential to protecting the watershed and surrounding communities before a major event occurs.

The project’s success and the broader success of the NYFP’s \$100 million + forest-management strategy depends on securing the GIA required to transmit renewable energy generated onsite. Without timely execution of this GIA, the project is set to lose millions of dollars in state grant funding and will no longer be feasible to build.

This facility represents a core piece of the resilient-forest infrastructure California urgently needs. By helping this project secure its interconnection agreement, CNRA would be enabling a shovel-ready solution that delivers:

- measurable wildfire-risk reduction,
- substantial greenhouse-gas benefits,
- improved air quality,
- new rural jobs and economic stability, and
- long-term capacity to support high-priority forest-health projects.

We respectfully request CNRA’s support in working with the appropriate agencies and partners to help secure the needed GIA and move this critical project into construction without delay.

Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to building a more resilient, fire-safe, and sustainable California. Please do not hesitate to contact us for additional information or collaboration as this project advances.

Sincerely,



Angela Avery
Executive Officer





11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205, Auburn, CA 95603 | 530-823-4670 | sierranevada.ca.gov

Jennifer Stanfield
Wildlife Conservation Board
PO Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

January 15, 2026

Subject: Integrated and Targeted Forest Restoration: Crystal Basin to Wrights Lake

Dear Review Team:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) supports the application being submitted by The Freshwater Trust (TFT) on behalf of the Healthy Eldorado Landscape Partnership (HELP) titled, “Integrated and Targeted Forest Restoration: Crystal Basin to Wrights Lake”.

Since 2004, SNC has been working to improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra-Cascade Region. The SNC was an initial investor in HELP and has been working with them to identify priority restoration projects across the Eldorado National Forest and adjacent lands. The proposed project directly advances SNC’s core priorities related to forest health, wildfire resilience, biodiversity conservation, and nature-based climate solutions. Because the Crystal Basin and Wrights Lake areas are some of the only remaining green tree areas of the Eldorado National Forest, they have been a focus for wildfire resilience projects. The scope of work proposed by TFT and its partners will leverage significant investment from SNC and others who have contributed funds supporting critical work in these areas.

In addition, TFT’s Sierra to Sea Watershed Outcomes Bank model reflects SNC’s goal of accelerating the pace and scale of restoration through innovative financing, cross-jurisdictional collaboration, and outcome-based planning. By aggregating projects, leveraging match, and quantifying environmental outcomes in metrics relevant to statewide initiatives, this effort demonstrates a forward-looking approach to maximizing public benefit and return on investment.

The SNC appreciates the Wildlife Conservation Board's consideration of this proposal and strongly supports its funding.

Sincerely,



Angela Avery
Executive Officer



