

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program  
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,  
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT</b>
<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>GRAND BLUFFS FORESTS 2011 - 2012</b>
<b>Subregion:</b>	<b>SOUTH SIERRA</b>
<b>County:</b>	<b>FRESNO</b>
<b>SNC Funding:</b>	<b>\$92,472.00</b>
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>\$106,809.00</b>
<b>Application Number:</b>	<b>348</b>
<b>Final Score:</b>	<b>94.3</b>

**PROJECT SCOPE**

This project will reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire on a 240 acre in-holding of private Sierra Nevada forest land known as the Grand Bluffs Forest. This grant will provide funds to complete heavy fuel load treatments on some of the more difficult terrain on the Grand Bluffs project, which is the last remaining area to be treated since the property was purchased in 2003.

The goal is to bring the forested ground into a similar condition as pre-European Sierra Nevada landscape. The project addresses Prop 84 and SNC goals by protecting, conserving, and restoring the Region's resources by improving watershed health; protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat; improving forest health; conducting environmental and natural resource education. It also aids in the preservation of working landscapes and reduces the risk of natural disasters, such as wildfires. The goals of this project--protecting and enhancing the watershed-- help to maintain clean water and air quality for the state of California. A total in-kind resource leveraged by this project is \$14,337.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Masticate brush & suppressed trees on 20 acres	July - September 2011
Prune retained conifers on 20 acres	July - September 2011
Lift roots of masticated brush & pile excess woody debris on 43 acres	September –October 2011
Submit six month report to SNC	November 2011
Treat brush in existing plantations on 13 acres	October 2011
Plant site specific mixed conifer species on 12 acres	October 2011-March 2012
Submit twelve month report to SNC	May 2012
Eradicate exotic weeds on 6 acres	April 2011 – June 2012
Submit eighteen month report to SNC	November 2012
Cover piles w/ Kraft paper & burn piles on 43 acres	October 2011 – March 2013
Submit Final Report to SNC	May 2013
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>June 2013</b>

## PROJECT COSTS

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Staff/Personnel Expense – Project Wages/Benefits	\$25,174.00
Travel & Meetings	3,352.00
Materials/Supplies – Project Related	4,172.00
Equipment Use Expenses – Project Related	51,600.00
Sierra Resource Conservation District Administrative Expenses	7,694.00
Intermountain Nursery Expenses	480.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$92,472.00</b>

## PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Kings River Conservation District
- California Water Institute
- U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Reedley College Forestry Program
- Sierra Forest Legacy
- Southern California Edison Company
- High Sierra Ranger District, United States Forest Service

## **PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Acres of Land Improved or Restored

## PROJECT SUMMARY

**County:** Fresno

**Applicant:** Sierra Resource Conservation District

**Project Title:** Grand Bluffs Forest 2011 - 2012

### PROJECT GOAL

This project will reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire on a 240 acre in-holding of private Sierra Nevada forest land known as the Grand Bluffs Forest. Work activities will tie in with similar work done on surrounding USFS public land. The funding will further the on-the-ground management of the working forest at Grand Bluffs by bringing the remaining untreated land in the 100 acres of forested ground into a similar condition as pre-European Sierra Nevada landscape, ie: open park-like forest with plentiful & succulent browse for wildlife, trees with adequate spacing that can withstand a cool ground fire, either naturally caused or a management burn, and protected ground that can infiltrate snow run-off and rain water slowly, holding moisture in the site 1A soils to release into the four class II watercourses and the one class I watercourse, Summit Creek, a northern tributary of the Kings River drainage. These goals of protecting and enhancing the watershed help to maintain clean water and air quality for the state of California. Management has been on-going since the land was purchased in 2003. The SNC funded a Conservation Easement on the property in 2006, it's first round of grant funding, because of watershed values. The goal is to bring this forest ground into balance after the neglect of the last 100 years since it was heavily logged in 1906 – 1912 removing some of the biggest Sugar Pine (*Pinus lambertiana*) in the Sierra, then burned in a catastrophic wildfire, the Bretz Fire, in 1947 which left the area devoid of vegetation and led to incising of the watercourses causing massive erosion. After the fire, 100 acres came back into dense brush stands and another 100 acres re-grew forest trees in dense thickets. There is 40 acres of bedrock outcrop known as the Grand Bluffs that contain a pre-historic site.

### PROJECT SCOPE

This grant will provide funds to complete heavy fuel load treatments on some of the more difficult terrain on the GB project which is the last remaining area to be treated since the property was purchased in 2003. Treatments include brush and small tree thicket mastication or pre-commercial thinning, on 20 acres, hand and machine piling of excess downed woody material on 43 acres, pile covering and burning on 43 acres, pruning of retained conifers on 20 acres removing ladder fuels, release work in 13 acres of previously planted plantation, tree growing and planting of an additional 12 acres, and exotic weed removal on 6 acres.

### LETTERS OF SUPPORT

1. David Orth, General Manager – Kings River Conservation District
2. Sarge Green, Project Director – California Water Institute
3. Craig Thompson, Research Wildlife Ecologist -USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station
4. Dave Durham, District Conservationist – Natural Resource Conservation Service, Fresno
5. Kent Kinney, Forestry Department – Reedley College
6. Susan Britting, Policy & Science Advisor, Craig Thomas, Exe. Dir. – Sierra Forest Legacy
7. Patrick Emmert, RPF Forester – Southern California Edison
8. Keith Ballard for Ray Porter, District Ranger – USDA FS High Sierra Ranger District

**SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE**

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
INCLUDE SPECIFIC TASKS IDENTIFIED IN SCOPE AND ALL REPORTS, ETC.	ASSUME START DATE 60 DAYS AFTER SNC BOARD AUTHORIZATION
Masticate brush & suppressed trees on 20 acres	July 15 <sup>th</sup> – Sept 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2011
Prune retained conifers on 20 acres	July 15 <sup>th</sup> – Sept. 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2011
Lift roots of masticated brush & pile excess woody debris 43ac	Sept. 15 – Oct 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2011
Cover piles w/ Kraft paper & burn piles on 43 acres	Oct 2011 – March 2013
Treat brush in existing plantations on 13 acres	Oct. 15 <sup>th</sup> – Oct. 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2011
Plant site specific mixed conifer species on 12 acres	Oct. 2011, March 2012,
Eradicate exotic weeds on 6 acres	April 2011 – June 2012

**SNC PROJECT COSTS**

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Staff/Personnel Expense – Project Wages/Benefits	\$25,174.00
Travel & Meetings	\$3,352.00
Materials/Supplies – Project Related	\$4,172.00
Equipment Use Expenses – Project Related	\$51,600.00
Sierra Resource Conservation District Administrative Expenses	\$7694.00
Intermountain Nursery Administrative Expenses	\$480.00
<b>SNC GRANT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$92,472.00</b>