

**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)**

Applicant: USDA FOREST SERVICE-SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST

Project Title: LONG MEADOW RESTORATION PROJECT

Subregion: SOUTH

County: TULARE

SNC Funding: \$72,320.00

Total Project Cost: \$97,849.00

Application Number: 358

Final Score: 90.3

PROJECT SCOPE

This grant will provide for pre-project planning and environmental review to prepare a joint National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document for the long term restoration work at Long Meadow. The ultimate goal of this project is to repair a large and unstable headcut within Long Meadow. These conditions are impacting the stability of the meadow through accelerated loss of meadow vegetation and soil, resulting in negative consequences to water quality and downstream aquatic habitats. Long Meadow also contains unique cultural and scenic resources which could be compromised through continued meadow degradation. Proposition 84 grant funds will provide for pre-project planning and environmental review to allow implementation of the Long Meadow Restoration Project. This project is consistent with Proposition 84 requirements to protect and restore water sources and their associated lands, and the SNC program area goals that address protection of water quality. This project has in-kind support from the Forest Service in the amount of \$25,529.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Initiate joint NEPA/CEQA environmental analysis in consultation with the SNC and issue relevant NEPA/CEQA notices regarding preparation of a project; submit to SNC.	May 2011
Prepare engineering site design, conduct field surveys, and obtain regulatory permits; Army Corps of Engineers, Section 404 Permit; Water Quality Waiver. Submit copies to the SNC.	May-June 2011
Begin Internal & Interagency project scoping. Distribute appropriate NEPA/CEQA noticing to Forest Service resource specialists (hydrology, soils, archaeology, wildlife biology, botany, etc.) and SNC.	June-July 2011
Based on identified purpose and need, the Forest Service in coordination with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy develops proposed action and prepares scoping letter/map; schedule public meetings; issue press release; post on Sequoia NF website; conduct public meetings and possible field trip for adequately noticing a project. Submit all copies to SNC.	July-August 2011
Analyze results of public scoping and identify issues and concerns. Develop alternatives in coordination with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.	August -September 2011
Complete specialists reports including: Biological Evaluation/ Assessment (BE/BA), Archaeological Reconnaissance Report, Vegetation & Hydrology Reports, and submit to SNC.	September-October 2011
Complete six-month progress report/submit to SNC.	October 2011
Prepare joint CEQA/NEPA preliminary environmental document in consultation with the SNC; send to public for appropriate public comment period. Submit all related materials to the SNC.	October 2011 – January 2012
Analyze public comments received in consultation with the SNC.	January – February 2012
Prepare and issue appropriate final NEPA/CEQA environmental and decision documents in consultation with the SNC.	February – September 2012
Complete twelve- month report/submit to SNC.	April 2012
Final Completed Joint NEPA/CEQA Document and Final Report Due	October 2012

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Staff/Personnel Expense	\$53,520.00
Contracts/Consultants: Hydro-Engineer to design project site plan	5,000.00
Fees – Section 404 & 401 Permits	5,000.00
Fees – CEQA coordination	2,500.00
Indirect Costs: Performance Measure Reports	1,000.00
Indirect Costs: Public Notifications for CEQA and NEPA noticing	100.00
Administrative Oversight/Budgeting and Accounting	5,200.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$72,320.00

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- WildPlaces
- Giant Sequoia National Monument Association
- Guthrie Ranches, J. Less Guthrie

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.

- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments
- Percent of Pre-project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation
- Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior

PROJECT SUMMARY

County: Tulare

Applicant: USDA Forest Service, Sequoia National Forest, Western Divide Ranger District

Project Title: Long Meadow Restoration Project

PROJECT GOAL

The goal of this project is to repair a large and unstable headcut within Long Meadow. These conditions are impacting the stability of the meadow through accelerated loss of meadow vegetation and soil, resulting in negative consequences to water quality and downstream aquatic habitats. Long Meadow also contains unique cultural and scenic resources which could be compromised through continued meadow degradation. Proposition 84 grant funds will provide for pre-project planning and environmental review to allow implementation of the Long Meadow Restoration Project. This project is consistent with Proposition 84 requirements to protect and restore water sources and their associated lands. This project is consistent with Sierra Nevada Conservancy goals to protect, conserve, and restore the Region's physical and cultural resources and improve water quality. This project will contribute to the protection and restoration of the Long Meadow Creek sub-watershed and larger Wild and Scenic Middle Kern River watershed.

PROJECT SCOPE

This grant will provide for pre-project planning and environmental review to prepare a joint NEPA/CEQA document for the long term restoration work at Long Meadow. The outcome would be a fully supported decision specifying on-the-ground implementation measures to restore ecosystem conditions and protect natural and cultural resources. Resource specialists will perform necessary reports, assessments, and site surveys. Other activities will include preparing and completing plans for a site specific project design. The project will include costs to acquire a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit, Section 401 Permit from California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and possibly a Streambed Alteration Agreement from California Department of Fish & Game. The project will include coordination with Sierra Nevada Conservancy for preparation of a joint NEPA/CEQA document. The pre-planning and environmental review will lead to project implementation to establish a low gradient step pool system from the bottom of the meadow up to the headcut. These actions will reduce the steepened flow gradient created by the headcut that currently promotes undercutting of the meadow, bank slumping, and soil transport. Exposed areas will be resloped to match the natural contours and planting of native vegetation will further stabilize the bankments. The Forest Service will provide in-kind services and contributions of salary, vehicle mileage, survey materials, print, and distribution costs to support the accomplishment of the project. This application will compliment a proposal submitted to SNC by the Giant Sequoia National Monument Association under this grant cycle. This Category 1 application will rehabilitate portions of the Trail of 100 Giants loop trail located in Long Meadow Grove, a popular recreation destination. These improvements will further decrease sediment transport into stream environments.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Letters of support are provided by the following individuals and organizations:

1. WildPlaces Ecological Restoration and Education (non-profit)
2. J. Less Guthrie – Rancher and Grazing Permittee
3. Giant Sequoia National Monument Association

SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Initiate joint NEPA/CEQA environmental analysis and issue Project Initiation letter (PIL); submit to SNC.	May 2011
Prepare engineering site design, conduct field surveys, and obtain regulatory permits; Army Corps of Engineers, Section 404 Permit; Water Quality Waiver, CA State Water Quality Board; and possible Streambed and Lakebed Alteration Agreement from CA Dept. of Fish & Game.	May-June 2011
Begin Internal & Interagency project scoping. Distribute PIL to Forest Service resource specialists (hydrology, soils, archaeology, wildlife biology, botany, etc.).	June-July 2011
Based on identified purpose and need, Forest Service develops proposed action and prepares scoping letter/map; schedule public meetings; issue press release; post on Sequoia NF website; conduct public meetings and possible field trip.	July-August 2011
Analyze results of public scoping and identify issues and concerns. Develop alternatives.	August -September 2011
Complete specialists reports including: Biological Evaluation/Assessment (BE/BA), Archaeological Reconnaissance Report, Vegetation & Hydrology Reports.	September-October 2011
Prepare joint CEQA/NEPA preliminary environmental document; send to public for appropriate public comment period.	October –December 2011
Analyze public comments received.	December 2011
Prepare and issue appropriate final environmental and decision documents; i.e., Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or Record of Decision (ROD).	January-February 2012
Complete six-month progress report/submit to SNC	October 2011
Complete six report/submit to SNC	April 2012
Complete final report/submit to SNC	October 2012

SNC PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Staff/Personnel Expense	\$53,520.00
Contracts/Consultants: Hydro-Engineer to design project site plan	\$5,000.00
Fees – Section 404 & 401 Permits	\$5,000.00
Fees – CEQA coordination	\$2,500.00
Indirect Costs: Performance Measure Reports	\$1,000.00
Indirect Costs: Public Notifications	\$100.00
Administrative Oversight/Budgeting and Accounting	\$5,200.00
SNC GRANT TOTAL	\$72,320.00