

**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: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Project Title: COMPLYING WITH CEQA FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT: NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEYS IN COLDSTREAM CANYON- DONNER MEMORIAL STATE PARK

Subregion: CENTRAL SIERRA

County: PLACER

SNC Funding: \$59,816.50

Total Project Cost: \$135,116.00

Application Number: 421

Final Score: 94.2

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will complete the wildlife, vegetation, and archaeological surveys needed to satisfy CEQA compliance for forest management and floodplain restoration projects on 125 acres at Donner Memorial State Park in Placer County. The surveys and studies completed will provide for full CEQA compliance for forest management projects as well as for partial compliance for the floodplain restoration project. Both projects are critical for managing State Parks for forest health, fire safety and watershed restoration. The Coldstream Canyon Watershed Assessment was completed in 2007 and both forest management and floodplain restoration were identified as methods to address key management issues. Obtaining environmental clearance for implementation of these projects will result in habitat and water quality improvement in Cold Creek, a tributary to the Truckee River.

This project meets 3 SNC Program Goals:

- Protecting and conserving the Region's physical, cultural, archaeological, historical, and living resources by conducting much needed surveys and updating

records of such environmental resources at lower Coldstream Canyon in Donner Memorial State Park

- Reduce the risk of a wildfire disaster through implementation of precise forest management for fuels reduction and forest stand structure enhancement
- Protect and improve water quality through implementation of the lower Coldstream Canyon floodplain restoration design.

This grant leverages approximately \$15,300 of in-kind contributions from California State Parks and an additional \$75,300 in funding committed to the projects.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Wildlife, vegetation, and archeological surveys completed	May 2011 – November 2013
Progress Report	December 31, 2011
Year 1 northern goshawk and California spotted owl protocol surveys completed	March 2012 – September 2012
Progress Report	June 30, 2012
Year 1 natural resources (wildlife, botanical, and cultural) Summary report and CEQA documentation completed Progress Report	December 2012
Willow flycatcher and Year 2 northern goshawk and California spotted owl protocol surveys completed; Mountain beaver visual surveys completed	March 2013 – September 2013
Progress Report	June 30, 2013
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	December 31, 2013

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Personnel expenses for completion of surveys	\$35,760.00
Archaeological surveys	4,950.00
Survey equipment	3,500.00
Travel	3,300.00
Printing supplies	500.00
Performance measure reporting	4,680.00
Administrative costs	7,126.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$59,816.00

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Truckee Ranger District, District Ranger
- Truckee River Watershed Council, Executive Director

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 and Behavior

PROJECT SUMMARY

County: Placer County

Applicant: California Department of Parks and Recreation

Project Title: Complying with CEQA for Forest Management: Natural and Cultural Surveys in Coldstream Canyon- Donner Memorial State Park

PROJECT GOAL

California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) intends to implement both forest management and floodplain restoration in Coldstream Canyon at Donner Memorial State Park. In order to commence on these projects, Parks must comply with CEQA regulations and conduct invaluable and much needed wildlife, vegetation, and archeological resource studies in the Park. The primary project will focus on forest management and forest stand structure enhancement in Coldstream Canyon. Additionally, the surveys will be used for CEQA compliance for the already planned and designed floodplain restoration in the lower reaches of Cold Creek in Donner Memorial State Park. The surveys needed for CEQA compliance undoubtedly meet the end project goals for benefitting environmental and economic resources in the region, including watershed-wide restoration and habitat and water quality improvements in the Park.

PROJECT SCOPE

The extent of the work to be completed by funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) will be restricted to conducting wildlife, vegetation, and archeological surveys needed for CEQA compliance for future projects in Coldstream Canyon within Donner Memorial State Park. The surveys will support all CEQA documentation needed for both forest management on 125 acres in the Canyon, and for an already designed floodplain restoration project at the lower reaches of the Canyon on State Parks property. All wildlife and botanical surveys will be completed by State Parks employees, the archaeological surveys will be conducted by a contract crew. There have been wildlife surveys completed in the past, but State protocol requires that these surveys are obtained within three years of planned operations, such as forestry projects and watershed restoration. There have been successful nesting species of concern, such as goshawk and spotted owl in the past at Donner Memorial State Park.

State Parks has partnered with the Truckee River Watershed Council on the floodplain restoration project. It is anticipated that partners and the public will have access, as needed and allowed, to utilize the recorded data from the surveys for regional cooperative efforts.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Truckee River Watershed Council
Tahoe National Forest- Truckee Ranger District (USFS)

SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Wildlife, vegetation, and archeological surveys completed per CEQA compliance for forest management projects on 125 acres, and completed surveys for Coldstream Canyon floodplain restoration project all in Donner Memorial State Park	Start surveying May 2011, complete surveys by November 2013
Year 1 northern goshawk and California spotted owl protocol surveys	Mar 2012 – Sep 2012
Year 1 Natural Resources (wildlife, botanical, and cultural) Summary report and CEQA documentation	Dec 2012
Willow flycatcher and Year 2 northern goshawk and California spotted owl protocol surveys; Mtn. beaver visual surveys	Mar 2013 – Sep 2013
Final Report	December 2013

SNC PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct Costs	\$47,510.00
Indirect Costs	\$5,180.00
Administrative Costs	\$7,126.50
Other Project Contributions	(\$75,300.00)
SNC GRANT TOTAL	\$59,816.50