

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

Subregion: NORTH CENTRAL **County:** BUTTE

Applicant: BUTTE COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Project Title: FEATHER FALLS SHADED FUEL BREAK

Reference Number: SNC 070219

PROJECT SCOPE

The Feather Falls Shaded Fuel Break would complete treatment on over 18 acres in three sites and would add to approximately eight miles of shaded fuel break within the urban interface area above Lake Oroville in the Feather River watershed. Treatment will be accomplished through hand cutting and chipping. When completed, all phases will connect to create a defensible line that will help to protect watershed resources from residential fire ignitions and private property from negative impacts of potential catastrophic wildfire. Specific actions include:

- Identifying and getting permission from landowners who want to participate in program;
- Contracting for fuel reduction services;
- Hand cutting and chipping brush;
- Removing conifer and hardwood trees under 8" DBH by cut and chipping;
- Pruning remaining conifers to 1/3 of healthy, live crown;
- Increasing spacing between vegetation to up to 20' between stems;
- Removing all dead material from the project site;
- Verifying completion of the phases within the project according to the terms of the agreements and final project inspection.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Contact Landowners for permission to participate	May 2008
Put project out for bid, hire fuels reduction contractor	May 2008
Begin on-the-ground work	June 2008
Complete on-the-ground work for three sites	January 2009
Review of Shaded Fuel Break by Butte Co. Fire Safe Council	August 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	September 30, 2009

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Treat Phase III of the project area , to include 3 sites at Feather Falls School are (5 ac.), Enterprise Boat Launch area (2 ac.) and Lumpkin Road area (11.5 ac)	\$98,980
GRAND TOTAL	\$98,980

Letters of Support:
None received.

Recommendation:
Staff recommendation is to fund at the requested level of \$98,980.

2. Project Summary - Feather Falls Shaded Fuel Break Phase III

This project is a submission for Strategic Opportunity Grant Category I and was also submitted as a competitive grant in November of 2007.

Approximate acreage to be treated: 18.5 total acres in the following locations:

1. Feather Falls School Area: 5 acres
2. Enterprise Boat Launch Area: 2 acres
3. Lumpkin Road Area: 11.5 acres (.5 mi x 5,280ft/mi x 190 ft wide average = 501,600.00 ft/43,560 ft per acre = 11.5)

Budget Requested: \$98,580

Project Description- The project is located in Southeast Butte County in the community of Feather Falls. The community was once a prosperous logging village which is now filled with dense heavy brush and mixed conifer forest. This community with a population of approximately 1,200 residents rests on a long ridge line, Lumpkin Ridge, between the Middle and South Fork watersheds of the Feather River above Lake Oroville. Vegetation along Lumpkin Road is extremely thick and over grown posing an extreme fire risk to the watersheds. The Feather Falls Community has Federal Threatened status on the Communities at Risk listing. The project is in compliance with Butte County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and its conservation elements.

Project Design- Total length of 8.1 miles broken into four phases. Phase I and II were funded by a Proposition 40 Community Assistance Grant through CAL-FIRE in the amount of \$214,320.00. Work on Phase I began in May of 2007 and Phase II is now in progress. CEQA compliance for the entire fuel break project was completed with Phase I with CAL-FIRE as the lead. This proposal seeks funding for Phase III of the project.

Watershed Protection Values:

1. Drinking water supplies for the City of Oroville and multiple communities reliant upon the California Water Project from the Lake Oroville Reservoir and the Middle and South Fork Feather River watersheds.
2. Water oriented recreation on Lake Oroville including fishing, house boating, patio boating, boat camping, waterskiing, canoeing, sailing, kayaking and swimming.
3. Wild and Scenic River Designation for the Middle Fork of the Feather River.

Project Goals:

1. Lessen the impact of a wildfire to the Middle and South Fork Feather River watersheds.
2. Improve the probability that fires developing along Lumpkin Road can be contained in the initial attack phase in the event of a watershed scale fire.
3. Provide safer egress for residents' evacuation and ingress for fire personnel in a significant fire event.
4. Contribute to the larger scale watershed fuel reduction project of the U.S. Forest Service's Slap Jack Defensible Fuel Profile Zone fuel reduction project.