

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: El Dorado County Resource Conservation District
(EDC RCD)

Project Title: Raintree Forest Health Project

Subregion: Central

County: El Dorado

SNC Funding: \$ 250,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$1,382,288.00

Application Number: 783

Final Score: 92

PROJECT SCOPE

The 9,144-acre Raintree Forest Health Project is located on the Placerville Ranger District on the Eldorado National Forest (ENF) located south of Highway 50 in El Dorado County, California.

The Raintree Healthy Forest Project is a cooperative effort between the EDC RCD, ENF/U.S. Forest Service professionals and the community to implement restorative and preventative treatments and management actions to improve forest health and re-establish sustainable landscapes in the Raintree Project area in the Eldorado National Forest. The North Fork of the Cosumnes River and more than 15 tributary streams run through the middle of the project area.

Project goals specific to the SNC Forest Health program area include: (1) reduced tree density; (2) sustained old growth forest conditions; (3) enhanced wildlife habitat; (4) reduced wildfire risk; (5) improved long-term scenic sustainability; (6) increased recreational opportunities; (7) enhanced riparian conservation areas; and (8) utilization of revenue derived from commercial products to perform essential and costly biomass removal and surface fuel treatments.

The project activities include;

- commercial and pre-commercial understory thinning of mixed conifer stands and plantations;
- enhancing aspen and hardwood habitat;
- removing hazard trees adjacent to system roads and dispersed camping areas;

- reconstructing and repairing system roads to reduce erosion and sedimentation to the North Fork of the Cosumnes River and its tributaries;
- masticating brush and small trees to prepare for prescribed understory burning; and,
- placing large woody debris for increased aquatic habitat.

Project costs are leveraged by funding or in-kind contributions from the Eldorado National Forest, the El Dorado Union High School District for long term monitoring and biomass product value.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
<p>Forest Treatments White Fir Treatment/Biomass Removal: Create gaps with legacy leave trees to decrease infection of <i>H. annosum</i> "S" type (root rot). Prescribed Understory Burning Hand Pile Burning Planting (trees, planting, grubbing) Deliverables: pre and post photo points, mapping</p>	June 2014-February 2017
<p>Forest Treatments Quaking Aspen, Montane Hardwood, and Blister Rust Treatment: enhance, maintain and expand existing quaking aspen aggregations and Montane hardwood ecosystems by removing competing conifers. Plant white pine blister rust resistant Sugar Pine and Jeffrey Pine. Deliverables: pre and post photo points, mapping</p>	June 2014-February 2017
<p>Road Decommissioning Decommission approximately 1.0 miles of system road by scarifying roadbed, removing culverts, re-contouring roadbed, and hiding with large woody debris. Deliverables: pre and post photo points, mapping</p>	June 2014-February 2017
<p>Rehabilitate Dispersed Recreation: Restore illegal camping sites and areas impacted by motor vehicle use by installing barrier rocks to limit access Deliverables: pre and post photo points, mapping</p>	June 2014-February 2017
<p>Large Woody Debris Place root wads and trees in stream channels to improve fish habitat. Deliverables: pre and post photo points, mapping</p>	June 2014-February 2017
<p>Noxious Weed Eradication Deliverables: pre and post photo points, mapping</p>	June 2014-February 2017
<p>Monitoring Watershed Education Summit (WES). Six High Schools participate each year to collect watershed data to evaluate</p>	June 2014-February 2017

restoration objectives and overall watershed health. Deliverables: pre monitoring data and photo points, mapping, yearly data and photo points, summaries and written evaluations.	
Six Month Progress Reports	December 2014, June 2015, December 2015, June 2016, December 2016,
Final Report	February 2017
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	March 1, 2017

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	
Project Management: Staff	\$37,000.00
Forest Treatments- White Fir Treatment/Biomass Removal; Prescribed Understory Burning; Hand Pile BurningPlanting	\$85,500.00
Forest Treatments- Quaking Aspen, Montane Hardwood, and Blister Rust Treatment	\$13,000.00
Road Decommissioning	\$19,000.00
Rehabilitate Dispersed Recreation/Restoration	\$28,500.00
Large Woody Debris Habitat placement	\$18,000.00
Noxious Weed Eradication	\$9,000.00
Indirect**	
Monitoring	\$20,000.00
Project materials,supplies, equipment	\$16,000.00
Publications, printing, public relations/outreach	\$4,000.00
Administrative***	
Operating Costs	\$0
Total	\$250,000.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS - SUPPORT

- Support
 - Eldorado National Forest, Laurence Crabtree, Forest Supervisor
 - Eldorado National Forest, Duane Nelson, District Ranger
 - California Forestry Association, Steven Brink, Vice President-Public Resources
 - Oak Ridge High School, Stan Iverson
 - US Department of Agriculture, Malcom North, Research Ecologist
 - Sierra Pacific Industries, David Marcus
 - El Dorado County Fire Safe Council: Richard Krek, Chairperson
 - California Forestry Challenge, Diane Dealey Neill, El Dorado
 - Sierra Forest Legacy, Craig Thomas, El Dorado

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 and Type of Jobs Created
- Number of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities
- Tons of Carbon Sequestered or S Emissions Avoided

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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

Subject: **FILING OF NOTICE OF DETERMINATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 21108 OR 21152 OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE**

Project Title: Raintree Forest Health Project (SNC 783)

State Clearinghouse No.: SCH# 2012012021

Project Location: The proposed project is located in the Placerville Ranger District on the Eldorado National Forest, south of Highway 50 and Mormon Emigrant Trail Road, bounded generally by Capps Crossing and Leek Springs Lookout, at North South Road and Meiss Road, approximately 13.5 miles southeast of Pollock Pines, El Dorado County, California. Township (T) 9 North (N), Range (R) 14 East (E), Sections 1, 2, 3, and 10-15; T9N R15E Sections 3-10, 16-21; T10N R14E Sections 35 and 36; and T10N R15E Sections 31 and 32. Latitude / Longitude: 38° 38' 47.9" / 120° 23' 2.96".

County: El Dorado County

Project Description: The El Dorado County Resource Conservation District is requesting \$250,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Grant Program for restorative and preventative treatments and management actions to improve forest health and re-establish sustainable landscape in the Raintree Project area in the Eldorado National Forest. This project would reduce fuel loads and fire hazards, improve wildlife habitat and watershed conditions, and encourage forest growth. The project includes commercial and pre-commercial understory thinning of mixed conifer stands and plantations, enhancing aspen and hardwood habitat, removing hazard trees adjacent to system roads and dispersed camping areas, reconstructing and repairing system roads, grapple and machine piling, masticating brush and small trees, restoring watershed function, prescribed understory burning, and providing large woody debris for increased aquatic habitat. The project would improve forest health, reduce fuel loading and thus threat of wildfire, maintain and enhance old growth forest, and maintain and enhance recreation opportunities.

As Lead Agency a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has approved the above described project on December 5, 2013, and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project will will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Negative Declaration Mitigated Negative Declaration Environmental Impact Report (EIR) accompanied by an Initial Study (CEQA Guidelines Section 15177) was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were were not made a condition of project approval.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was was not adopted for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings were were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Mitigated Negative Declaration, with attached Initial Study, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, adopted findings, and record of project approval are available to the General Public at the following location:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Jim Branham

Executive Officer

(530) 823-4670
Phone #

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received For Filing and Posting at OPR:

**RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION**

PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Title:
Raintree Forest Health Project (SNC 783)
2. Responsible Agency Name and Address:
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603
3. Contact Person and Phone Number:
Matthew Daley, Program Coordinator (530) 823-4698
4. Project Location:
The proposed project is located in the Placerville Ranger District on the Eldorado National Forest, south of Highway 50 and Mormon Emigrant Trail Road, bounded generally by Capps Crossing and Leek Springs Lookout, at North South Road and Meiss Road, approximately 13.5 miles southeast of Pollock Pines, El Dorado County, California. Township (T) 9 North (N), Range (R) 14 East (E), Sections 1, 2, 3, and 10-15; T9N R15E Sections 3-10, 16-21; T10N R14E Sections 35 and 36; and T10N R15E Sections 31 and 32. Latitude / Longitude: 38° 38' 47.9" / 120° 23' 2.96".
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:
El Dorado County Resource Conservation District
100 Forni Road, Suite A
Placerville, CA 95667
6. General Plan Designation:
Natural Resource (NR)
7. Zoning:
Agricultural
8. Description of Project:
The El Dorado County Resource Conservation District is requesting \$250,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Grant Program for restorative and preventative treatments and management actions to improve forest health and re-establish sustainable landscape in the Raintree Project area in the Eldorado National Forest. This project would reduce fuel loads and fire hazards, improve wildlife habitat and watershed conditions, and encourage forest growth.

The project includes commercial and pre-commercial understory thinning of mixed conifer stands and plantations, enhancing aspen and hardwood habitat, removing hazard trees adjacent to system roads and dispersed camping areas, reconstructing and repairing system roads, grapple and machine piling, masticating brush and small trees, restoring watershed function and prescribed understory burning. The project

would improve forest health, reduce fuel loading and thus threat of wildfire, maintain and enhance old growth forest, and maintain and enhance recreation opportunities.

Biomass material (non-sawtimber material such as limbs, tops, and pieces less than six inches and 10 feet long) removed from the treatment units and accumulated at landings would be disposed of by pile burning, commercial and personal firewood use, or chipped and removed to co-generation plants. 140 acres are proposed to be treated.

Prescribed burning activities include pile burning and understory burning on 80 acres. The prescribed understory burn area would account for excluded areas such as roads, cultural resource sites, rocky outcrops, areas void of vegetation and other sensitive areas. The prescribed understory burning would occur in all natural stands, plantations, and in areas not treated by other methods. Activities would include construction of fire lines by hand or tractor, and hand cutting ladder fuels (trees less than 8.9 inches in diameter at breast height [dbh]) around large old growth conifers, oak trees, and aspen aggregations. Fire line construction would follow established guidelines as outlined in the best management practices (BMPs). The visible fire lines would be hidden by spreading woody debris where they intersect existing roads and trails to limit unauthorized vehicle use. All burning activities would comply with El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District requirements.

Removal of competing conifers from the understory and within 30 feet of the perimeter of existing oak or aspen trees would occur to create openings to stimulate natural regeneration. This would enhance 18 acres dominated by California black oak and canyon live oak and 18 acres of existing quaking aspen aggregations (best described and riparian aspen). In areas of newly created gaps, planting of white pine, blister rust resistant sugar pine, and Jeffrey pine would occur in clusters or groups with varying spacing between groups outside driplines of legacy trees.

System roads within the project area would be decommissioned, system roads that are not decommissioned may be reconstructed and repaired. Reconstruction and repair activities would involve the replacement of inadequate drainage crossings, elimination of ruts, ditch repair, installation of waterbars and dips with inadequate water runoff control, gate installation to control seasonal use or replacement of existing non-functional gates or barricades, and removal of brush and small trees encroaching on roads. In addition, approximately 565 barrier rocks would be installed to limit access in the vicinity of Meiss Road and adjacent to North Fork Cosumnes River. Existing parking areas adjacent to Meiss Road would be restored by installing rock barriers and reshaping native surface parking areas.

Large woody debris would be placed in stream channels lacking in debris to provide habitat for aquatic species, enhance geomorphic and biological characteristics of streams as well as associated riparian habitat. Trees will be felled into deficient stream channels to promote the natural progression of geomorphic and biological characteristics by impounding sediment, stabilizing stream banks, and facilitating the development of pool/riffle habitat.

Known noxious weed occurrences on 36 acres within the project area would be treated by hand pulling. Post-treatment monitoring of sensitive plants, noxious weed, and special habitat within the project area would be conducted following project

implementation to ensure that the design criteria are effective.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

The Eldorado National Forest surrounds the proposed project area and is used for dispersed recreation (including off-highway vehicles) and logging operations. The North Fork Cosumnes River flows through the project area.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required:

Placerville Ranger District, Eldorado National Forest, United States Forest Service*
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement)

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District (burn approval)
El Dorado Resources Conservation District**

*Approved the Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact (NEPA)

**Approved the Mitigated Negative Declaration (CEQA)

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The proposed project area lies within the Placerville Ranger District on the Eldorado National Forest, in the Raintree Forest area. It is situated south of Highway 50 and Mormon Emigrant Trail Road, generally between Capps Crossing and Leek Spring Lookout. The total project area covers approximately 9,144 acres. Elevations range from 5,000 feet at the North Fork Cosumnes River on the west edge of the project area to 6,500 feet on Baltic Ridge at the north edge of the project area. The area is accessed from Highway 50 by Sly Park Road to Mormon Emigrant Trail Road, then to North-South Road and Meiss Road.

The principal forest cover types found in the project area are Sierra Nevada Mixed Conifer and Ponderosa/Jeffrey pine. The major species mixed in this forest cover type are white fir, Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, Jeffrey pine, sugar pine, lodgepole pine, incense cedar, quaking aspen, and oaks. The understory is dominated by dense, shade tolerant white fir and incense cedar samplings and small trees. The average age of the natural stands within the project area is generally around 130 years, if the dense understory (which is between 30 and 80 years of age) is not considered. Scattered across the project area are many trees that exceed 300 years of age.

Historically, at the lowest elevations or higher up on the drier south and west aspects and ridges within the proposed project, fires were generally frequent, ranging from fire return intervals of 5 to 15 years, with individual sites sometimes burning two years in succession. With this type of fire frequency, the fire intensity and severity were most likely low because of lack of time to accumulate very much fuel between fires. Fire suppression, starting in the early 1900s has changed these historic fire intervals, resulting in a change in species composition, structure and density.

Current vegetation conditions in the Raintree project area differ markedly from the historic condition and most of the current stands exceed the historical range of variability in terms of ecosystem structure and process. Multiple decades of fire exclusion, grazing by domestic livestock, and logging have altered fire intensity of wildfires from their historical range. The dense forest conditions within the project area make the area prone to the risk of a stand-replacing catastrophic wildfire.

Unhealthy conditions are indicated by increased densities of trees, higher levels of insect-related tree mortality, and an accumulation of ground and ladder fuels within stands in the project area. Dense, closed canopied forests tend to favor shade tolerant white fir and incense-cedar, and to exclude shade intolerant ponderosa pine, oak, and sugar pine. The shade tolerant species generally are more susceptible to mortality from fire and form dense understory thickets, which act as fuel ladders to the larger overstory trees. Thus the structure of the current forested landscape represents an unstable, unsustainable departure from the historic landscape for this area.

The El Dorado County Resource Conservation District acted as Lead Agency under CEQA in January 2012 and prepared an Initial Study and adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration. The USDA Forest Service Placerville Ranger District for Eldorado National Forest acted as Lead Agency under NEPA in March 2011 and prepared an Environmental Assessment and adopted a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in December 2011.

The restorative and preventative treatments and management actions of the proposed project would improve forest health and re-establish sustainable landscape in the Raintree Project area in the Eldorado National Forest.

PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Raintree Forest Health Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

El Dorado County Resource Conservation District, *Raintree Forest Health Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration*. SCH 2012012021. January 2012.

Raintree Forest Health Project Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact

USDA Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest, Placerville Ranger District, *Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact: Raintree Forest Health Project Environmental Assessment*. December 2011.

Basic Features of the Project

The goal of the proposed project is to modify the forest vegetation in order to: (1) reduce tree density; (2) sustain old forest conditions; (3) enhance wildlife habitat; (4) reduce wildfire risk; (5) improve long-term scenic sustainability; (6) increase recreational opportunities; (7) enhance riparian conservation areas; and (8) maximize revenue derived from commercial products to perform essential and costly biomass removal and surface fuel treatments.

The Raintree Forest Health Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) describes potential environmental impacts for the proposed project including: (1) improve the forest health across the Raintree project area; (2) reduce the fuel loading to reduce the threat of wild fire; (3) maintain and enhance the existing old growth conifers, aspen, and oak components; (4) maintain and enhance recreation opportunities; (5) treat hazardous fuels in a cost-effective manner to maximize treatment acres under a limited budget while fulfilling the role the Forest Service has in providing a wood supply for local manufacturers; (6) provide a maintainable level of forest access while closing unneeded roads and motorized trails to enhance wildlife habitat and reduce wildlife harassment; (7) enhance and maintain Strategically Placed Area Fuels Treatments (SPLATS) designed to slow the spread of wildfire; (8) enhance soil productivity within plantations by increasing soil cover; and (9) improve watershed

conditions and related ecosystem services by maintaining and restoring geomorphic and biological characteristics of special aquatic features.

Biomass material (non-sawtimber material such as limbs, tops, and pieces less than six inches and 10 feet long) removed from the treatment units and accumulated at landings would be disposed of by pile burning, commercial and personal firewood use, or chipped and removed to co-generation plants. 140 acres are proposed to be treated.

Prescribed burning activities include pile burning and understory burning on 80 acres. The prescribed understory burn area would account for excluded areas such as roads, cultural resource sites, rocky outcrops, areas void of vegetation and other sensitive areas. The prescribed understory burning would occur in all natural stands, plantation and areas not treated. Activities would include construction of fire lines by hand or tractor, and hand cutting ladder fuels (trees less than 8.9 inches in diameter at breast height [dbh]) around large old growth conifers, oak trees, and aspen aggregations. Fire line construction would follow established guidelines for waterbar construction as outlined in the best management practices (BMPs). The visible fire lines would be hidden by spreading woody debris where they intersect existing roads and trails to limit unauthorized vehicle use.

Removal of competing conifers from the understory and within 30 feet of the perimeter of existing oak or aspen trees would occur to create openings to stimulate natural regeneration. This would enhance 18 acres dominated by California black oak and canyon live oak and 18 acres of existing quaking aspen aggregations (best described and riparian aspen). In areas of newly created gaps, planting of white pine, blister rust resistant sugar pine, and Jeffrey pine would occur in clusters or groups with varying spacing between groups outside driplines of legacy trees.

Approximately one mile of system roads within the project area would be decommissioned. Reconstruction and repair would occur on another one mile of system roads. Reconstruction and repair activities would involve the replacement of inadequate drainage crossings, elimination of ruts, ditch repair, installation of waterbars and dips with inadequate water runoff control, gate installation to control seasonal use or replacement of existing non-functional gates or barricades, and removal of brush and small trees encroaching on roads. In addition, approximately 565 barrier rocks would be installed to limit access in the vicinity of Meiss Road and adjacent to North Fork Cosumnes River. Road and four existing parking areas adjacent to Meiss Road would be restored by installing rock barriers and reshaping native surface parking areas.

Large woody debris would be placed in stream channels lacking in debris to provide habitat for aquatic species, enhance geomorphic and biological characteristics of streams as well as associated riparian habitat. Trees will be felled into deficient stream channels to promote the natural progression of geomorphic and biological characteristics by impounding sediment, stabilizing stream banks, and facilitating the development of pool/riffle habitat.

Known noxious weed occurrences on 36 acres within the project area would be treated by hand pulling. Post-treatment monitoring of sensitive plants, noxious weed, and special habitat within the project area would be conducted following project implementation to ensure that the design criteria are effective.

Permits that are anticipated for the proposed project include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Nationwide Permit 27, Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment and Enhancement Area),

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region (Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement), and El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District (burn permits).

Impacts Identified Relevant to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Request

The action before the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is providing \$250,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Grant Program to fund restorative and preventative treatments and management actions to improve forest health and re-establish sustainable landscape in the Raintree Project area in the Eldorado National Forest. The Raintree Forest Health Project IS/MND identifies potential resource impacts related to aesthetics, biological resources, cultural resources, and geology and soils. Specifically, the proposed project may result in temporary habitat disruption; temporary disturbance of special-status species; temporary disturbance of forest aesthetics; disturbance of streams; the potential to inadvertently disturb unknown cultural resources or human remains during ground-disturbing activities; and the potential for loss of top soil and soil erosion during the enhancement activities. However, the project includes detailed design criteria, best management practices and specific mitigation measures to avoid or reduce impacts to less than significant levels, and based on the IS/MND, the project would not cause any significant adverse effects on the environment. The project proponent would implement measures identified in the IS/MND and MMP, to avoid or substantially reduce potential impacts to aesthetics, biological and cultural resources, and geology and soils.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:		
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils
<input type="checkbox"/> Hazards / Hazardous Materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation / Traffic
<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance	

DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Responsible Agency)

On the basis of this evaluation:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Board determined that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by, or agreed to by, the project proponent as reflected in the U.S. Forest Service Decision Notice and FONSI and in the project approval by the El Dorado County Resource Conservation District. An **INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** prepared by the El Dorado County Resource Conservation District and considered by the SNC adequately analyzed the action for which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy will provide grant funding, mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project, and the SNC Board has adopted findings pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15096(h) and 15091. The El Dorado County Resource Conservation District, as the lead agency, also adopted mitigation requirements and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program that identifies the timing of mitigation measures and which parties will be responsible for implementing them; the SNC is not responsible for implementing any of these measures and is not proposing any additional mitigation measures.

Signature

Date

Jim Branham

Executive Officer

Printed Name

Title

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Responsible Agency

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
STATEMENT OF FINDINGS**

Project Title: Raintree Forest Health Project (SNC 783)

State Clearinghouse Number: SCH# 2012012021

Project Location: The proposed project is located in the Placerville Ranger District on the Eldorado National Forest, south of Highway 50 and Mormon Emigrant Trail Road, bounded generally by Capps Crossing and Leek Springs Lookout, at North South Road and Meiss Road, approximately 13.5 miles southeast of Pollock Pines, El Dorado County, California. Township (T) 9 North (N), Range (R) 14 East (E), Sections 1, 2, 3, and 10-15; T9N R15E Sections 3-10, 16-21; T10N R14E Sections 35 and 36; and T10N R15E Sections 31 and 32. Latitude / Longitude: 38° 38' 47.9" / 120° 23' 2.96".

Description of Project: The El Dorado County Resource Conservation District is requesting \$250,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Grant Program for restorative and preventative treatments and management actions to improve forest health and re-establish sustainable landscape in the Raintree Project area in the Eldorado National Forest. This project would reduce fuel loads and fire hazards, improve wildlife habitat and watershed conditions, and encourage forest growth. The project includes commercial and pre-commercial understory thinning of mixed conifer stands and plantations, enhancing aspen and hardwood habitat, removing hazard trees adjacent to system roads and dispersed camping areas, reconstructing and repairing system roads, grapple and machine piling, masticating brush and small trees, restoring watershed function and prescribed understory burning. The project would improve forest health, reduce fuel loading and thus threat of wildfire, maintain and enhance old growth forest, and maintain and enhance recreation opportunities.

Findings: Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21002.1(d) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15096(g) and (h), the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), as a Responsible Agency, has reviewed and considered the following documents prepared by the Lead Agency (CEQA):

El Dorado County Resource Conservation District, *Raintree Forest Health Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration*. SCH 2012012021. January 2012.

In addition, as a Responsible Agency, SNC has reviewed and considered the following NEPA documents prepared by the USDA Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest, Placerville Ranger District (NEPA Lead Agency):

USDA Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest, Placerville Ranger District, *Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact: Raintree Forest Health Project Environmental Assessment*. December 2011.

Using its independent judgment, the SNC makes the following finding:

The above listed document: a) adequately addresses the potential impacts of the project, and b) is adequate for use by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) for assessing the potential impacts of funding the grant request now before the SNC for approval.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy hereby makes the following findings regarding the significant effects of the proposed project, pursuant to Public Resources Code 21081 and Section 15091 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

1. AESTHETICS

The proposed project is expected to improve forest health, reduce the threat of wildfire, maintain and enhance old growth conifers, aspens, and oaks, and enhance the aquatic features within the North Fork Cosumnes River. However, to accomplish this outcome, the proposed project includes the removal of trees, pile burning, and prescribed understory burning. The prescribed understory burning includes the creation of a fire line. The visible fire lines would be hidden by spreading woody debris where they intersect existing roads and trails to limit impacts to aesthetics as well as limit unauthorized vehicle use. The understory burning would be noticeable for a couple of seasons and small pockets of burned trees could be noticeable for up to ten years. A burn plan would be prepared and burn permits sought from the El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District.

The visual environment would have the potential to be impacted by these activities, as trees and understory would be removed and fire lines and stumps would remain in the project area. Aesthetic impacts would be mainly noticeable for areas of higher use, such as Meiss Road and North-South Road. Part of the proposed project, however, is to cover the fire lines as well as meet the visual quality objectives.

After project completion, the proposed project would have a net benefit to aesthetics. Thinning around rock outcrops, hardwoods, aspen groves, and large conifers would enhance the overall scenic quality in the corridor by increasing the visual variety that would be revealed by the proposed project activities. The overall appearance of the project site would be more intact and the North Fork Cosumnes Wild and Scenic River would be enhanced.

Impacts are considered potentially significant. The IS/MND for the Raintree Forest Health Project covers aesthetic impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measures:

- MM-1** Trees that are to be removed within the visible foreground (approximately 100 feet from roadway edge) of Meiss and North-South system roads will have a maximum stump height of six inches. Large landing biomass piles within the foreground of Meiss and North-South Roads will be burned or removed within two years of project completion.

2. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The proposed project is expected to improve forest health, reduce the threat of wildfire, maintain and enhance old growth conifers, aspens, and oaks, and enhance the aquatic features within stream channels. The proposed project may cause direct impacts to streams, plants, and habitat; the proposed project may cause indirect impacts to habitat, wildlife, and plants. No federally or state listed threatened, endangered, candidate or other special-status plant and wildlife species would be adversely affected by the proposed project. Temporary impacts have the potential to occur during forest and stream maintenance and restoration activities; however, upon project completion, habitat would be enhanced.

Temporary disturbance of terrestrial species would occur. Changes in canopy cover and ground disturbance could affect habitat and foraging habitat for various species within the forest; however, design criteria and mitigation measures would restrict project activities or provide field confirmation of presence/absence prior to the start of project activities. Tree removal and ignition sites would occur outside a buffered area for stream channels, thus the potential for increased sedimentation to impact aquatic life would be temporary. Over the long-term, the enhanced forest and stream habitats would provide an enhanced habitat that benefits special-status wildlife and plant species.

Impacts are considered potentially significant. The IS/MND and EA/FONSI for the Raintree Forest Health Project cover biological resources impacts for the proposed project and provide mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measures:

- MM-2** California spotted owl: Maintain a limited operating period (LOP), prohibiting vegetation treatments within approximately ¼ mile of the activity center during the breeding season (March 1 through August 31), unless surveys confirm that California spotted owls are not nesting. Prior to implementing activities within or adjacent to a California spotted owl protected activity center (PAC) and the location of the nest site or PAC is uncertain, conduct surveys to establish or confirm the location of the nest or PAC.
- MM-3** Northern goshawk: Maintain a limited operating period (LOP), prohibiting vegetation treatments within approximately ¼ mile of the nest site during the breeding season (February 15 through September 15) unless surveys confirm that northern goshawks are not nesting. If the nest stand within a protected activity center (PAC) is unknown, either apply the LOP to a ¼ mile area surrounding the PAC, or survey to determine the nest stand location.
- MM-4** Water holes in the vicinity of the project will be inspected annually by a fisheries biologist for existing aquatic species and aquatic dependent species before water

withdrawal for dust abatement. A Forest Service approved screen covered drafting box, or other device to create a low entry velocity (Riparian Conservation Objective [RCO] #4, SNFPA ROD).

- MM-5** Aquatic veined lichen (*Peltigera hydrothyria*), occurs within the proposed project area (streams NS-4 and NS-10). To maintain current stream shading overstory canopy within 100 feet of the occurrence will not be altered by project activities. Project botanist will be consulted prior to initiation of road maintenance within 100 feet of drainages with aquatic veined lichen. Should any new threatened or endangered species be located during the proposed project, available steps will be taken to evaluate and mitigate effects.

3. CULTURAL RESOURCES

There are historic and prehistoric sites within the project area. Eleven (11) of these sites have been evaluated for the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) and been determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The remaining 31 sites have not been evaluated. Seven (7) of the sites are in areas away from proposed project activity and would not be at risk. The proposed project could potentially impacts three (3) of the sites. Fifteen (15) sites have the potential to be effected by mechanical removal of tress as well as prescribed burn activities. Eleven (11) sites are resources at risk solely from activities associated with prescribed burning. Up to 14 sites are resources as risk from activities associated with road reconstruction.

The proposed project includes design guidelines to avoid known historic and prehistoric resources. In the event that a not-previously-known archaeological or historical resource is uncovered during construction activities, there would be a temporary halt to the activity until a determination is made by a qualified archaeologist. The IS/MND and EA/FONSI for the Raintree Forest Health Project cover cultural resources impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measures:

- MM-6** Cultural resources sites within the project area boundary will be protected from ground disturbance associated with mechanical and hand treatments during all phases of implementation activities of this project. No mechanical equipment will be allowed to operate within the boundaries of an identified cultural site. Where it is necessary to remove trees from within site boundaries, the USFS District Archaeologist will be consulted to mitigate impacts. All thinning of trees adjacent to site boundaries will be directionally felled away from the site. The sites in units or near road maintenance/reconstruction will be identified with flagging and avoided during project activities. Sites that are flammable will be avoided during prescribed understory burning and fire line construction activities. Construction of fire lines will

occur outside of the cultural resource site boundaries. Gaps created will avoid cultural resource site locations. All machine and hand piles will be placed away from sites at a distance such that site features will not be affected by flames and heat. Hazard tree removal on or in the vicinity of cultural resource sites will be coordinated with the District Archaeologist and will follow the guidelines for hazard tree removal included in the *Programmatic Agreement among the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, California State Historic Preservation Officer, and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Officer Regarding the Identification, Evaluation and Treatment of Historic Properties Managed by the National Forest of the Sierra Nevada, California dated 1996 (SPA)*.

- MM-7** Should any previously unrecorded cultural resources be encountered during implementation of the proposed project, all work shall immediately cease in that area and the District Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may resume subsequent to approval by the District Archaeologist and implementation of additional protection measures as necessary. Should any cultural resources become damaged in unanticipated ways by activities proposed in this project, the steps described in the SPA for inadvertent effects would be followed.

4. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Short term soil exposure would be expected as a direct result of mechanical and hand tree removal, skidding, machine piling, and fire line construction. Even though the natural stands currently have adequate to excessive litter cover, activities would result in displacement of litter cover. This displacement would be limited to skid trails, landings, machine pile areas, and limited areas within the tree harvest areas. Localized soil detachment and transport may occur during precipitation events immediately following harvest activities. In addition, understory prescribed burns would change the amount of exposed soil and could result in an increase in sedimentation and surface flow; however, this would be intercepted by road prism and concentrated to an outlet point determined by culverts, water bars or road outsloping.

The proposed project design includes best management practices that would be applied to the proposed project in order to reduce the amount of soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. The IS/MND and EA/FONSI for the Raintree Forest Health Project cover geology and soil impacts for the proposed project and provide a mitigation measure. The mitigation measure that applies specifically to the proposed project is listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measures:

- MM-8** Best management practices (BMPs) will be applied to project activities. Specifically BMPs identified by the USDA Forest Service as BMPs: 1-3, 1-5, 1-6, 1-9, 1-10, 1-11, 1-12, 1-13, 1-14, 1-15, 1-16, 1-17, 1-18, 1-20, 1-22, 1-25, 5-2, 5-3, 5-5, 5-6, 7-1, and 7-3.

The SNC Board has considered the environmental documentation prepared for the project, adopts the findings listed in this document, and approves the project. A Notice of Determination (NOD) indicating the results of these findings will be filed with the State Clearinghouse of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research pursuant to Section 15096(i) of the State CEQA Guidelines. The Executive Officer of the SNC is authorized to file the NOD.

Certification:

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above present the data and information used to support the findings made herein pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15091 or 15096(h), and the facts, statements, and information presented herein, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature _____

Date _____

Name Jim Branham

Title Executive Officer

MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

1.1 MITIGATION AND MONITORING PROGRAM CONTENTS

This document is the Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP) for the proposed Raintree Forest Health Project (SNC 783) (State Clearinghouse No. 2012012021), located in the Placerville Ranger District on the Eldorado National Forest, south of Highway 50 and Mormon Emigrant Trail Road, bounded generally by Capps Crossing and Leek Springs Lookout, at North South Road and Meiss Road, approximately 13.5 miles southeast of Pollock Pines, El Dorado County, California, within Township (T) 9 North (N), Range (R) 14 East (E), Sections 1, 2, 3, and 10-15; T9N R15E Sections 3-10, 16-21; T10N R14E Sections 35 and 36; and T10N R15E Sections 31 and 32. The MMP includes a brief discussion of the legal basis for and the purpose of the program, discussion, and direction regarding complaints about noncompliance, a key to understanding the monitoring matrix, and the monitoring matrix itself.

1.2 LEGAL BASIS OF AND PURPOSE FOR THE MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

California Public Resources Code §21081.6 requires public agencies to adopt mitigation monitoring or reporting programs whenever certifying an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). This requirement facilitates implementation of all mitigation measures adopted through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.

The MMP contained herein is intended to satisfy the requirements of CEQA as they relate to the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the Raintree Forest Health Project. It is intended to be used by El Dorado Resource Conservation District staff, participating agencies, the developer, project contractors, and mitigation monitoring personnel during implementation of the proposed project. The SNC is not responsible for implementing any of these measures and is not proposing any additional mitigation measures for this project.

Mitigation is defined by CEQA Guidelines §15370 as a measure that does any of the following:

- Avoids impacts altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.
- Minimizes impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.
- Rectifies impacts by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the impacted environment.
- Reduces or eliminates impacts over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the project.
- Compensates for impacts by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

1.3 BRIEF PROJECT BACKGROUND

The proposed project area lies within the Placerville Ranger District on the Eldorado National Forest, in the Raintree Forest area. It is situated south of Highway 50 and Mormon Emigrant Trail Road, generally between Capps Crossing and Leek Spring Lookout. The total project area covers approximately 9,144 acres. Elevations range from 5,000 feet at the North Fork Cosumnes River on the west edge of the project area to 6,500 feet on Baltic Ridge at the north edge of the project area. The area is accessed from Highway 50 by Sly Park Road to Mormon Emigrant Trail Road, then to North-South Road and Meiss Road.

The principle forest cover types found in the project area are Sierra Nevada Mixed Conifer and Ponderosa/Jeffrey pine. The major species mixed in this forest cover type are white fir, Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, Jeffrey pine, sugar pine, lodgepole pine, incense cedar, quaking aspen, and oaks. The understory is dominated by dense, shade tolerant white fir and incense cedar samplings and small trees. The average age of the natural stands within the project area is generally around 130 years, if the dense understory (which is between 30 and 80 years of age) is not considered. Scattered across the project area are many trees that exceed 300 years of age.

Historically, at the lowest elevations or higher up on the drier south and west aspects and ridges within the proposed project, fires were generally frequent, ranging from fire return intervals of 5 to 15 years, with individual sites sometimes burning two years in succession. With this type of fire frequency, the fire intensity and severity were most likely low because of lack of time to accumulate very much fuel between fires. Fire suppression, starting in the early 1900s has changed these historic fire intervals, resulting in a change in species composition, structure and density.

Current vegetation conditions in the Raintree project area differ markedly from the historic condition and most of the current stands exceed the historical range of variability in terms of ecosystem structure and process. Multiple decades of fire exclusion, grazing by domestic livestock, and logging have altered fire intensity of wildfires from their historical range. The dense forest conditions within the project area make the area prone to the risk of a stand-replacing catastrophic wildfire.

Unhealthy conditions are indicated by increased densities of trees, higher levels of insect-related tree mortality, and an accumulation of ground and ladder fuels within stands in the project area. Dense, closed canopied forests tend to favor shade tolerant white fir and incense-cedar, and to exclude shade intolerant ponderosa pine, oak, and sugar pine. The shade tolerant species generally are more susceptible to mortality from fire and form dense understory thickets, which act as fuel ladders to the larger overstory trees. Thus the structure of the current forested landscape represents an unstable, unsustainable departure from the historic landscape for this area.

The El Dorado County Resource Conservation District acted as Lead Agency under CEQA in January 2012 and prepared an Initial Study and adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration. The USDA Forest Service Placerville Ranger District for Eldorado National Forest acted as Lead Agency under NEPA in March 2011 and prepared an Environmental Assessment and adopted a Finding of No Significant

Impact (FONSI) in December 2011. As detailed in the Forest Service FONSI and Decision Notice the project includes detailed design criteria concerning cultural resources protection, vegetation and harvest practices, fuels management and prescribed burns in accordance with El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) requirements, wildlife protection, best management practices to protect soil resources, and protection measures for aquatic features and riparian conservation areas.

The IS/MND identified potentially significant impacts and provided mitigation measures to reduce these impacts to less than significant levels. The mitigation measures identified in the IS/MND would apply to the proposed Raintree Forest Health Project and are identified in the Mitigation Monitoring Table on the following pages.

1.4 MITIGATION MONITORING TABLE

The Mitigation Monitoring Table identifies the mitigation measures proposed for the Raintree Forest Health Project. These mitigation measures are reproduced from the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Raintree Forest Health Project, and conditions of approval for the project. The table has the following columns:

Mitigation Measure/Summary: Lists the mitigation measures identified within the IS/MND for a specific impact, along with the number for each measure enumerated in the IS/MND.

Implementation Phase: Identifies at what point in time, review process, or phase the mitigation measures will be completed.

Monitoring Phase: Identifies at what point in time, review process, or phase the mitigation measures will be monitored.

Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party: References the El Dorado County Resource Conservation District or any other public agency with which coordination is required to satisfy the identified mitigation measure.

Verification of Compliance: Spaces to be initialed and dated by the individual designated to verify adherence to a specific mitigation measure.

1.5 NONCOMPLIANCE COMPLAINTS

Any person or agency may file a complaint asserting noncompliance with the mitigation measures associated with the proposed project. The complaint shall be directed to the El Dorado County Resource Conservation District in written form, providing specific information on the asserted violation. The El Dorado County Resource Conservation District shall conduct an investigation and determine the validity of the complaint. If noncompliance with a mitigation measure has occurred, the El Dorado County Resource Conservation District shall take appropriate action to remedy any violation. The complainant shall receive written confirmation indicating the results of the investigation or the final action corresponding to the particular noncompliance issue.

TABLE 1-1: RAINTREE FOREST HEALTH PROJECT

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
AESTHETICS							
MM-1	Trees that are to be removed within the visible foreground (approximately 100 feet from roadway edge) of Meiss and North-South system roads will have a maximum stump height of six inches. Large landing biomass piles within the foreground of Meiss and North-South Roads will be burned or removed within two years of project completion.	During construction	During construction	El Dorado County Resource Conservation District, USDA Forest Service, and Project Manager			

TABLE 1-1: RAINTREE FOREST HEALTH PROJECT

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES							
MM-2	California spotted owl: Maintain a limited operating period (LOP), prohibiting vegetation treatments within approximately ¼ mile of the activity center during the breeding season (March 1 through August 31), unless surveys confirm that California spotted owls are not nesting. Prior to implementing activities within or adjacent to a California spotted owl protected activity center (PAC) and the location of the nest site or PAC is uncertain, conduct surveys to establish or confirm the location of the nest or PAC.	Prior to project initiation / during construction	Pre- construction and construction	El Dorado County Resource Conservation District, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, USDA Forest Service, and Project Manager			
MM-3	Northern goshawk: Maintain a limited operating period (LOP), prohibiting vegetation treatments within approximately ¼ mile of the nest site during the breeding season (February 15 through September 15) unless surveys confirm that northern goshawks are not nesting. If the nest stand within a protected activity center (PAC) is unknown, either apply the LOP to a ¼ mile area surrounding the PAC, or survey to determine the nest stand location.	Prior to project initiation / during construction	Pre- construction and construction	El Dorado County Resource Conservation District, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, USDA Forest Service, and Project Manager			
MM-4	Water holes in the vicinity of the project will be inspected annually by a fisheries biologist for existing aquatic species and aquatic dependent species before water withdrawal for dust abatement. A Forest Service approved screen covered drafting box, or other device to create a low entry velocity (Riparian Conservation Objective [RCO] #4, SNFPA ROD).	Prior to project initiation / during construction	Pre- construction and construction	El Dorado County Resource Conservation District, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, USDA Forest Service, and Project Manager			
MM-5	Aquatic veined lichen (Peltigera hydrothyria), occurs within the proposed project area (streams NS-4 and NS-10). To maintain current stream shading overstory canopy within 100 feet of the occurrence will not be altered by project activities. Project botanist will be consulted prior to initiation of road maintenance within 100 feet of drainages with aquatic veined lichen. Should any new threatened or endangered species be located during the proposed project, available steps will be taken to evaluate and mitigate effects.	Prior to project initiation / during construction	Pre- construction and construction	El Dorado County Resource Conservation District, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, USDA Forest Service, and Project Manager			

TABLE 1-1: RAINTREE FOREST HEALTH PROJECT

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
CULTURAL RESOURCES							
MM-6	<p>Cultural resources sites within the project area boundary will be protected from ground disturbance associated with mechanical and hand treatments during all phases of implementation activities of this project. No mechanical equipment will be allowed to operate within the boundaries of an identified cultural site. Where it is necessary to remove trees from within site boundaries, the District Archaeologist will be consulted to mitigate impacts. All thinning of trees adjacent to site boundaries will be directionally felled away from the site. The sites in units or near road maintenance/reconstruction will be identified with flagging and avoided during project activities. Sites that are flammable will be avoided during prescribed understory burning and fire line construction activities. Construction of fire lines will occur outside of the cultural resource site boundaries. Gaps created will avoid cultural resource site locations. All machine and hand piles will be placed away from sites at a distance such that site features will not be affected by flames and heat. Hazard tree removal on or in the vicinity of cultural resource sites will be coordinated with the District Archaeologist and will follow the guidelines for hazard tree removal included in the Programmatic Agreement among the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, California State Historic Preservation Officer, and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Officer Regarding the Identification, Evaluation and Treatment of Historic Properties Managed by the National Forest of the Sierra Nevada, California dated 1996 (SPA).</p>	Prior to project initiation / during construction	Pre- construction and construction	<p>El Dorado County Resource Conservation District, Native American Heritage Commission, USDA Forest Service, and Project Manager</p>			
MM-7	<p>Should any previously unrecorded cultural resources be encountered during implementation of the proposed project, all work shall immediately cease in that area and the District Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may resume subsequent to approval by the District Archaeologist and implementation of additional protection measures as necessary. Should any cultural resources become damaged in unanticipated ways by activities proposed in this project, the steps described in the SPA for inadvertent effects would be followed.</p>	Prior to project initiation / during construction	Pre- construction and construction	<p>El Dorado County Resource Conservation District, Native American Heritage Commission, USDA Forest Service, and Project Manager</p>			

TABLE 1-1: RAIN TREE FOREST HEALTH PROJECT

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
GEOLOGY AND SOILS							
MM-8	Best management practices (BMPs) will be applied to project activities. Specifically BMPs identified by the USDA Forest Service as BMPs: 1-3, 1-5, 1-6, 1-9, 1-10, 1-11, 1-12, 1-13, 1-14, 1-15, 1-16, 1-17, 1-18, 1-20, 1-22, 1-25, 5-2, 5-3, 5-5, 5-6, 7-1, and 7-3.	During construction	During construction	El Dorado County Resource Conservation District, USDA Forest Service, and Project Manager			