

## Rim Fire Grant Allocation Guidance

The Governing Board of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has authorized up to \$1 million to be granted for projects that contribute to the restoration of the area affected by the Rim Fire. Grants awarded under this authorization shall be guided by the following provisions:

1. Eligible entities shall be those identified in the statute that governs the SNC. (See Public Resources Code, section 33343.)
2. All projects must meet the requirements of Proposition 84, including showing that the purpose of “protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water and other natural resources” is met.
3. All projects must be consistent with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Act, Public Resources Code section 33301 et seq., including addressing at least one of the objectives describe in Section 33320 of the Public Resources Code.
4. All projects must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), or be determined to be exempt from CEQA.
5. Projects awarded funds will meet the criteria of having high benefit, be well designed and have a high likelihood of successful implementation.
6. Up to 10 percent of the funds available may be used for activities necessary for successful implementation of on-the-ground projects (examples: CEQA analysis, biological surveys, etc.).
7. The Executive Officer (EO) is authorized to award grant funds for the projects where timely award is necessary for project success. For purposes of these funds only, the previous delegation limit of \$50,000 and the exclusion of “land improvement” projects (July 26, 2007) do not apply. The EO will consult with a committee of Governing Board members in the awarding of any grant. The EO will report to the full Governing Board on any actions taken between Governing Board meetings.
8. The EO is authorized to act on behalf of the SNC in determining whether projects are exempt from CEQA. The Governing Board reserves the authority to review, certify and adopt findings regarding negative declarations and Environmental Impact Reports.
9. SNC staff will coordinate with the United States Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Yosemite-Stanislaus Solutions Collaborative group, Tuolumne County and other stakeholders, as appropriate, in considering projects to recommend for grant funding.
10. Specific grant awards will be authorized at regularly scheduled Governing Board meetings, except as provided for in item # 7 above.

11. Staff will consider the maximization of local community benefits a priority in considering projects for grant funding.
12. A grant agreement including all legal requirements for receipt of grant funds will be required for all projects authorized by the SNC to receive grant funding.