

**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: THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

Project Title: SIERRA CREST WORKING FOREST CONSERVATION
EASEMENT PHASE III

Subregion: NORTH CENTRAL

County: SIERRA

SNC Funding: \$540,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$3,500,000.00

Application Number: 368

Final Score: 92.6

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will protect 2,720 acres of lands under a conservation easement in the Middle Yuba, Middle Fork Feather and Little Truckee River headwaters in Sierra County. This is the third and final phase of a larger conservation project on approximately 7,000 acres of lands surrounded by the Tahoe National Forest. Proposition 84 goals would be met through the preservation of working forest land, increased recreational access and habitat linkages across the "checkerboard" land ownership. SNC will fund a portion of the total project cost.

A.P.N.: 14-090-04, 19N14E-15, -17, -21, -23, -31

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Acquisition and placement of Conservation Easement	July 31, 2011
Final Report	September 30, 2011
Copies of recorded Acquisition documents	September 30, 2011
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT	September 30, 2011

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Fees and Acquisition Costs	\$540,000.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$540,000.00

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Truckee Donner Land Trust
- Northern Sierra Partnership
- Tahoe National Forest
- Truckee Tails Foundation
- Sierra County Planning Department
- Sierra Pacific Industries

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.

- Tons of Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided
- Acres of Land Conserved
- Number of new, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities

PROJECT SUMMARY

SUMMARY

County: Sierra

Applicant: The Trust for Public Land

Project Title: Sierra Crest Working Forest Conservation Easement Phase III

PROJECT GOAL

This project will permanently protect 2,720 acres located in the Middle Yuba, Middle Fork Feather, and Little Truckee River headwaters in Sierra County. The project represents the third and final phase of a multi-phased land conservation initiative in the Tahoe National Forest that, when complete, will preserve forest cover, recreational access, and habitat linkages on approximately 7,085 acres of checkerboard lands – lands that would otherwise be threatened with residential land-use conversion.

The project addresses the SNC program goal of aiding in the preservation of working landscapes. The project area covers 2,720 acres of alpine forestlands owned by Sierra Pacific Industries. The placement of conservation easements will keep these lands as productive working forests, thus contributing to the economic sustainability of northern Sierra communities, including employment in the Quincy Mills and Loyalton Biomass Plant. The consolidation of land management that will result from this project will facilitate improved management of adjoining Sierra forestlands for wildfire and invasive species prevention. Other benefits include buffering a heavily visited roadless area and Proposed Wilderness Area, securing wildlife migration critical to climate change adaptation, and permanently protecting access for fishing, hiking, and other forms of recreation.

The protection of Sierra Crest Phase III parcels contributes to the goals of Proposition 84. The parcels straddle the Pacific Crest of the Sierra Nevada on and around the historic Henness Pass and include lands in the Middle Fork Feather, Middle Yuba, and Little Truckee River headwaters. The conservation easements will protect the wildlife habitat, recreational access, and water quality of these important watershed areas.

PROJECT SCOPE

This project represents the third and final phase of the Sierra Crest Conservation Easement Project that has already placed conservation easements with a total value of \$8.25 million over 4,365 acres. This \$540,000 grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy will be applied directly to the acquisition cost of this third phase of conservation easements (Sierra Crest III). Using the Performance Measure C11 (Acres of Land Conserved), easements will be placed over 2,720 acres of Sierra Pacific Industries alpine forestlands. Outcomes of this project include the preservation of these lands as productive working forests, the promotion of habitat connectivity and ecological integrity within the northern Sierra Nevada region, and improved management of ecological resources on private and public lands.

The estimated value of the easements to be purchased in this third and final phase of

the Sierra Crest Conservation Easement Project is \$3.5 million. Matching funds toward the easement acquisition have been requested from the Northern Sierra Partnership (NSP) and the Forest Conservation Program of the California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). The Truckee Donner Land Trust, the primary partner in this project, will hold all of the conservation easements for permanent stewardship and monitoring. Sierra Pacific Industries will continue to own the land in fee and manage the properties sustainably as productive timberland, subject to the terms of the easements held by the Truckee Donner Land Trust.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

This application includes letters of support from the Truckee Donner Land Trust, the U.S. Forest Service Tahoe National Forest, the Northern Sierra Partnership, the Sierra County Department of Planning and Building Inspection, the Truckee River Watershed Council, and the Truckee Trails Foundation.

SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Site Appraisals	To be completed Sept. 2010
Option Agreement with Willing Seller	To be completed Oct. 2010
Matching Grant requests	Completed July 2010
Project Deliverable: TPL to place conservation easements over 2,720 acres of SPI alpine forest lands to complete the final phase of the Sierra Crest Conservation Easement Project	July 2011 pending timely availability of funds
Submission of Final Report	September 2011, or approximately 2 months after close of escrow

SNC PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Conservation Easement Acquisition	\$540,000.00
SNC GRANT TOTAL	\$540,000.00