

Attachment to Agenda Item # II. a.

KEY ISSUES

Based on our work in the Sierra Nevada Region, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has identified a number of key issues that are affecting the potential success in achieving the objectives of the Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative (SNFCI) and the Leadership Intent for Ecological Restoration. By working at the ground/project level, as well as at the policy level, there are opportunities to address these issues in a manner that will benefit the goals and objectives guiding the SNFCI Council.

Impediments	Example of Opportunity to address impediments
Lack of Funding	Engage downstream beneficiaries to determine how best to encourage investment; use CFLR investments as opportunity to leverage funds;
Forest Service (and other federal agencies) process and contracting challenges	More effective use of tools such as Stewardship Contracts and/or long-term Master Stewardship Agreements
Conflict in addressing wildlife protection strategies in forest projects	Integration of species' needs through collaborative processes, Fisher Conservation Plan and Spotted Owl strategies
Lack of infrastructure to process woody biomass; cost of transporting woody biomass materials	Site appropriately scaled biomass utilization facilities (energy and value-added products) where feasible
NEPA can be a long and expensive process	Identify opportunities to streamline and improve NEPA process where broad consensus on needed actions exists
Fire suppression and restoration costs competing with forest treatment and fire prevention budgets	Avoided cost analysis to account for these post-fire costs and develop incentives for multiple beneficiaries to contribute to forest treatment
Triple bottom line – giving equal value and consideration to environmental, economic and social issues	Forest collaborative groups with diverse representation work to integrate the 3 principles into the mission and projects
Mixed land ownership	Large landscape approach, collaborative efforts
A sound and widely used adaptive management system	Coordination among scientists and implementers to integrate the use of science into project design