

## Appendix B - Full Application Checklist

SNC Reference#: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Name: Sugar Loaf Mountain Fuels Reduction Project

Applicant: Sierra Streams Institute

Please mark each box: check if item is included in the application; mark "N/A" if not applicable to the project. "N/A" identifications must be explained in the application. Please consult with SNC staff prior to submission if you have any questions about the applicability to your project of any items on the checklist. All applications must include a CD including an electronic file of each checklist item, if applicable. The naming convention for each electronic file is listed after each item on the checklist. (Electronic File Name = EFN: "naming convention". file extension choices)

Submission requirements for all Category One and Category Two Grant Applications

1.  Completed Application Checklist (EFN: Checklist.doc,.docx,.or .pdf)
2.  Table of Contents (EFN: TOC.doc,.docx, or .pdf)
3.  Full Application Project Information Form (EFN: SIform.doc, .docx, or .pdf)
4.  CCC/Local Conservation Corps Document (EFN: CCC.pdf)
5.  Authorization to Apply or Resolution (EFN: authorization.doc, .docx, or .pdf)
6.  Narrative Descriptions (EFN: Narrative.doc or .docx)
  - a.  Detailed Project Description (5,000 character maximum for section 5a only)
    - Project Description including Goals/Results, Scope of Work, Location, Purpose, etc.
  - b.  Workplan and Schedule
  - c.  Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements
    - Restrictions / Agreements (EFN: RestAgree.pdf)
    - Regulatory Requirements / Permits (EFN: RegPermit.pdf)
  - d.  Organizational Capacity
  - e.  Cooperation and Community Support
    - Letters of Support (EFN: LOS.pdf)
  - f.  Tribal Support Narrative (EFN: tribal.doc, docx)
  - g.  Long Term Management and Sustainability
    - Long-Term Management Plan (EFN: LTMP.pdf)
  - h.  Performance Measures
7. Budget documents
  - a.  Detailed Budget Form (EFN: Budget.xls, .xlsx)
8. Supplementary Documents
  - a. Environmental Documentation
    - California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation (EFN: CEQA.pdf)
    - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation (EFN: NEPA.pdf)
  - b. Maps and Photos
    - Project Location Map (EFN: LocMap.pdf)
    - Parcel Map showing County Assessor's Parcel Number(s) (EFN: ParcelMap.pdf)

- Topographic Map (EFN: *Topo.pdf*)
- Photos of the Project Site (10 maximum) (EFN: *Photo.jpg, .gif*)
- c. Additional submission requirements for Fee Title Acquisition applications only
  - Acquisition Schedule (EFN: *acqSched.doc, .docx or .pdf*)
  - Willing Seller Letter (EFN: *WillSell.pdf*)
  - Real Estate Appraisal (EFN: *Appraisal.pdf*)
- d. Additional submission requirements for Site Improvement / Restoration Project applications only
  - Land Tenure Documents (EFN: *Tenure.pdf*)
  - Site Plan (EFN: *SitePlan.pdf*)
  - Leases or Agreements (EFN: *LeaseAgmnt.pdf*)

I certify that the information contained in the Application, including required attachments, is accurate, and that I have been authorized to apply for this grant.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed (Authorized Representative)

September 1, 2015  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Joanne Hild, Executive Director  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Title (print or type)

## 2. Table of Contents

1.	Completed Checklist	----	1
2.	Table of Contents	----	3
3.	Full Project Information Form	----	4
4.	CA Conservation Corps/Local Conservation Corps	----	6
5.	Board Authorization to Apply	----	9
6.	Narrative Description	----	10
7.	Detailed Budget Form	----	16
8.	Letters of Support		
	City of Nevada City	----	17
	Fire Safe Council of Nevada County	----	18a
	Friends of Sugar Loaf	----	18b
9.	Long Term Management Plan	----	19
10.	CEQA Documentation		
	CEQA Compliance Form	----	28
	CEQA Compliance Response Text	----	30
	NOE	----	32
	CHRIS Information Center Search	----	34
	Biological Survey	----	36
11.	Project Location Map	----	47
12.	Parcel Map	----	48
13.	Topographical Map	----	49
14.	Photos	----	50
15.	Land Tenure Documents		
	City of Nevada City Support Letter	----	57
16.	Site Plan	----	58

<b>SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY</b>	
<b>PROPOSITION 1 – Watershed Improvement Program Project Information Form</b>	
<b>SNC REFERENCE #</b>	
<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	
<b>APPLICANT NAME</b> ( <i>Legal name, address, and zip code</i> )	
<b>AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUEST</b>	
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b> ( <i>County with approx. lat/long, center of project area</i> )	
<b>SENATE DISTRICT NUMBER</b>	<b>ASSEMBLY DISTRICT NUMBER</b>
<b>PERSON WITH MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANT CONTRACT</b>	
<i>Name and title</i>	<i>Phone</i>
	<i>Email Address</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.	
<b>TRIBAL CONTACT(S) INFORMATION</b>	
<i>Name:</i>	<i>Phone Number:</i>
<i>Email address:</i>	
<b>COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR PLANNING DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION</b>	
<i>Name:</i>	<i>Phone Number:</i>
<i>Email address:</i>	
<b>NEAREST PUBLIC WATER AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION</b>	
<i>Name:</i>	<i>Phone Number:</i>
<i>Email address:</i>	

**Please identify the appropriate project category below and provide the associated details** *(Choose One)*

Category One Site Improvement

Category Two Pre-Project Activities

Category One Acquisition

**Site Improvement/ Acquisition Project Area**

Project Area:

Total Acres:

SNC Portion (if different):

**Acquisition Projects Only For Acquisitions Only**

Appraisal Included

**Select one primary Pre-Project deliverable**

Permit

CEQA/NEPA Compliance

Appraisal

Condition Assessment

Biological Survey

Environmental Site Assessment

Plan



Jane Sellen &lt;jane@sierrastreamsinstitute.org&gt;

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**RE: CCC application for Sugar Loaf Mountain Fuel Reduction Project**

1 message

Prop 1@CCC &lt;Prop1@ccc.ca.gov&gt;

Mon, Aug 24, 2015 at 8:36 AM

To: Jane Sellen &lt;jane@sierrastreamsinstitute.org&gt;, inquiry &lt;inquiry@prop1communitycorps.org&gt;, "Prop 1@CCC" &lt;Prop1@ccc.ca.gov&gt;

Cc: "Hsieh, Wei@CCC" &lt;Wei.Hsieh@ccc.ca.gov&gt;, "Monroe, Carie@CCC" &lt;Carie.Monroe@ccc.ca.gov&gt;, "Thornhill, Rod@CCC" &lt;Rod.Thornhill@ccc.ca.gov&gt;

Hi Jane,

Carie Monroe, the Conservation Supervisor at our CCC Placer location has responded to the partnership for your project: Sugar Loaf Mountain Fuel Reduction Project. CCC can participate in fuels management, invasive species removal, and revegetation. Please include this email and the Consultation Review Document below with your application as proof that you reached out to the CCC. Feel free to contact Carie Monroe [Carie.Monroe@ccc.ca.gov](mailto:Carie.Monroe@ccc.ca.gov) directly if your project receives funding.

Thank you,



Wei Hsieh, Manager

Programs &amp; Operations Division

California Conservation Corps

1719 24<sup>th</sup> Street

Sacramento, CA 95816

[\(916\) 341-3154](tel:(916)341-3154)[Wei.Hsieh@ccc.ca.gov](mailto:Wei.Hsieh@ccc.ca.gov)

California Conservation Corps

Proposition 1 - Water Bond

## Consultation Review Document



Applicant has submitted the required information by email to the California Conservation Corps (CCC):

✓ Yes (applicant has submitted all necessary information to CCC)

After consulting with the project applicant, the CCC has determined the following:

✓ It is feasible for the CCC to be used on the project and the following aspects of the project can be accomplished (deemed compliant).

- CCC can participate in fuels management, invasive species removal, and revegetation.

APPLICANT WILL INCLUDE THIS DOCUMENT AS PART OF THE PROJECT APPLICATION.

From: Jane Sellen [mailto:[jane@sierrastreamsinstitute.org](mailto:jane@sierrastreamsinstitute.org)]  
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2015 3:30 PM  
To: inquiry; Prop 1@CCC  
Subject: CCC application for Sugar Loaf Mountain Fuel Reduction Project

Attached are the application materials for our proposal to Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Sugar Loaf Mountain Fuel Reduction Project. Please let me know if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

Jane Sellen

—

Jane Sellen

8/24/2015

Sierra Streams Institute Mail - RE: CCC application for Sugar Loaf Mountain Fuel Reduction Project

Sierra Streams Institute

431 Uren Street Suite C

Nevada City, CA 95959

(530265-6090 x202



Jane Sellen &lt;jane@sierrastreamsinstitute.org&gt;

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**Re: CCC application for Sugar Loaf Mountain Fuel Reduction Project**

1 message

Prop1 Community Corps &lt;inquiry@prop1communitycorps.org&gt;

Mon, Aug 24, 2015 at 10:49 AM

To: Jane Sellen &lt;jane@sierrastreamsinstitute.org&gt;

Cc: prop1 &lt;Prop1@ccc.ca.gov&gt;

Hello Jane,

Baldeo of the Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps has responded that they are able to assist with the Sugar Loaf Mountain Fuel Reduction project if the city receives funding. Please include this email with your application as proof that you reached out to the Local Conservation Corps.

Additionally, please feel free to contact Baldeo Singh ([bsingh@saccorps.org](mailto:bsingh@saccorps.org)) directly if your project receives funding.

Thank you,

Dominique

California Association of Local Conservation Corps

Proposition 1 – Water Bond

Consultation Review Document

Applicant has submitted the required information by email to the Local Conservation Corps (CALCC):

✓Yes (applicant has submitted all necessary information to CALCC)

After consulting with the project applicant, the CALCC has determined the following:

✓It is feasible for CALCC to be used on the project (deemed compliant)

**APPLICANT WILL INCLUDE THIS DOCUMENT AS PART OF THE PROJECT APPLICATION.**

On Fri, Aug 21, 2015 at 3:29 PM, Jane Sellen <[jane@sierrastreamsinstitute.org](mailto:jane@sierrastreamsinstitute.org)> wrote:

Attached are the application materials for our proposal to Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Sugar Loaf Mountain Fuel Reduction Project. Please let me know if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

Jane Sellen

--

Jane Sellen  
Sierra Streams Institute  
431 Uren Street Suite C  
Nevada City, CA 95959  
(530)265-6090 x202



**Resolution Approving the Application for Grant Funds for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Program Proposition 1 Grants Program under the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014**

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided Funds for the program shown above; and

WHEREAS, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of a portion of these funds through a local assistance grants program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy require a resolution certifying the approval of an application by the Applicant's governing board before submission of said application to the SNC; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the SNC to carry out the project; and

WHEREAS, Sierra Streams Institute has identified the Sugar Loaf Mountain Fuel Reduction Project as valuable towards meeting its mission and goals.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of Sierra Streams Institute that this Board:

1. Approves the submittal of an application for the Sugar Loaf Mountain Fuel Reduction Project; and
2. Certifies that Applicant understands the assurances and certification requirements in the application; and
3. Certifies that Applicant or title holder will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the resource(s) consistent with the long-term benefits described in support of the application; or will secure the resources to do so; and
4. Certifies that Applicant will comply with all legal requirements as determined during the application process; and
5. Appoints the Executive Director, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to: applications, agreements, payment requests, and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by Sierra Streams Institute at a special meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2015 by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

Attested by:

*Nancy L. Fleming*

Nancy L. Fleming  
President, Board of Directors

## **6. Narrative Description**

### **a. Detailed Project Description**

The Sugar Loaf Mountain Fuel Reduction Project is an effort to implement forest health and fire risk reduction measures on Sugar Loaf Mountain in Nevada City. The City of Nevada City purchased the iconic mountain, which looms over historic downtown Nevada City, in a much-celebrated and long sought deal fostered by the City and local residents in January 2011, using Proposition 40 funding. The property is now open to the public for hiking, picnicking, or just admiring the remarkable view of downtown Nevada City from the mountain's tabletop.

The proposal is for brush and ladder-fuels reduction on 31 acres, almost the entirety of Sugar Loaf Mountain. The project site is a high priority for fuels reduction work because of its location. Within 1 mile of the site are the historic buildings of Nevada City whose entire downtown is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; the headquarters of Tahoe National Forest; and the Nevada County Government Center. Because Sugar Loaf towers over these facilities, an uncontrolled wildfire would rain fire brands on these buildings, with a high potential for partial or total loss of County infrastructure and irreplaceable historic buildings.

The intent is to create defensible space through a "light on the land" fuels reduction project in a manner that protects native plant ecology as well as views of the site from historic Nevada City. The program will employ selective thinning strategies, entirely by hand crews. Very few trees of 7 - 12" in diameter will be removed, and no trees over 12" in diameter will be removed over 12" unless they are dead or diseased, consistent with the City's Tree Cutting Ordinance and in order to preserve views. Rather, the emphasis will be on thinning the extensive manzanita stands which will protect the mature trees on site. Some revegetation work is expected to be needed, though not in vast areas, because native plants and trees are well represented on the site and will repopulate readily. The goal of revegetation will be erosion control as well as increasing plant diversity. The work will rely largely on experienced hired professional crews to ensure the timely completion of the project. Volunteers will also be trained for follow up work over the grant period and beyond to help ensure success of the project.

The proposal is offered by a partnership comprising Sierra Streams Institute (SSI), Friends of Sugar Loaf, and the City of Nevada City (owners of the project land). SSI will be the fiduciary agent and provide financial oversight and technical assistance, and will lead the revegetation and erosion control tasks; Friends of Sugar Loaf will report to the City, provide project management, direct the on-site work of hired crews and volunteers, and manage the volunteer program.

The site is an open space jewel, just steps from an urban center. It is characterized by dense manzanita, oak, and pine forest (Montane Hardwood-Conifer association). Thick manzanita and hardwoods cover the south facing slope with suppressed conifers established in the understory. Large areas dominated by manzanita shrub cover are also located on the interior of the south slope. The north slope is a mixture of overstory conifers and hardwoods, with an understory of low shrubs including Himalayan blackberry. Invasive Scotch broom has taken hold of the edges of the summit area. Clearing of the Scotch broom has begun, and the center of the summit is a cleared, flat area.

The overall goal of the proposed vegetation management activities is to develop a healthy forest and to reduce forest fuel loads, thereby reducing the risk of catastrophic fire, and subsequent erosion and sedimentation. The result will be improvement in the health and diversity of the forest habitat. Planting native vegetation that mimics the healthy forest conditions of the past, before current fire suppression efforts altered the ecosystem, will ensure the increased diversity of plant and animal communities.

The project goals align with the purposes of Proposition 1 and the SNC Strategic Plan as a fuel treatment project aimed at reducing wildfire risk and promoting watershed health. Maintaining a fire safe and healthy forest on Sugar Loaf will prevent potential water quality impacts to nearby Deer Creek by ensuring that post fire erosion and resulting sedimentation and nutrient additions to Deer Creek are avoided. The slopes of Sugar Loaf drain into two intermittent streams which flow into Deer Creek, a major tributary of the Yuba River.

The project also aligns with the three broad objectives of the California Water Action Plan, particularly the restoration of important species and habitat, and a more resilient, sustainably managed water resources system (water quality and environment) that can better withstand inevitable and unforeseen pressures in the coming decades. Finally, the project meets the objectives of the SNC Watershed Improvement Program in restoring and protecting the health of forests, soils, streams, and meadows, and improving habitat.

## **b. Work Plan and Schedule**

The project is an effort to implement the *Sugar Loaf Mountain Hazardous Fuels Reduction Plan* which was prepared for Friends of Sugarloaf in January 2012 by Kevin Whitlock, RPF. The plan outlines the scope of work, Best Management Practices, and long term management plan for fuels reduction at the site. Prior to fuel reduction work, we will delineate special vegetation groupings to be retained for visual reasons, mark any small trees or large diseased trees to be removed, and undergo City tree preservation ordinance review. The work plan will accomplish the fuel reduction tasks described in the Project Description largely via use of one 8-10 person professional paid crew. This initial work is expected to be accomplished in approximately one to two months during the fall and

early winter of 2016 when temperatures are cool, no nesting birds are present, and the rainy season has not begun. Further specialized hand work, revegetation and erosion control work will continue through the winter and early spring. The on-site work will be overseen by the project manager and implemented by a professional fuel reduction crew both selected by Friends of Sugar Loaf, with the assistance as needed of Sierra Streams Institute staff and City staff. Sierra Streams will be responsible for revegetation and erosion control tasks.

Sierra Streams will specifically provide oversight of the daily project work in the areas of habitat protection, vegetation protection, erosion control, runoff monitoring, debris removal monitoring, and long term progress monitoring and future recommendations.

Follow up work will be an important part of the work program. This will be conducted at two additional times over the 3 year period by the hired crew and incrementally throughout the 3 years by Friends of Sugar Loaf and Sierra Streams Institute volunteers. Sierra Streams will provide oversight and management of the follow up work. We will purchase hand tools including weed wrenches and erosion control materials to be used by volunteers in the longer term future as we maintain Sugar Loaf.

Outreach will be conducted throughout the 3 year period and will consist of contact with volunteers, press announcements before the beginning of the overall project, and before each volunteer day. A report to the City Council will be given annually during the 3 year period, including at the beginning and end of the project and at the two professional follow up interval work periods. Literature on the extent and importance of the work will be prepared to be placed near signage at Sugar Loaf for visitor education.

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Start Date	May 1, 2016
Outreach – City Council update	August 30, 2016
Hired crew fuel reduction site work and clean up	September 1 – October 30, 2016
Outreach - Literature placement	October 1, 2016
Six month progress report and City Council update	November 30, 2016

Follow up site work and outreach - City Council updates	October 30, 2016 to April 1, 2020
Six month progress reports	November 30 and May 31 annually
Performance Measure report and City Council final report	Feb 28, 2020
Final billing and closeout of project to SNC	April 30, 2020

**c. Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements**

**Restrictions/Agreements.**

None are present on the property. The City of Nevada City owns the property; a letter is included which allows SSI and Friends of Sugarloaf and our contractors access to the site.

**Regulatory Requirements/Permits.**

None required.

**CEQA Compliance.**

A Categorical Exemption was granted and processed by the City of Nevada City and is included in the Appendix. A plant and animal list was completed in August 2015. However, we are asking SNC to also file its own new NOE. We have included the Information Center Search and background discussion of site biological resources and related performance criteria which will be met by the project, along with the CEQA Compliance Form.

**d. Organizational Capacity**

**SSI** is a non-profit watershed science organization, founded in 1995 as Friends of Deer Creek to monitor Deer Creek on behalf of Nevada City during the construction of a road bridge over the creek. Since our founding, we have collected 15 years of monthly water quality monitoring data and have implemented numerous projects that address the issues affecting the creek, successfully working within time and budget constraints. We have successfully completed several restoration efforts throughout the watershed, including revegetation work and gravel augmentation. Long term success of our restoration work has been proven by analysis of our macroinvertebrate dataset.

SSI staff includes an ecologist, two biologists, geologist, hydrologist and chemist, all with considerable expertise in project management. Among SSI's board members and

volunteers are a microbiologist, hydrogeologist, former agency head at the State Water Quality Control Board, and the former manager of Nevada City's wastewater treatment plant.

SSI has considerable experience with successful implementation of a total of seven SNC-funded projects since 2007. The proposed project will be led by Sierra Streams' restoration ecologist Ori Chafe, who was responsible for developing the previously SNC-funded Hirschman's Pond Land Management Plan. Ms. Chafe also leads the SNC-funded Lower Deer Creek Revegetation Project. Both projects are on track to be completed within budget and timeline constraints. Ms. Chafe is highly experienced at meeting all progress and financial reporting requirements. Additional support will be provided by Sierra Streams' wildlife biologist and GIS expert, with overall supervision by executive director/biologist Joanne Hild.

The project team will be assisted by a crew from the California Conservation Corps. Emails of commitment are attached.

**Friends of Sugar Loaf** will select and provide oversight of experienced fuel reduction work crews and a project manager, assist with public outreach, and provide site volunteers as needed during follow up years. Ori Chafe with Sierra Streams will assist with project oversight.

#### **e. Cooperation and Community Support**

Sierra Streams Institute has the support and assistance of the City of Nevada City (the landowner) and Friends of Sugar Loaf on this project. All three entities will be involved in the actual grant work. Letters of support from Nevada City and Friends of Sugar Loaf are attached.

Acquisition of Sugar Loaf as city open space was the result of a 6 year period of vision, community involvement, and City Council and staff action. Protection of Sugar Loaf has been included in the City's General Plan since 1985. This project will build on these successes.

#### **f. Tribal Support Narrative**

The Nisenan Tribe of the Nevada City Rancheria has partnered with Sierra Streams extensively on a variety of restoration and cultural outreach projects in the Deer Creek watershed. SSI consulted with the tribe and conducted a site visit prior to the development of the proposal to learn about the site's cultural and ecological significance to the tribe. Tribal members conducted an informal survey of the presence of culturally significant plant species, and noted that the site, known as Koo' Lăŭ, was significant to the tribe as a lookout and signaling point, and as a retreat for quiet meditation. For this project, the tribe will have input on the selection of a cultural resource surveyor and

participate in the implementation of the plan, removing non-native vegetation and replanting with native vegetation.

Contact information: Nisenan Tribal Secretary Shelly Covert (530)570-0846, shelly@nevadacityrancheria.org

### **g. Long-term Management and Sustainability**

Sugar Loaf is under the ownership of the City of Nevada City which takes the stewardship of its land seriously, with dedicated staffing and other resources. The City owns and manages over 270 acres of wildlands within the City limits. Sierra Streams Institute has a longstanding volunteer program which successfully completes vegetation management and restoration projects as well as extensive watershed monitoring and assessment. Together with Friends of Sugarloaf, which has supported activities related to Sugar Loaf for more than 11 years, these two groups have a commitment to assist the City in fuel management that fosters biodiversity on Sugar Loaf for ten years after project completion and beyond.

### **h. Performance Measures**

We will report on the following Performance Measures:

1. Number of people reached.

We will report on the number of volunteers involved, pieces of outreach literature distributed, and attendance at all update meetings with the City Council, as well as any press received.

2. Dollar value of resources leveraged for the Sierra Nevada.

We will report on the value of volunteer hours expended as well as the value of other in-kind contributions.

3. Number and type of jobs created.

We will report on how many jobs were created by the project including staff time, city time, and hired work crew time. Jobs will be categorized as full time or part time and temporary or long term.

4. Number and value of new, improved or preserved economic activities.

We will report on any new, improved or preserved activities resulting from the project which may include expanded functions or programs at Sierra Streams Institute or the City of Nevada City, or Friends of Sugar Loaf.

5. Number of significant sites protected or preserved.

We will report on the extent to which this historic site is preserved.

6. Acres of land improved or restored.



# City of Nevada City

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August 27, 2015

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

**RE: Proposition 1 Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program**

Dear Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Team,

This letter is being written in regards to the Proposition 1 Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Grant Program. The City of Nevada City owns the property known as Sugarloaf Mountain, located in Nevada City, CA. The property was purchased by the City in January 2011. In the City's General Plan adopted in 1985, Sugarloaf was designated as property that the City would like to acquire and maintain as open space for the scenic backdrop it provides to the City, as well as the potential for hiking trails and other low impact recreational activities. One of the first goals that the City identified upon acquisition of the property was fire clearing.

The City allows groups such as Friends of Sugarloaf, Sierra Streams Institute, and the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County, access to these properties for the purposes of doing fire clearing and removal of invasive non-native vegetation. In cooperation with our partners, the City has made great strides in removing highly flammable materials from this property. There is much more work to be done and the City embraces opportunities and partnerships that enable that work to be completed.

Regards,

Mark T. Prestwich  
City Manager

# *Friends of Sugar Loaf*

*310 Nevada St.*

*Nevada City, CA 95959*

August 26, 2015

Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Dr. #205  
Auburn, CA 95603

To Whom It May Concern:

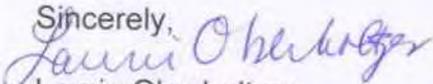
Please accept our organization's full support of the Sugar Loaf Fuel Reduction Program grant application.

Friends of Sugar Loaf represents a large volunteer force who have been working in support of the acquisition and quality management of Sugar Loaf for 8 years. Acquiring funds to help reduce the potential for damaging fire on our mountain will be an important next step.

We are looking forward to helping Sierra Streams Institute and the City on the fuel reduction site work and its supervision.

Thank you for your consideration and all that your agency does.

Sincerely,



Laurie Oberholtzer  
Coordinator



**Fire Safe Council of Nevada County**  
**P.O. Box 1112**  
**Grass Valley, CA 95945**  
**Phone (530) 272-1122**  
**Fax (530) 272-3232**  
**[www.areyoufiresafe.com](http://www.areyoufiresafe.com)**

January 19, 2012

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

**Subject:** Letter of Support for Sierra Streams Institute Sugarloaf Mountain Fuel Reduction Project application for Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program

To Whom It May Concern:

The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County (FSCNC) is pleased to provide our support the grant proposal developed Sierra Streams Institute for the Sugarloaf Mountain Fuel Reduction Project proposal. The project will complete the planning and permitting for a fuels reduction project targeting Sugarloaf Mountain, lying in close proximity to historic downtown Nevada City.

The Deer Creek canyon in the Nevada City area was identified as the highest priority for fuels reduction treatments in the Nevada County Community Wildfire Protection Plan due to community development in the wildland urban interface. The FSCNC has been working with community group sponsors to remove Scotch broom as part of our *Scotch Broom Challenge* program from this site for the past two years. Other volunteer efforts to masticate decadent vegetative material from past road construction have made great progress in addressing the hazardous fuels, but more work is needed. The recent purchase of the iconic mountain by the city of Nevada City for recreational use has brought an increase in human traffic to the mountain and with it an increased fire ignition risk. The city of Nevada City is formally listed as a Community at Risk to catastrophic wildfire on the national register.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joanne Drummond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then loops back under the name.

Joanne Drummond  
Executive Director

# Sugar Loaf Mountain

## Hazardous Fuels Reduction Plan

Kevin Whitlock, MBA, RPF 2436

Under the Trees – Forestry & Environmental Service

Prepared for Friends of Sugar Loaf, January 2012, revisions to oSL sections August, 2015

### Fuel Treatment Prescription

The recommended forest management activities specific to the Sugar Loaf Mountain property are based on an ecological approach which retains biological legacies, retains and promotes species diversity on the landscape, improves existing fuel breaks and prescribes vegetation management of “thinning from below”.

The recommended actions include: 1) implementing thinning from below using hand crews to remove vegetation adjacent to the designated evacuation route within 50 feet of the road surface, while maintaining the aesthetics value of the site. 2) Prune residual stems to remove ladder fuels. 3) Throughout the property, conduct fuel treatments in the isolated pockets of fuel loading to release existing suppressed trees. 4) Conduct follow up treatments every two to five years.

The overall goal of the proposed vegetation management activities is to develop a healthy forest through the reduction of forest fuel loads, thereby reducing the risk of catastrophic fire, and subsequent erosion and sedimentation.

Thinning from below fuels management is the treatment of plants and litter to reduce the frequency, rate of spread, and size of Wildland fire. Vegetation management is a proactive approach to reducing wildfires and their intensities as opposed to the reactive approach of fire management. A realistic objective for fuels management is to reduce a fire’s rate of spread and other undesirable fire behavior. Vegetation treatments include removing heavy accumulations of surface fuels, thinning trees and brush to break up the horizontal continuity; pruning lower limbs to remove ladder fuels; and pulling invasive species.

The project area is located within the Nevada City Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), recognized as a community at risk of catastrophic wildfire. The site conditions are extreme, in the overstory, thick Manzanita and hardwoods cover the south facing aspect with suppressed conifers established in the understory. The north aspect is a mixture of overstory conifers and hardwoods, with an understory of low lying shrubs. These conditions are typical of a Montane Hardwood Conifer (MHC) land cover. The MHC is composed of a pronounced hardwood tree layer, with an infrequent and poorly developed shrub stratum, and a sparse herbaceous layer with scattered conifers in small patches or individuals. Common associates in the MHC are

ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, incense cedar, California black oak, Live oak, bigleaf maple, dogwood, and Pacific madrone. Chaparral species such as Ceanothus and Manzanita form a shrubby understory, and compose a part of the upper canopy in areas dominated by shrubby species.

Vegetation or fuel is the **only** element that can be manipulated to change fire behavior. Successful vegetation management treatments to reduce fire intensity and rate of spread, requires efforts be spent on decreasing the volume of fuel and increasing the separation or arrangement of the fuel.

The goal of fuels treatment is to raise the canopy base height, thereby improving the stand's resistance to initiation of passive or active crown fire, reduce basal area or stand density, thereby increasing the average stand diameter which improves stand resiliency to disturbances such as drought, insects, diseases, and fire; and enhance stand heterogeneity without a significant increase in fuel bed depth.

Ground and ladder fuel maintain heat transfer into the crowns which allows active crown fire to move with the help of the prevailing wind. By removing the ground and ladder fuel, the heat transfer does not occur which often leads to the fire dropping out of the crown allowing suppression activities to commence.

The fuel bed depth or ground fuels need to be modified, providing a mosaic pattern, with little continuity. In this situation, a ground fire will "creep" around, generally providing a low intensity burn, and minimal tree mortality.

The treatment areas were chosen based on the primary concern of fire from both internal and external threats. The internal threats are specific to the proposed day use area, and any area where the public has access through the property. These areas are specific to the east side of property along Coyote Street, and the internal access road.

The external threat, where the potential for external ignition is considered **Moderate to High**, includes North Bloomfield Road, Coyote Street, Highway 20, and an area to the south of the property, approximately 150 feet east of the intersection of Highway 49 and North Bloomfield Road, an intermittent watercourse that will act like a chimney, rapidly moving fire upslope.

Where homes or other improvements are present at lower densities, appropriate fire prevention strategies include enforcement of compliance with fire safe regulations and appropriate building codes. These strategies reduce the probability of fire propagating across the interface between structures and surrounding vegetation.

In more densely populated interface areas, successful protection hinges primarily on appropriate pre fire strategy, which focuses on building code compliance, improvements (e.g.

non wood roofs, water supply), and fire safety regulation enforcement (e.g. road access, and vegetation clearance).

### *Fuel Load*

The fuel load is considered high with an average 15 to 20 tons per acre.

## **Treatment Guidelines**

### **Thinning from Below / Understory Fuels**

This practice is to reduce the potential of damage from wildfire, pests and moisture stress; restore natural plant communities; achieve a desired understory plant community; improve aesthetics and open space values; improve wildlife habitat; and to achieve a desired level of shrub density.

**Objective:** To reduce fuels and improve growth by increasing growing space for selected residual trees.

**Method:** Thinning from below can be done with a masticator, or by hand crews using chainsaws. Mastication can be used on slopes up to 35% where there are heavy fuels. Any steeper slopes should be treated by using chainsaws and hand crews.

Hand clearing using crews with chainsaws, loppers, and pole saws. The hand crew material will be cut and stacked for chipping. Chipping will take place along the roadway with the chipped material being broadcast back into the project area.

**Standards:** Vegetation of 1 6 inches dbh (diameter at breast height) should be spaced no greater than 15 20 feet, trees 7 12 inches dbh should be spaced no greater than 20 25 feet. Thinning from below should include the removal of any diseased, damaged, and/or insect infested tree larger than 12 inches dbh, while retaining trees that are healthy, vigorous, and of the best phenotypic quality available in the pre treatment stand. If any trees over 6 inches dbh are targeted for removal they will be tagged (flagged or marked) for review by City staff.

Vegetation surrounding healthy trees should be removed. Spot treatment around individual or small groups of trees throughout the property should be a minimum of three times the height of surrounding vegetation. Tree cutting will be consistent with the Nevada City Tree Ordinance.

### **Pruning**

Pruning is the practice of removing the lower branches from the tree. Pruning will reduce fire damage to the tree crown by removing the lower branches (fuel ladder). Pruning also improves

the quality of trees for wood products and improves the appearance of the stand. Pruning should be done during tree dormancy, which is September through March.

**Objective:** The primary objective of this treatment is to increase the distance from any surface fuels to the live crown of trees. This will reduce the likelihood that a surface fire will extend into the live crown of trees.

**Method:** Pruning should be accomplished by hand cutting limbs flush with the branch collar, without damaging the cambium. Retain and prune sound, healthy trees exhibiting good growth and a straight trunk.

**Standards:** Prune trees to a minimum of 10 feet above ground or ½ of the live crown ratio, whichever is less.

Only trees that are vigorous, sound, and well formed should be pruned. Not more than 50% of the live limbs should be removed; otherwise, the tree's growth could be reduced.

#### Follow Up / Slash Disposal

Slash is the woody debris (residue) of cut trees, pruning, and brush left after thinning treatments.

The options for slash disposal include mastication, piling and burning, and/or chipping the material for transportation to a co generation plant or spreading on site. Resulting material from mastication and, or chipping can be left on site to provide ground cover but should not be more than four (4) inches in depth. The objective of the treatment is to treat the resulting slash to reduce the potential fire hazard and reduce the threat of insect attack/spread.

To effectively reduce the fuel hazard, the slash disposal options noted above should be employed in 90% or more of the work area.

Follow up treatments should be scheduled every two to five years depending on vegetation growth.

#### Aesthetics

Maintaining an aesthetic appearance of the property is important to the landowner. Vegetation management activities recommended in this plan will change the appearance of the forest, making it more open, but should still keep a pleasing appearance.

Much of the opposition to vegetation management activities is due to the changed physical appearance of the area. The following Best Management Practices (BMPs) are suggested to minimize the adverse visual effects of vegetation management activities.

#### Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- Reduce damage to residual trees.
- Cut all broken trees, leaners (trees tipped or dislodged during a thinning operation), and badly scarred trees except where they are being *retained* for a specific purpose (biological legacy) and consistent with the Nevada City Tree Ordinance. Vegetation to be *retained* should be identified by flagging prior to treatment.
- Clean up all refuse (man made debris).
- To reduce erosion from fuel treatment, bare mineral soil in excess of 800 square feet should be covered with chip or re seeded using weed free native grasses wherever possible.
- Leave visual buffers in isolated pockets along or adjacent to traveled roads.

## **Additional Performance Criteria and Measures**

SSI and Friends of Sugar Loaf will carry out the following performance criteria and measures in addition to the Best Management Practices and Standards spelled out by Kevin Whitlock earlier in this report. Some of these measures are more stringent than the range recommended in some instances by Mr. Whitlock, and will take precedence.

### **Work Season**

Performance criteria: Avoid fire, erosion, and bird nesting periods.

Hand fuel reduction activities will be conducted from September to March only in order to avoid fire hazard from removal activities and to avoid bird nesting season.

All fuel reduction activities shall be timed with awareness of precipitation forecasts and likely increases in runoff. Fuel reduction activities may proceed only after sufficient erosion control measures are in place. Revegetation, restoration and erosion control work is not confined to dry periods.

Hand fuel reduction only, no mechanical mastication. Note that the Proposed Fuel Treatment Map includes a potential 5 acre mastication area in the southern portion of the property; this is no longer proposed for mastication but will receive hand crew treatment.

### **Erosion Control**

Performance criteria: Erosion control measures will take place surrounding or within all work areas as needed to ensure that no soil erosion over existing conditions will result from the project.

#### **Erosion control mechanisms**

Final erosion control plans are to be prepared prior to work start and adjusted as needed as work proceeds. The plans shall include the following:

In addition to covering with chips or a maximum depth of 2 inches re seeding using weed free native grasses as already specified by the professional forester, newly eroded soil areas of 800 square feet or greater shall be protected from erosion by other methods, or a combination of other methods. These include but are not limited to placement of mechanical barriers and the installation of retention features at the foot of hillside work areas.

Follow up should occur at years 2, 3, and 4.

### **Slash Disposal**

Slash disposal shall be conducted to avoid topsoil removal and residual impacts on and around the chipping zone.

Brush dragging paths will be distributed across the site to reduce topsoil removal and brush dragging tracks will be revegetated or chip covered.

If central site mechanical chipping site needed will be located on city property as close as possible to a road or where access arrangements can be made with a private property owner on existing cleared areas or areas to be cleared as part of the project. Smaller chipping sites will be located on road turnouts on the City owned side of Coyote Street or on Sugar Loaf Rd.

No burning of slash will be allowed.

### **Water Quality**

Performance criteria: Site runoff quantity and quality shall not exceed current conditions.

SSI will monitor runoff from the site as well as the sediment content of receiving features to ensure that erosion impacts are not occurring and remedial measures will be taken as indicated.

### **Biotic Resources/ Protection of Sensitive Plant and Animal Species**

Performance criteria: Sensitive habitat and identified sensitive plant and animal species shall be avoided and protected.

#### **Final biotic surveys**

The potential for sensitive plant and animal species to occur on the site is relatively low. A biological survey assessment of the general area has been conducted. Only three species were identified with moderate potential for occurring on the site (Brandegees' clarkia, moderate likelihood; Butte County fritillary, low to moderate likelihood; coast orned lizard, moderate likelihood). Final on site surveys for these sensitive plant and animal species will be conducted in spring, 2016 before work begins to identify avoidance areas and any other necessary

protective measures. Surveys will also be conducted for the Unlikely and Low Likelihood plant and animal species at the same time.

Since work will be conducted largely in September and October; nesting birds of non sensitive species are not expected to be affected by the project.

### **Revegetation**

Performance criteria: Ability of the cleared areas to regrow in low growing native grasses and plants historically predominant on the site should be the goal.

The need for and desirability of revegetation of specific species in identified areas beyond the native grass reseeding recommended by Kevin Whitlock will be examined and implemented by SSI as may be agreed as work proceeds.

### **Cultural Resources**

Performance criteria: Historic and cultural resources will be avoided.

The CHRIS search discovered one recorded pre historic period cultural resource and nine historic period recorded resources within ¼ mile of the site. It concludes that there is moderate potential for additional prehistoric and historic resources to be located within ¼ mile of the site. As a result, we will retain an archaeologist approved by the local Nisenan Tribal Council to fully survey the site before work begins and follow avoidance advice on prehistoric or historic features which may be given.

Relative to cultural resources, the region including the site is part of the Nisenan ethnographic period settlement. The Nisenan group of the Nevada City Rancheria is active in the community. They have toured the site with SSI. According to Shelly Covert, secretary of the Nevada City Rancheria Tribal Council, Sugar Loaf mountain was used as a lookout and signal point for the tribe as well as a place for contemplation. Oral history notes that the top of the mountain was once more rounded than flat as it is today and that there was a battle with the Camptonville Nisenan group at one time on the mountain. Its original name was Koo' Lăü.

Relative to historic resources, the 31 acre site is part of the original 400 acre plus Manzanita Diggings mining claim. The Manzanita Diggings and Coyote Diggings and gold extraction related activities appear to have all occurred off site between what is now Coyote Rd. and Highway 20. On site, the historic Cooper Toll Rd. and an early water conveyance ditch appear to have passed through and are the only known historic features on the 31 acre site per the Wycoff study. We will avoid these sites. Early accounts note that the mountain was logged many times after Gold Rush era settlement. The 31 acre mountain has no historic accounts of buildings or post Gold Rush era habitation and has served as a

prominent visual backdrop to the City since its inception. (Wycoff, *Sugar Loaf- Nevada City's Promontory and the Adjoining Manzanita Diggings*, 004.)

### **Aesthetics**

Performance criteria: It is important to achieve a non uniform, natural appearance to the work particularly as viewed from Nevada City and adjacent roads and properties.

#### **Specimen tree/ vegetation tagging**

As specified in the Whitlock report, tag all specimen trees, shrubs, or vegetation groupings in proposed work areas which should not be removed or which should receive special protective treatment during the work for aesthetic or biological reasons.

#### **Tree retention**

The site is not heavily forested and its slopes are predominately manzanita covered. Trees over 12" in diameter will not be removed unless dead, diseased, insect infested, or hazardous. There are few small trees on the property, most are over 12" in diameter. Trees 7" to 12" in diameter may be removed only if critical to thin stands to reduce fuel ladder by ensuring that they are no closer than 20 to 25 feet from the larger trees. None of these 7" to 12" trees will be removed in important visual groupings, some of which are distinctive landscape groupings, unless needed to ensure the health of the larger trees. Rather, emphasis will be placed on reducing the understory of trees and limb pruning. Any tree cutting of dead, diseased, insect infested, or hazardous trees or trees of 7" to 12" in diameter will be reviewed by the City Planning Commission in a public hearing per its Tree Cutting Ordinance and recommendations will be followed.

The project involves only minor thinning of the stand, as a result, there is no requirement for a Timber Harvest Plan Harvest Plan.

#### **Light on the Land Approach**

The fuel treatment plan focuses on hand crew treatment near the perimeter Coyote Rd and the old existing trail which runs parallel to Coyote Rd., along the dirt trail/road to the top of the mountain, and on the south and southwest perimeter of the site adjacent to developed properties. These are the site evacuation routes and areas where fire might most likely start. The center and northern area of the site will receive spot treatment by hand crews. This approach is required to limit visual impacts on the most highly visible slopes.

### **Long-Term Management Plan and Sustainability** (prepared by SSI and Friends of Sugar Loaf)

Sugar Loaf is under the ownership of the City of Nevada City which takes the stewardship of its land seriously. The City owns and manages over 270 acres of wildlands within City limits. Sierra Streams Institute as an operating volunteer program which successfully completes vegetation management and restoration projects as well as stream monitoring annually. Together with the Friends of Sugarloaf, which has supported activities related to Sugar Loaf for 11 years, these two groups have a commitment to assist the City in fuel management and fostering biodiversity on Sugar Loaf for ten years after project completion and beyond.

Two follow up work sessions by the hired professional fuel reduction crew will take place under the grant program in 2017 and 2019. The longer term management plan after project completion in 2019 will entail yearly Fall and Winter volunteer crew follow up to maintain a reduced fuel state and make any further recommendations to the City.

**SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY  
SNC Watershed Improvement Program - DETAILED BUDGET FORM**

**Project Name: Sugar Loaf Mountain Fuel Reduction Project**

**Applicant: Sierra Streams Institute**

<b>SECTION ONE DIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>Year One</b>	<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Year Five</b>	<b>Total</b>
Fuel reduction work	\$76,500.00	\$9,000.00	\$0.00	\$9,000.00	\$0.00	\$94,500.00
Project supplies	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
California Conservation Corps	\$6,757.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,757.20
City of Nevada City Administration	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00		\$2,000.00
Registered Professional Forester	\$1,000.00					\$1,000.00
Project management (SSI)	\$3,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00		\$6,000.00
<b>DIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:</b>	<b>\$91,757.20</b>	<b>\$10,500.00</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>	<b>\$10,500.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$114,257.20</b>

<b>SECTION TWO PARTIAL INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>Year One</b>	<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Year Five</b>	<b>Total</b>
Monitoring	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00		\$8,000.00
Publications, Printing, Public Relations	\$4,000.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00		\$5,000.00
Reporting, Perf Measures, Invoice Billings	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00		\$7,500.00
						\$0.00
<b>INDIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:</b>	<b>\$7,500.00</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>	<b>\$3,500.00</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$20,500.00</b>
<b>PROJECT TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$99,257.20</b>	<b>\$14,500.00</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>	<b>\$13,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$134,757.20</b>

<b>SECTION THREE</b>						<b>Total</b>
<b>Administrative Costs (Costs may not exceed 15% of the above listed Project costs) :</b>						
*Organization operating/overhead costs	\$14,888.58	\$2,175.00	\$750.00	\$1,950.00		\$19,763.58
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$14,888.58</b>	<b>\$2,175.00</b>	<b>\$750.00</b>	<b>\$1,950.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$19,763.58</b>
<b>SNC TOTAL GRANT REQUEST:</b>	<b>\$114,145.78</b>	<b>\$16,675.00</b>	<b>\$5,750.00</b>	<b>\$14,950.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$154,520.78</b>

<b>SECTION FOUR</b>	<b>Year One</b>	<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Year Five</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>OTHER PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS</b>						
<i>List other funding or in-kind contributors to project (i.e. Sierra Business Council, Department of Water Resources, etc.)</i>						
SSI volunteers	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00		\$7,200.00
AmeriCorps	\$2,425.00	\$2,425.00	\$2,425.00	\$2,425.00		\$9,700.00
Friends of Sugar Loaf	\$3,800.00	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00		\$10,800.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
<b>Total Other Contributions:</b>	<b>\$8,025.00</b>	<b>\$6,225.00</b>	<b>\$7,225.00</b>	<b>\$6,225.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$27,700.00</b>

**NOTE:** The categories listed on this form are examples and may or may not be an expense related to the project. Rows may be added or deleted on the form as needed. Applicants should contact the SNC if questions arise.



## Appendix F - CEQA/NEPA Compliance Form

(California Environmental Quality Act & National Environmental Policy Act)

*Instructions: All applicants must complete the CEQA compliance section. Check the box that describes the CEQA status of the proposed project. You must also complete the documentation component and submit any surveys, and/or reports that support the checked CEQA status.*

*If NEPA is applicable to your project, you must complete the NEPA section in addition to the CEQA section. Check the box that describes the NEPA status of the proposed project. Submit any surveys, and/or reports that support the NEPA status. For both CEQA and NEPA, submittal of permits is only necessary if they contain conditions providing information regarding potential environmental impacts.*

*NOTE: Effective July 1, 2015, AB52 compliance is required.*

### **CEQA STATUS**

#### **(All applicants must complete this section)**

*Check the box that corresponds with the CEQA compliance for your project. The proposed action is either Categorical Exempt from CEQA, requires a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or an Environmental Impact Report per CEQA.*

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#### **Categorical Exemption or Statutory Exemption**

*If a project is exempt from CEQA, all applicants, including public agencies that provide a filed Notice of Exemption, are required to provide a clear and comprehensive description of the physical attributes of the project site, including potential and known special-status species and habitat, in order for the SNC to make a determination that the project is exempt. A particular project that ordinarily would fall under a specific category of exemption may require further CEQA review due to individual circumstances, i.e., it is within a sensitive location, has a cumulative impact, has a significant effect on the environment, is within a scenic highway, impacts an historical resource, or is on a hazardous waste site. Potential cultural/archaeological resources must be noted, but do not need to be specifically listed or mapped at the time of application submittal. Backup data informing the exemption decision, such as biological surveys, Cultural Information Center requests, research papers, etc. should accompany the full application. Applicants anticipating the SNC to file an exemption should conduct the appropriate surveys and submit an information request to an office of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS).*

1. Describe how your project complies with the requirements for claiming a Categorical or Statutory Exemption per CEQA:

2. If your organization is a state or local governmental agency, submit a signed, approved Notice of Exemption (NOE) documenting the use of the Categorical Exemption or Statutory Exemption, along with any permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this CEQA status. The Notice of Exemption must bear a date stamp to show that it has been filed with the State Clearinghouse and/or County Clerk, as required by CEQA.
3. If your organization is a nonprofit, there is no other California public agency having discretionary authority over your project, and you would like the SNC to prepare a NOE for your project, let us know that and list any permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support the CEQA status. All supplementary documentation must be provided to the SNC before the NOE can be prepared.

- 
- Negative Declaration OR**  
 **Mitigated Negative Declaration**

*If a project requires a Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration, then applicants must work with a qualified public agency, i.e., one that has discretionary authority over project approval or permitting, to complete the CEQA process.*

1. Describe how your project complies with the requirements for the use of a Negative Declaration or a Mitigated Negative Declaration per CEQA:

2. Submit the approved Initial Study and Negative Declaration/Mitigated Negative Declaration along with any Mitigation Monitoring or Reporting Plans, permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this CEQA status. The IS/ND/MND must be accompanied by a signed, approved Notice of Determination, which must bear a date stamp to show that it has been filed with the State Clearinghouse and/or County Clerk, as required by CEQA.

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**Environmental Impact Report**

*If a project requires an Environmental Impact Report, then applicants must work with a qualified public agency, i.e., one that has discretionary authority over project approval or permitting, to complete the CEQA process.*

1. Describe how your project complies with the requirements for the use of an Environmental Impact Report per CEQA:

2. Submit the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Report along with any Mitigation Monitoring or Reporting Plans, permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this CEQA status. The EIR documentation must be accompanied by a signed, approved Notice of Determination, which must bear a date stamp to show that it has been filed with the State Clearinghouse and/or County Clerk, as required by CEQA.
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## **NEPA STATUS**

*Check the box that corresponds with the NEPA compliance for your project.*

**Categorical Exclusion**

Submit the signed, approved Decision Memo and Categorical Exclusion, as well as documentation to support the Categorical Exclusion, including any permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this NEPA status.

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**Environmental Assessment & Finding of No Significant Impact**

Submit the signed, approved Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact along with any permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this NEPA status.

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**Environmental Impact Statement**

Submit the Draft and approved, Final Environmental Impact Statement, along with the Record of Decision and any permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this NEPA status.

POSTED IN THE COUNTY  
CLERK'S OFFICE FROM  
TO DEPUTY

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

**TO:**  
County Clerk, County of Nevada  
Rood Administrative Center  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959

**FROM:**  
City of Nevada City  
City Hall  
317 Broad Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

2011-071  
GJP  
09-18-11

2011 NOV 29 PM 3:18

GREGORY JIAZ  
CLERK RECORDER

**PROJECT TITLE:** Sugarloaf Fuel Reduction Grant with partnership comprising of Sierra Streams Institute, Friends of Sugar Loaf, the City of Nevada City (owners of the project land) and the Nevada County Firesafe Council

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Sugarloaf Mountain, North Bloomfield Road, Nevada City

**PROJECT LOCATION—SPECIFIC** Sugarloaf Mountain, containing 31 acres, is adjacent to downtown Nevada City, with access off of North Bloomfield Road, off of State Highway, Nevada County, California.

**NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT:** The proposal is an effort to complete a brush and ladder-fuels reduction project on the 31 acres at Sugar Loaf Mountain. The proposal is offered by a partnership comprising Sierra Streams Institute (SSI), Friends of Sugar Loaf, the City of Nevada City (owners of the project land), and the Nevada County Firesafe Council. Sierra Streams Institute will be the fiduciary agent and provide financial oversight and technical assistance; Friends of Sugar Loaf will report to the City, provide project management, direct the actual on site work of hired crews and volunteers, and manage the volunteer program.

The mountain was purchased by the City to preserve as open space for local residents, and the city intends to improve the existing trail, do fire clearing work, and review other recreational opportunities. Fuels reduction work on Sugar Loaf was added to the Nevada County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2011.

**NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT:** City of Nevada City

**NAME OF AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT:** City of Nevada City

**CATEGORICAL EXEMPT STATUS:** The project will qualify for a Categorical Exemption, CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3) (ministerial projects) and 15310(h)(i) (maintenance of native plants and habitat).

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** There will be no impact on the environment as the project involves maintenance of native plants and habitat and provides fuel reduction.

**LEAD AGENCY CONTACT PERSON:** William J. Falconi, City Engineer  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** (530) 265-2496

**SIGNATURE:**  **DATE:** 29 Nov 2011 **TITLE:** City Engineer



State of California—The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
**2011 ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT**

RECEIPT# 29000040
STATE CLEARING HOUSE # (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

LEAD AGENCY City of Nevada City	DATE 11/29/2011
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING Nevada County Recorder	DOCUMENT NUMBER 2011071

PROJECT TITLE  
 Sugarloaf Fuel Reduction Grant with ptshp comprising of Sierra Streams Inst. Friend of Sugar Loaf, City of Nevada City (owners of the project land), and the Nevada Co Firesafe Council

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME City of Nevada City	PHONE NUMBER
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 314 Broad Street	CITY Nevada City
	STATE CA
	ZIP CODE 95959

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box):

Local Public Agency    
  School District    
  Other Special District    
  State Agency    
  Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$2,839.25	\$	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Negative Declaration (ND)(MND)	\$2,044.00	\$	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Application Fee Water Diversion (State Water Resources Control Board Only)	\$850.00	\$	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Projects Subject to Certified Regulatory Programs (CRP)	\$965.50	\$	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> County Administrative Fee	\$50.00	\$	\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project that is exempt from fees			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Exemption			
<input type="checkbox"/> DFG No Effect Determination (Form Attached)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		\$	_____

PAYMENT METHOD:

Cash    
  Credit    
  Check    
  Other \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$0.00

SIGNATURE X <i>Christine Peters</i>	TITLE Deputy Clerk-Recorder
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8/27/2015

NCIC File No.: NEV-15-33

Laurie Oberholtzer  
Friends of Sugarloaf  
310 Nevada Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

Records Search Results for  
36-020-26

Laurie Oberholtzer:

Per your request received by our office on 8/24/2015, a complete records search was conducted by searching California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) maps for cultural resource site records and survey reports in Nevada County within a 1/4-mile radius of the proposed project area. Review of this information indicates that the search area contains one (1) recorded prehistoric-period cultural resources and none (9) historic-period cultural resources. Additionally, twelve (12) cultural resources study reports on file at this office cover a portion the search area.

In this part of Nevada County, archaeologists locate prehistoric-period habitation sites adjacent to streams or on ridges or knolls, especially those with southern exposure (Moratto 1984:290). This region is known as the ethnographic-period territory of the Nisenan, also called the Southern Maidu. The Nisenan maintained permanent settlements along major rivers in the Sacramento Valley and foothills; they also periodically traveled to higher elevations to hunt or gather plants (Wilson and Towne 1978:387-389). The proposed project search area is situated in the Sierra Nevada foothills about one-half mile north of Deer Creek. Given the extent of known cultural resources and the environmental setting, there is moderate potential for locating prehistoric-period cultural resources in the vicinity of the proposed project area.

Within the search area, the 1867 GLO plat of T16N, R9E shows evidence of nineteenth-century ditches, roads, and mining activity. The 1950 Nevada City 7.5' USGS topographical map shows evidence of twentieth-century paved roads, unpaved roads, and buildings. Given the extent of known cultural resources and the patterns of local land use, there is moderate potential for locating historic-period cultural resources in the vicinity of the proposed project area.

**LITERATURE REFERENCED DURING SEARCH:**

In addition to the official records and maps for sites and studies in Nevada County, the following inventories and references were also reviewed: National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historic Resources - Listed properties (2010); California Inventory of Historic Resources (1976); California State Historical Landmarks (1996 and updates); California Points of Historical Interest (1992 and updates); Office of Historic Preservation Directory of Properties Inventory (2012); Determinations of Eligibility (2012); Caltrans State and Local Bridge Surveys (2009); Gold Districts of

California (Clark 1970); California Gold Camps (Gudde 1975); California Place Names (Gudde 1969); Historic Spots in California (Hoover et al. 1966 [1990]); Trail of the First Wagons Over the Sierra Nevada (Graydon 1986); California Archaeology (Moratto 1984); and the Smithsonian Institution's Handbook of North American Indians, Volume 8, California (Levy 1978:398-402).

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1) There is moderate potential for identifying prehistoric-period cultural resources and moderate potential for identifying historic-period cultural resources in the vicinity of the proposed project area. Further archival and/or field study by a cultural resources professional is recommended. A list of some qualified local consultants can be reviewed at the following web address: [<http://chrisinfo.org>].
- 2) Review for possible historic-period cultural resources has included only those sources listed in the referenced literature and should not be considered comprehensive. The Office of Historic Preservation has determined that buildings, structures, and objects 45 years or older may be of historical value. If the area of potential effect contains such properties not noted in our research, they should be assessed by an architectural historian before commencement of project activities.
- 3) If cultural resources are encountered during the project, avoid altering the materials and their context until a cultural resources professional has evaluated the project area. Project personnel should not collect cultural resources.

**Prehistoric-period resources include** chert or obsidian flakes, projectile points, and other flaked-stone artifacts; mortars, grinding slicks, pestles, and other groundstone tools; and dark friable soil containing shell and bone dietary debris, heat-affected rock, or human burials.

**Historic-period resources include** stone or adobe foundations or walls; structures and remains with square nails; mine shafts, tailings, or ditches/flumes; and refuse deposits or bottle dumps, often located in old wells or privies.

- 4) Identified cultural resources should be recorded on DPR 523 (A-J) historic resource recordation forms, available at the following web address: [[http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=1069](http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1069)].

Thank you for using our services. Please contact our office at (916) 278-6217 if you have any questions about this record search. A billing statement and invoice is enclosed.

Sincerely,



Nathan Hallam, Coordinator  
North Central Information Center

Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation are available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area. Additionally, Native American tribes have historical resource information not in the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) Inventory, and you should contact the California Native American Heritage Commission for information on local/regional tribal contacts.

The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) contracts with the California Historical Resources Information System's (CHRIS) regional Information Centers (ICs) to maintain information in the CHRIS inventory and make it available to local, state, and federal agencies, cultural resource professionals, Native American tribes, researchers, and the public. Recommendations made by IC coordinators or their staff regarding the interpretation and application of this information are advisory only. Such recommendations do not necessarily represent the evaluation or opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer in carrying out the OHP's regulatory authority under federal and state law.

## Biological Survey Assessment

**Table 1a.** Special-Status plant species identified during 9 quad search of California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) surrounding Sugarloaf Healthy Forest Project site, Nevada City, CA.

Species	Legal Status Federal/ State CNPS List	Habitats	Occurrence in Nevada County	Potential for Occurrence in the Project Site	Survey and timing* <sup>1</sup>
<p><b>Stebbins' morning-glory</b> <i>Calystegia stebbinsii</i></p>	<p>E/E CNPS 1B.1</p>	<p><b>General habitat:</b> Chaparral; 607-2,394 feet elevation. <b>Microhabitat:</b> Soils of the Pine Hill gabbro formation (Eldorado Co), Rescue soil series gabbros (Nevada Co.), sometimes on serpentine.</p>	<p>Known in Nevada County from only a few occurrences in McCourtney Road-Wolf Mtn-Deadman's Flat area chaparral, including disturbed area behind landfill</p>	<p><b>Unlikely;</b> no suitable habitat present due to absence of gabbro and serpentine soils.</p>	<p>Botanical surveys. Flowering period: April-July</p>
<p><b>Brandegee's clarkia</b> <i>Clarkia biloba</i> subsp. <i>brandegeae</i></p>	<p>--/-- CNPS 1B.2</p>	<p><b>General habitat:</b> Chaparral, woodland, often on roadcuts; 968-2,804 feet. <b>Microhabitat:</b> Often on colluvium of road cuts where soils are uncompacted, light is abundant, and there is less competition from shrubs and trees.</p>	<p>Many documented occurrences in woodland openings and road cuts at South Yuba, Middle Yuba corridors near Hwy 49, Indian Flat, Bear River near Hwy 49, Rollins Lake area, Edwards Xing, Purdon Rd, Cement Hill, Dog Bar and Mt Olive Roads, to Lake of the Pines and Alta Sierra. Historic collection near Rock Creek-McCourtney bridge</p>	<p><b>Moderate;</b> suitable habitat may be present on grassy or lightly wooded slopes; however, much of project area is too densely vegetated.</p>	<p>Botanical surveys. Flowering period: May-July</p>
<p><b>Norris' beard-moss</b> <i>Didymodon norrisii</i></p>	<p>--/-- CNPS 2.2</p>	<p><b>General habitat:</b> Cismontane woodland, lower montane conifer forest; 1,312-5,576 feet. <b>Microhabitat:</b> Intermittently mesic rock outcrops, generally open sunny sites such as volcanic fields, also fields, cliffs and runoff areas.</p>	<p>Known in Nevada County from a single collection 3 mi west of Nevada City on Hwy 49 in an ephemeral drainage in open foothill woodland</p>	<p><b>Unlikely;</b> no suitable habitat present due to absence of mesic rock outcrops and ephemeral drainages.</p>	<p>Botanical surveys. Flowering period: May; capsules not needed for field ID.</p>

<p><b>Ahart's Buckwheat</b> <i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i> var. <i>ahartii</i></p>	<p>--/-- CNPS 1B.2</p>	<p><b>General habitat:</b> Chaparral, cismontane woodland; 1,312-6,562 feet. <b>Microhabitat:</b> Serpentine slopes and openings.</p>	<p>Not known in Nevada County. Known from occurrences in Butte, Plumas, and Yuba Counties.</p>	<p><b>Unlikely;</b> no suitable habitat present due to absence of serpentine soils.</p>	<p>Botanical surveys. Flowering period: June-September</p>
<p><b>Pine Hill Flannelbush</b> <i>Fremontodendron decumbens</i></p>	<p>E/R CNPS 1B.2</p>	<p><b>General habitat:</b> Chaparral, cismontane woodlands, and rocky ridges; 1,394-2,493 feet. <b>Microhabitat:</b> Gabbro and serpentine endemic; local occurrences on Secca soil series, gabbro soils and on Dubakella series serpentines.</p>	<p>Known from fewer than 10 occurrences in Pine Hill area of El Dorado County and two in Nevada County</p>	<p><b>Unlikely;</b> no suitable habitat present due to absence of gabbro and serpentine soils.</p>	<p>Botanical surveys. Flowering period: April-July</p>
<p><b>Butte County fritillary</b> <i>Fritillaria eastwoodiae</i></p>	<p>-/ CNPS 3.2</p>	<p><b>General habitat:</b> Chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower coniferous forest; 161-3,300 feet. <b>Microhabitat:</b> Dry slopes, occasionally moist, generally filtered light. Throughout its range, occurs on a wide variety of soil types and depths.</p>	<p>Four documented occurrences in Washington Ridge and North Bloomfield areas. New, large population recently found on Cement Hill</p>	<p><b>Low to moderate;</b> suitable habitat present on lightly wooded slopes in montane hardwood or conifer forest.</p>	<p>Botanical surveys. Flowering period: March-May</p>
<p><b>Sanborn's Onion</b> <i>Allium sanbornii</i> var. <i>sanbornii</i></p>	<p>--/--/4.2</p>	<p><b>General Habitat:</b> Serpentine or gravelly outcrops in chaparral, woodland, lower montane coniferous forest; 853-4,625 feet. <b>Microhabitat:</b> Serpentine or grabbo soils</p>	<p>Documented on Sutton Way and Loma Rica serpentines, Hell's Half Acre lava cap, American Ranch Hill grabbo.</p>	<p><b>Unlikely;</b> no suitable habitat due to absence of serpentine and grabbo soils.</p>	<p>Botanical surveys. Flowering period: May-September</p>
<p><b>Finger Rush</b> <i>Juncus digitatus</i></p>	<p>--/-- CNPS 1B.1</p>	<p><b>General Habitat:</b> Cismontane woodland (openings), lower montane coniferous forest (openings), vernal pools; 1,968-2,625 feet. <b>Microhabitat:</b> In full sun, in the vernally damp ground of seeps, vernal pools, and swales on gentle slopes over volcanic bedrock</p>	<p>Known from an occurrence in Grass Valley, southeast of the Idaho Maryland Road and Brunswick Road intersection.</p>	<p><b>Unlikely;</b> no suitable habitat due to absence of vernal pools, swales, and volcanic seeps.</p>	<p>Botanical surveys. Flowering period: May-June</p>

<p><b>Dubious Pea</b> <i>Lathyrus sulphureus var. agrillaceus</i></p>	<p>--/-- <b>CNPS 3</b></p>	<p><b>General Habitat:</b> Cismontane woodland, chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest; 492-1,001 feet. <b>Microhabitat:</b> Full sun to part shade, woodland openings.</p>	<p>Historic collection near Lime Kiln and Wolf Roads in western Nevada County recently rediscovered. Only other occurrences in Shasta and Tehama counties.</p>	<p><b>Low</b>; site elevation significantly exceeds maximum elevation range. Potential habitat present in lightly wooded areas of oak woodland and conifer forest.</p>	<p>Botanical surveys. Flowering period: April-June</p>
<p><b>Cantelow's Lewisia</b> <i>Lewisia cantelovii</i></p>	<p>--/-- <b>CNPS 1B.2</b></p>	<p><b>General Habitat:</b> Broadleaved upland forest, lower montane coniferous forest, cismontane woodland, and chaparral; 1,082-4,395 feet. <b>Microhabitat:</b> Mesic rock outcrops and wet cliffs, usually in moss or clubmoss; generally on metasedimentary rock.</p>	<p>Many documented occurrences on the Middle and South Yuba rivers and tributaries. No known occurrences outside of these major drainages.</p>	<p><b>Unlikely</b>; no suitable habitat due to absence of mesic rock outcrops and wet cliffs.</p>	<p>Botanical surveys. Flowering period: May-October</p>
<p><b>Quincy Lupine</b> <i>Lupinus dalesiae</i></p>	<p>--/-- <b>CNPS 4.2</b></p>	<p><b>General Habitat:</b> Chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest; 2,805-8,202 feet. <b>Microhabitat:</b> Openings.</p>	<p>Not known in Nevada County. Plumas, Sierra, Yuba counties.</p>	<p><b>Low</b>; site elevation is below minimum elevation range for species, potential habitat may occur in forest openings.</p>	<p>Botanical surveys. Flowering period: May-August</p>
<p><b>Innundated Bog-Clubmoss</b> <i>Lycopodiella inundata</i></p>	<p>--/-- <b>CNPS 2B.2</b></p>	<p><b>General Habitat:</b> Bogs and fens (coastal), Lower montane coniferous forest (mesic), marshes and swamps (lake margins); 16,000-3,000 feet. <b>Microhabitat:</b> In Nevada County, occurs in "diggins wetlands," usually mineralized, persistent bogs in hydraulic mining areas.</p>	<p>Known in Nevada County from a single occurrence in hydraulic diggings.</p>	<p><b>Unlikely</b>; no suitable habitat present due to absence of wetlands, bogs, or fens.</p>	<p>Botanical surveys. Flowering period: June-September</p>

<p><b>Elongate Copper Moss</b> <i>Mielichhoferia elongata</i></p>	<p>--/-- CNPS 2B.2</p>	<p><b>General habitat:</b> Cismontane woodland; 1,640-4,265 feet. <b>Microhabitat:</b> Vernally mesic rock outcrops of metamorphic origin; usually in higher portions of fens.</p>	<p>Known from occurrences in Nevada City, Dutch Flat, and Washington quadrangles.</p>	<p><b>Unlikely;</b> no suitable habitat due to absence of mesic outcrops and fens.</p>	<p>Botanical surveys. Capsules not needed for field ID; reddish-brown to rose-red coloration aids field ID.</p>
<p><b>Layne's Ragwort</b> <i>Packera layneae</i></p>	<p>R/T/ CNPS 1B.2</p>	<p><b>General habitat:</b> Chaparral, cismontane woodland; 656-3,280 feet. <b>Microhabitat:</b> Rocky gabbroic or serpentine soils.</p>	<p>Known from occurrences in Challenge, Clipper Mills, Pilot Hill, and Rackerby quadrangles.</p>	<p><b>Unlikely;</b> no suitable habitat due to absence of serpentine and gabbro soils.</p>	<p>Botanical surveys. Flowering period: April-July</p>
<p><b>Sticky Pyrocoma</b> <i>Pyrocoma lucida</i></p>	<p>--/-- CNPS 1B.2</p>	<p><b>General Habitat:</b> Great Basin scrub, lower montane conifer forest, meadows and seeps, 2,296-6,168 feet. <b>Microhabitat:</b> Alkaline clay soils.</p>	<p>No known occurrences in Nevada County, nearest documented occurrences in Sierra Valley. Suitable habitat in valleys of northeastern Nevada County.</p>	<p><b>Unlikely;</b> no suitable habitat due to absence of meadows, seeps, alkaline clay habitats.</p>	<p>Botanical surveys. Flowering period: July-October</p>
<p><b>Brownish Beaked-Rush</b> <i>Rhynchospora capitellata</i></p>	<p>--/-- CNPS 2B.2</p>	<p><b>General Habitat:</b> Lower montane conifer forest, meadows, marshes and swamps, upper montane conifer forest, 1,492-6,562 feet. <b>Microhabitat:</b> Mesic areas, local occurrences in "diggins wetlands."</p>	<p>Two documented collections in western Nevada County.</p>	<p><b>Unlikely;</b> no suitable habitat due to absence of meadows, seeps, marshes, and swamps.</p>	<p>Botanical surveys. Flowering period: July-August</p>
<p><b>Scadden Flat checkerbloom</b> <i>Sidalcea stipularis</i></p>	<p>--/E/ CNPS 1B.1</p>	<p><b>General habitat:</b> Marshes and swamps, wet montane marshes; 2,296-2,394 feet. <b>Microhabitat:</b> Fed by springs.</p>	<p>Global distribution restricted to three occurrences in Grass Valley area; apparently endemic. Documented occurrences near Scadden Flat, at headwaters of Squirrel Creek, and Peardale area</p>	<p><b>Unlikely;</b> no suitable habitat present due to absence of springs, marshes, and swamps.</p>	<p>Botanical surveys. Flowering period: July-August</p>

\* Status definitions:

**Federal**

E = listed as Endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.

T = listed as Threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.

C = Candidate for listing as either Threatened or Endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

PE = proposed for federal listing as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.

PT = proposed for federal listing as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.  
SC = species of concern; species for which existing information indicates it may warrant listing but for which substantial biological information to support a proposed rule is lacking.

-- = no listing.

### **State**

E = listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act.

T = listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act.

Rare = although not presently threatened with extinction, it occurs in such small numbers throughout its range that it may become endangered if its present environment worsens.

SSC = species of special concern in California.

-- = no listing

### **California Native Plant Society**

California Rare Plant Rank 1A = plants presumed extinct in California.

California Rare Plant Rank 1B = plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; the majority are endemic to California.

California Rare Plant Rank 2 = plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.

California Rare Plant Rank 3 = plants about which we need more information – A review list.

California Rare Plant Rank 4 = plants of limited distribution – A watch list.

### Note:

\*<sup>1</sup> Botanical surveys shall be conducted by qualified biologists in Spring 2016 in accordance with methodologies described in *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities* (DFG 2009).

**Table 1b.** Special-Status animal species identified during 9 quad search of California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) surrounding Sugarloaf Healthy Forest Project site, Nevada City, CA.

Species	Legal Status Fed/State	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence in the Project Site	Survey Type/ Protocols
<b>Birds</b>				
Cooper's Hawk <i>Accipiter cooperi</i>	--/SSC	Nests primarily in riparian forests dominated by deciduous species, and in densely canopied forests of oak woodland to ponderosa pine forests	<b>Low</b> ; no suitable riparian habitat present on site; no trees larger than 6 inches will be removed from site.	May-June PRBO point count surveys. * <sup>1</sup>
Northern Goshawk <i>Accipiter herodias</i>	--/SSC	Prefer dense forests with large trees and high canopy closures. Need large trees for nesting.	<b>Low</b> , no trees larger than 6 inches will be removed from site.	May-June PRBO point count surveys. * <sup>1</sup>
Sharp-shinned Hawk <i>Accipiter striatus</i>	--/SSC	Densely canopied ponderosa pine or mixed conifer forest and riparian habitats	<b>Low</b> ; no suitable riparian habitat present in the project work area; no trees larger than 6 inches will be removed from site, unlikely to nest in project area.	May-June PRBO point count surveys. * <sup>1</sup>
Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>	--/SSC	Forages along coastlines, open grasslands, savanna, and woodlands; often forages near lakes and other wetlands. Does not nest in California; rare but widespread winter visitor to the Central Valley and coastal areas.	<b>Low</b> , no trees larger than 6 inches will be removed from site.	May-June PRBO point count surveys. * <sup>1</sup>
Great Blue Heron <i>Ardea herodias</i>	--/--	Colonial nester in tall trees, cliffsides and sequestered spots on marshes.	<b>Low</b> ; no trees larger than 6 inches will be removed from site.	May-June PRBO point count surveys. * <sup>1</sup>
White-tailed kite <i>Elanus leucurus</i>	--/SSC	Low foothills or valley areas with valley or live oaks, riparian areas, and marshes near open grasslands for foraging	<b>Unlikely</b> ; no riparian or marsh habitat available in project work area; no suitable grasslands for foraging in work area or vicinity.	May-June PRBO point count surveys. * <sup>1</sup>
California Black Rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i>	T/--	In Sierra foothills, occurs in open habitats in freshwater marsh dominated by cattails with scattered willows	<b>Unlikely</b> ; no suitable wetlands in the project work area; no nearby records.	May-June PRBO point count surveys. * <sup>1</sup>

Willow flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii</i>	--/E	Riparian areas and large, wet meadows with abundant willows for breeding; usually found in riparian habitats during migration	<b>Unlikely</b> ; no suitable riparian habitat present in the project work area.	May-June PRBO point count surveys. * <sup>1</sup>
California Yellow Warbler <i>Dendroica petecia brewsteri</i>	--/SSC (nesting)	Nests in riparian areas dominated by willows, cottonwoods, or in mature chaparral; may also use oaks, conifers, and urban areas near streamcourses	<b>Unlikely</b> ; no suitable riparian nesting habitat present on site.	May-June PRBO point count surveys. * <sup>1</sup>
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	--/E	Typically nests in mountain and foothill forests and woodlands near rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. Require large bodies of water, or free flowing water, adjacent to snags or other perches.	<b>Unlikely</b> ; rare sitings on Yuba River but no suitable habitat area occurs within project site.	May-June PRBO point count surveys. * <sup>1</sup>
Yellow-breasted Chat <i>Icteria virens</i>	--/SSC (nesting)	Nests in low, dense riparian vegetation consisting of willow, blackberry, and wild grape. Forages and nests within 10 feet of ground	<b>Unlikely</b> ; no suitable riparian habitat in project work area.	May-June PRBO point count surveys. * <sup>1</sup>
Tricolored Blackbird <i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	--/SSC	Nests in dense colonies in emergent marsh vegetation; or upland project areas with blackberries, nettles, thistles, or grainfields	<b>Unlikely</b> ; no nearby records and no suitable habitat present within project work area.	May-June PRBO point count surveys. * <sup>1</sup>
California Spotted Owl <i>Strix occidentalis occidentalis</i>	--/SSC	Mature forest with permanent water and suitable nesting trees and snags; in southern California, nearly always associated with oak and oak-conifer habitats.	<b>Low</b> , no trees larger than 6 inches will be removed from site.	May-June PRBO point count surveys. * <sup>1</sup> Additional owl surveys may be warranted. * <sup>2</sup>
Great Gray Owl <i>Strix nebulosa</i>	--/E	Habitat: Late-seral coniferous forests bordering meadows; red fir, Jeffrey pine, and lodgepole pine dominate	<b>Unlikely</b> ; no suitable habitat due to absence of meadows within proximity to project site or surrounding forest.	May-June PRBO point count surveys. * <sup>1</sup> Additional owl surveys may be warranted. * <sup>2</sup>
<b>Reptiles/Amphibians</b>				
Coast Horned Lizard <i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> (Previously referred to as California Horned Lizard <i>Phrynosoma coronatum frontale</i> )	--/SSC	Lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes; needs open areas for sunning, loose soil for burial and abundant supply of ants and other insects; in Nevada County, typically associated with serpentine soils/McNab cypress	<b>Moderate</b> ; suitable sandy habitat may be present within openings inside of the project area.	Reptile surveys spring midday.

Western Pond Turtle <i>Clemmys marmorata marmorata</i>	--/SSC	Aquatic habitats such as ponds, marshes, or streams, with rocky or muddy bottoms	<b>Unlikely</b> ; no suitable lacustrine or riverine habitat present.	N/A
California Red-legged Frog <i>Rana aurora draytonii</i>	T/SSC	Still, slow-moving waters with dense, shrubby emergent and subemergent vegetation and riparian species; elevational range up to 4500 feet	<b>Unlikely</b> ; no suitable riparian or wetland habitat present in the project work area.	N/A
Coast Range Newt <i>Taricha torosa</i>	--/SSC	Preferred habitats are in or near streams in the valley-foothill hardwood and hardwood-conifer habitats. Breeding and egg-laying occur within intermittent streams, rivers, permanent and semi-permanent ponds, lake and reservoirs. Migrations to and from breeding sites may occasionally exceed 1000 meters, but few individuals move that far.	<b>Unlikely</b> ; no suitable wetland habitat present in the project work area.	N/A
Foothill Yellow-legged Frog <i>Rana boylei</i>	--/SSC	Creeks or rivers in woodland or forests with rock and gravel substrate and low overhanging vegetation up to 6000 feet	<b>Unlikely</b> ; no suitable riverine habitat present within project work area.	N/A
<b>Mammals</b>				
Pale Townsend's Big-Eared Bat <i>Plecotus townsendii pallescens</i>	--/SSC	Mesic habitats; gleans insects from brush or trees and feeds along habitat edges; dependent on caves or mines for roosts; and sometimes found in bridges	<b>Unlikely roosting; moderate foraging</b> ; no suitable roosting habitat in the project work area; no historical or current records in region.	N/A
Greater Western Mastiff Bat <i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	--/SSC	Roosts and breeds in deep, narrow rock crevices; may also use crevices in trees, buildings, and tunnels; rarely or never uses mines, not known to use bridges	<b>Unlikely roosting; moderate foraging</b> ; project area does not provide suitable roosting habitat.	N/A
Spotted Bat <i>Euderma maculatum</i>	--/SSC	Ponderosa pine forest, deserts and open forests set in rocky terrain; rarely or never uses mines to roost	<b>Unlikely roosting; moderate foraging</b> ; project area does not provide suitable roosting habitat.	N/A
Pacific Fisher <i>Martes pennanti</i>	C1/SSC	Mid-elevation (4,000 – 7,000 feet) forests; dens in late successional hardwood and coniferous forests with dense canopy cover; forages in varied forest types	<b>Unlikely</b> ; project area does not provide suitable habitat; geographic gap of 270 miles exists between northern Sierra Nevada/Cascades population and southern Sierra Nevada population. Project area is below preferred habitat.	Remote wildlife camera trapping surveys.

Sierra Nevada Red Fox <i>Vulpes vulpes necator</i>	--/T	High Sierra: high elevation (3900-11,900 ft, mostly above 7000 ft) in barren, conifer and shrub habitats; montane meadows; subalpine woodlands and fell-fields	<b>Unlikely</b> ; Project area and vicinity is at elevation lower than preferred habitat and does not contain open areas needed for hunting.	Remote wildlife camera trapping surveys.
<b>Fish</b>				
Delta Smelt <i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i>	T/T	Adults live in saltwater-freshwater interface, spawn in shallow, fresh or slightly brackish river channels and tidally influenced backwater sloughs	<b>No potential</b> ; no suitable aquatic habitat.	N/A
Central Valley Steelhead <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	T/T	Migrate from ocean to spawn in freshwater streams in California's Central Valley between December and April; optimal migrating stream temperature of 46 – 52 °F	<b>No potential</b> ; no suitable aquatic habitat.	N/A
Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	T/T	While immature, migrate from freshwater to ocean in spring; hold through summer in deep cold pools at high elevations, then spawn in early fall; juveniles migrate to sea in spring or the following autumn	<b>No potential</b> ; no suitable aquatic habitat.	N/A
Winter-run Chinook Salmon <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	E/E	Adults migrate from ocean to fresh water in winter; hold through summer in deep cold pools at high elevations, then spawn in late summer/early fall; juveniles migrate to sea in spring or the following autumn	<b>No potential</b> ; no suitable aquatic habitat.	N/A
<b>Invertebrates</b>				
Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle <i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	T/--	Elderberry shrubs in riparian areas and in elderberry savanna	<b>Unlikely</b> ; project area does not provide suitable habitat – no elderberry savanna present.	N/A
Western Pearlshell <i>Margaritifera falcata</i>	--/--	Perennial rivers, streams and creeks at depths of 1.5 to 5 feet, in areas with boulders and gravel substrate, with some sand, silt, and clay; clear, cold water with low velocities, low shear stress and stable substrates; frequently found in eddies and pools	<b>No potential</b> ; no suitable aquatic habitat.	N/A

**Status Codes:**

T = Threatened

E = Endangered

PE = Proposed Endangered

C1 = Candidate Category 1 for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered or Threatened status

FS = Considered a sensitive species by the U.S. Forest Service, Region 5

SSC = Considered a species of special concern by the California Department of Fish and Game

Notes:

\*<sup>1</sup> Avian surveys will be conducted during the spring breeding season of 2016 using PRBO point-count protocols (Ballard et al. 2003).

\*<sup>2</sup> Additional owl surveys include surveys for Great Gray Owl (Beck and Winter 2000) and Spotted Owl (USFWS 2012).

Sources:

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<http://www.rareplants.cnps.org>.

California Natural Diversity Database: [https://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/plants\\_and\\_animals.asp](https://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/plants_and_animals.asp)

California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CWHR) Life History Accounts and Range Maps: <https://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cwhr/cawildlife.aspx>

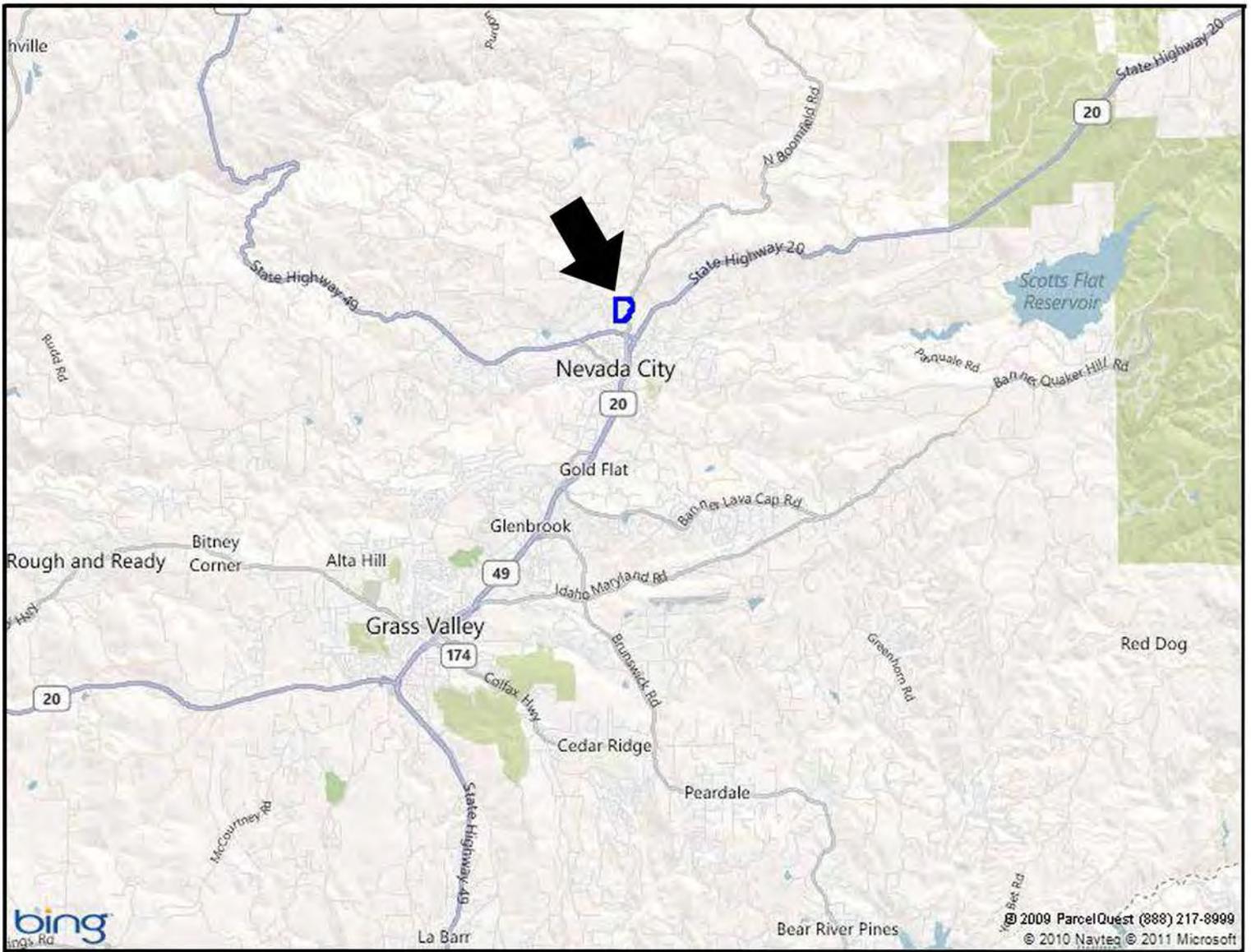
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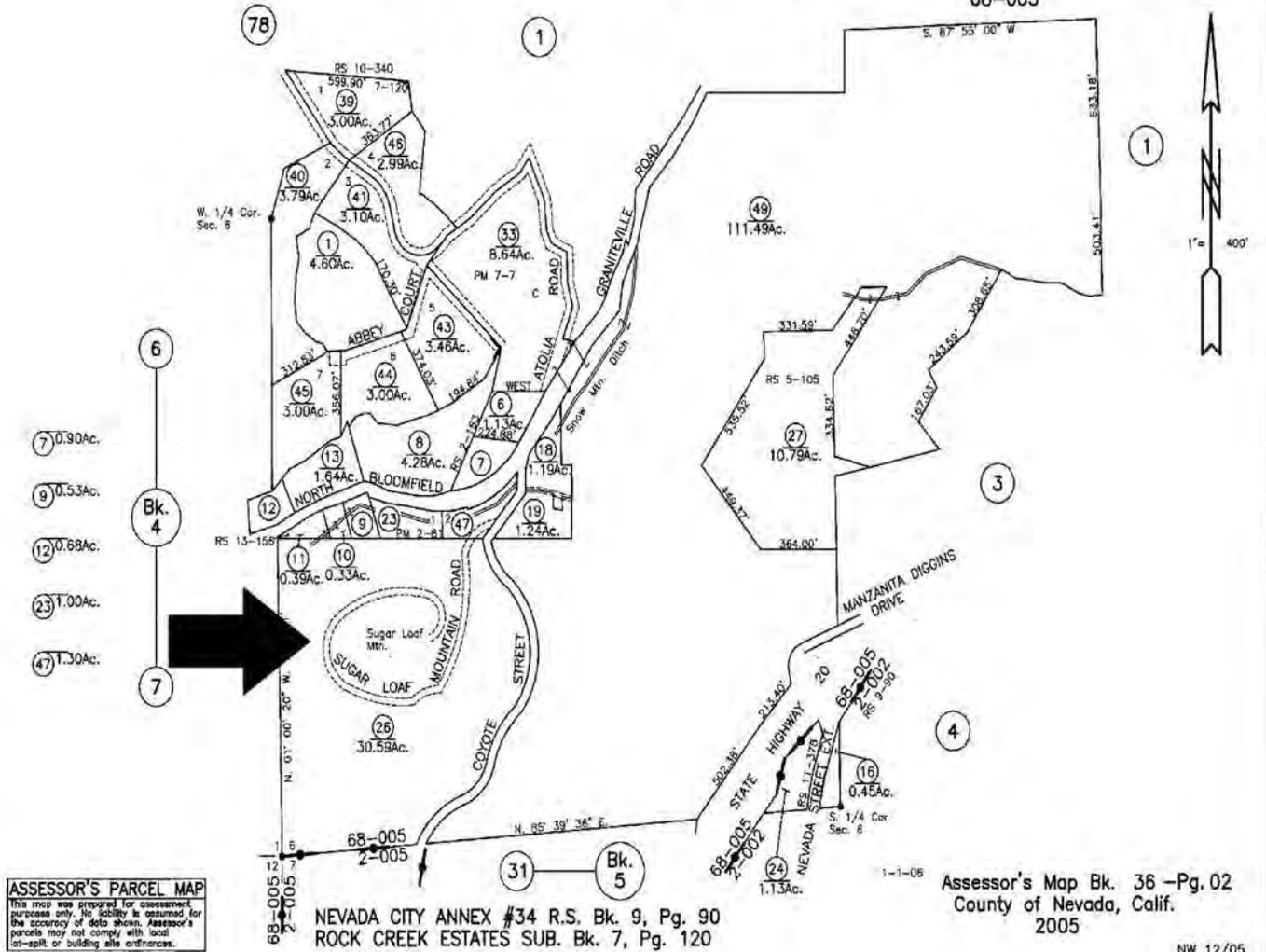
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Location Map:

Sugarloaf Mtn.  
AP# 36-020-26





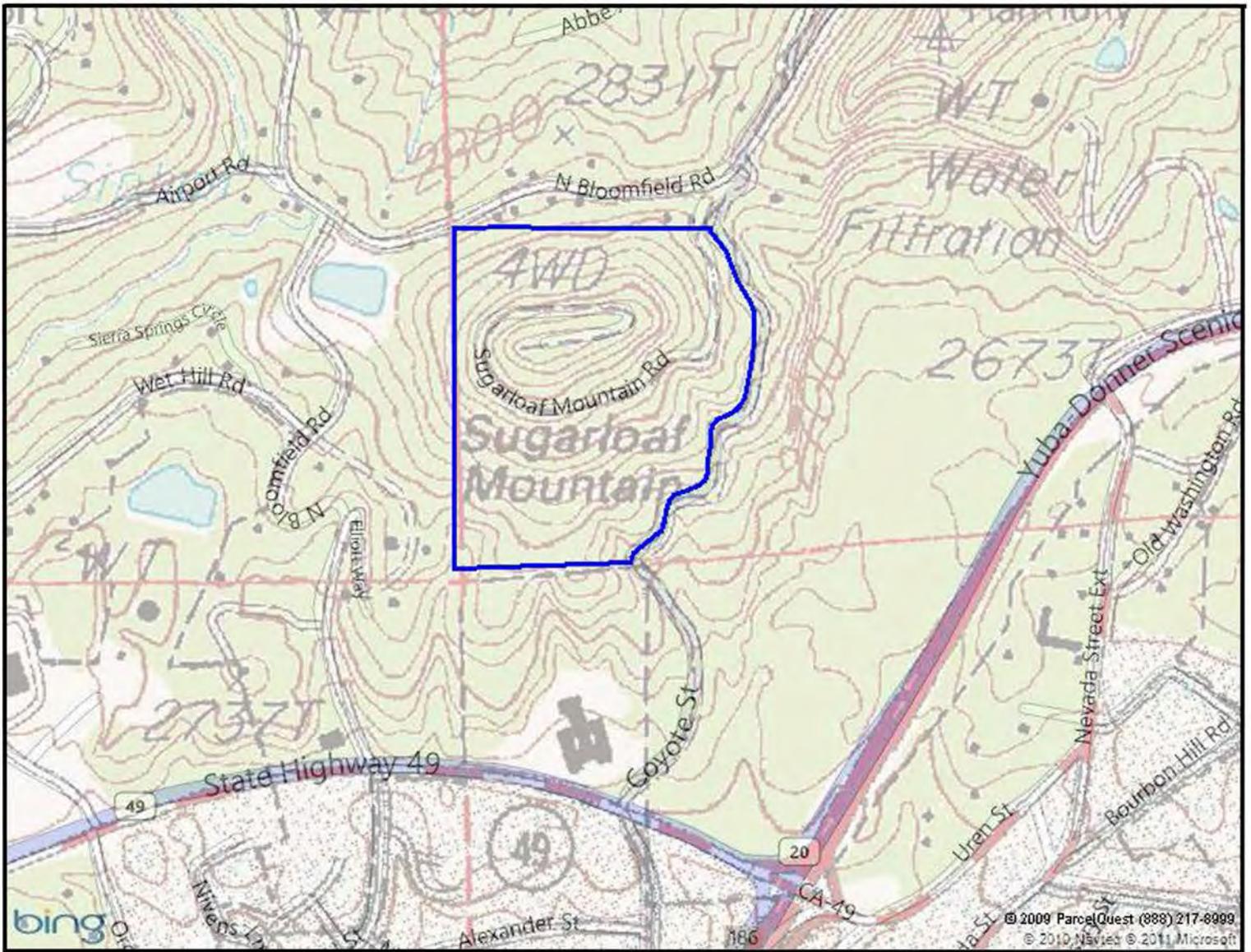
**ASSESSOR'S PARCEL MAP**  
This map was prepared for assessment purposes only, no liability is assumed for the accuracy of data shown. Assessor's parcels may not comply with local lot-split or building site ordinances.

NEVADA CITY ANNEX #34 R.S. Bk. 9, Pg. 90  
ROCK CREEK ESTATES SUB. Bk. 7, Pg. 120

# Parcel Map:

## Sugarloaf Mtn. AP# 36-020-26





Topography Map  
Close-Up:

Sugarloaf Mtn.  
AP# 36-020-26













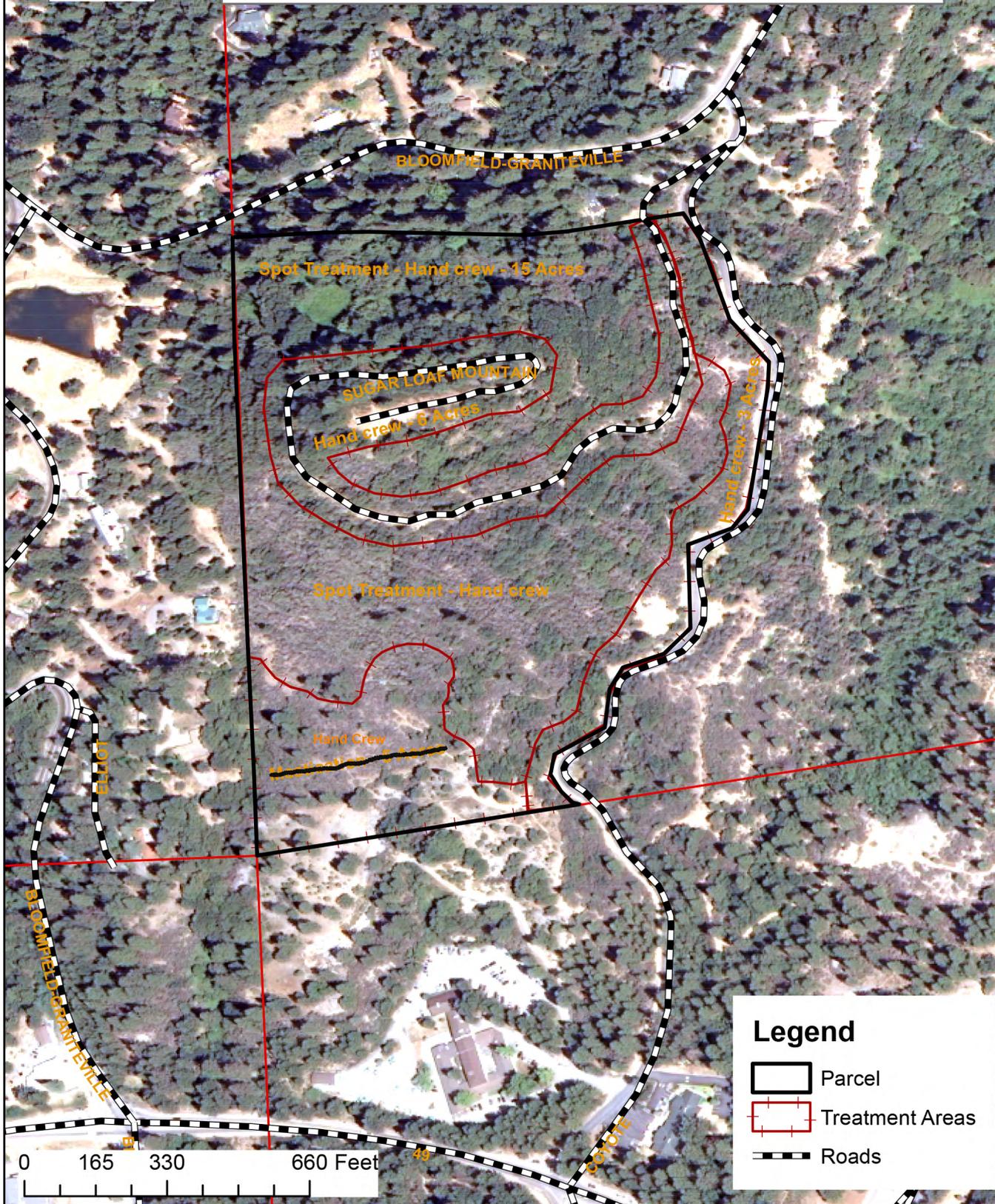








# Sugar Loaf Mountain Hazardous Fuels Reduction Plan Map



## Legend

-  Parcel
-  Treatment Areas
-  Roads

0 165 330 660 Feet