

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Sierra Nevada Conservancy Announces \$5 Million Available for “Healthy Forests” Projects

(Auburn) – The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has announced it has opened the solicitation period for its \$5 million “Healthy Forests” grant program. Applicants have until October 21, 2011 to submit their pre-application documents. All projects must be designed to benefit Sierra Nevada forests and associated meadows, either by reducing the risk and impacts of large, damaging fires or by preserving or restoring ecosystem function.

All application materials and the [grant guidelines](#), which were recently approved by the SNC Governing Board, are posted on the SNC Web site. Public agencies, eligible non-profit (501(c)(3) organizations whose charitable purposes are consistent with the mission of the Conservancy, and federally recognized tribes are encouraged to review the guidelines and apply. After an initial review period, applicants with viable projects will be issued an invitation to submit a full application.

Funding for these projects is provided through Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water Bond Act, passed by voters in 2006. In its first five years, the SNC, which receives no general fund tax dollars, has authorized approximately \$40 million in Proposition 84 grants for more than 220 projects throughout the Sierra Nevada Region. These projects include fuels reduction, conservation easements and acquisitions, and watershed and habitat restoration.

The SNC Governing Board is scheduled to take action on this round of grant awards at its regularly scheduled meeting in June, 2012. The SNC has approximately \$10 million remaining from its original Proposition 84 allocation. These remaining funds will be evenly allocated over the current and next fiscal years, with a specific focus area assigned for each year.

The focus area for fiscal year 2012-13 funds will be for projects on ranching and agricultural lands. Guidelines and criteria for these project types will be issued in 2012.

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About the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Governing Board

Created in 2004, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is a state agency whose mission is to improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region.

The SNC Governing Board meets quarterly around the Sierra Nevada Region, which spans 25 million acres, encompasses all or part of 22 counties and stretches from the Oregon border on the north to southeast of Bakersfield.

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