



RESOLUTION No. 22-590

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA

RESOLUTION RETROACTIVELY AUTHORIZING THE NEVADA COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY WILDFIRE RECOVERY AND FOREST RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$214,666 AND AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES TO EXECUTE ALL ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE GRANT ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA

WHEREAS, the Office of Emergency Services is responsible for mitigating wildfire hazards in the County; and

WHEREAS, the County of Nevada has a severe and present danger of wildfire presenting a threat to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project was identified as a priority wildfire mitigation action by the CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer 2022 Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Emergency Services submitted a grant application to the FEMA Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program to fund this project; and

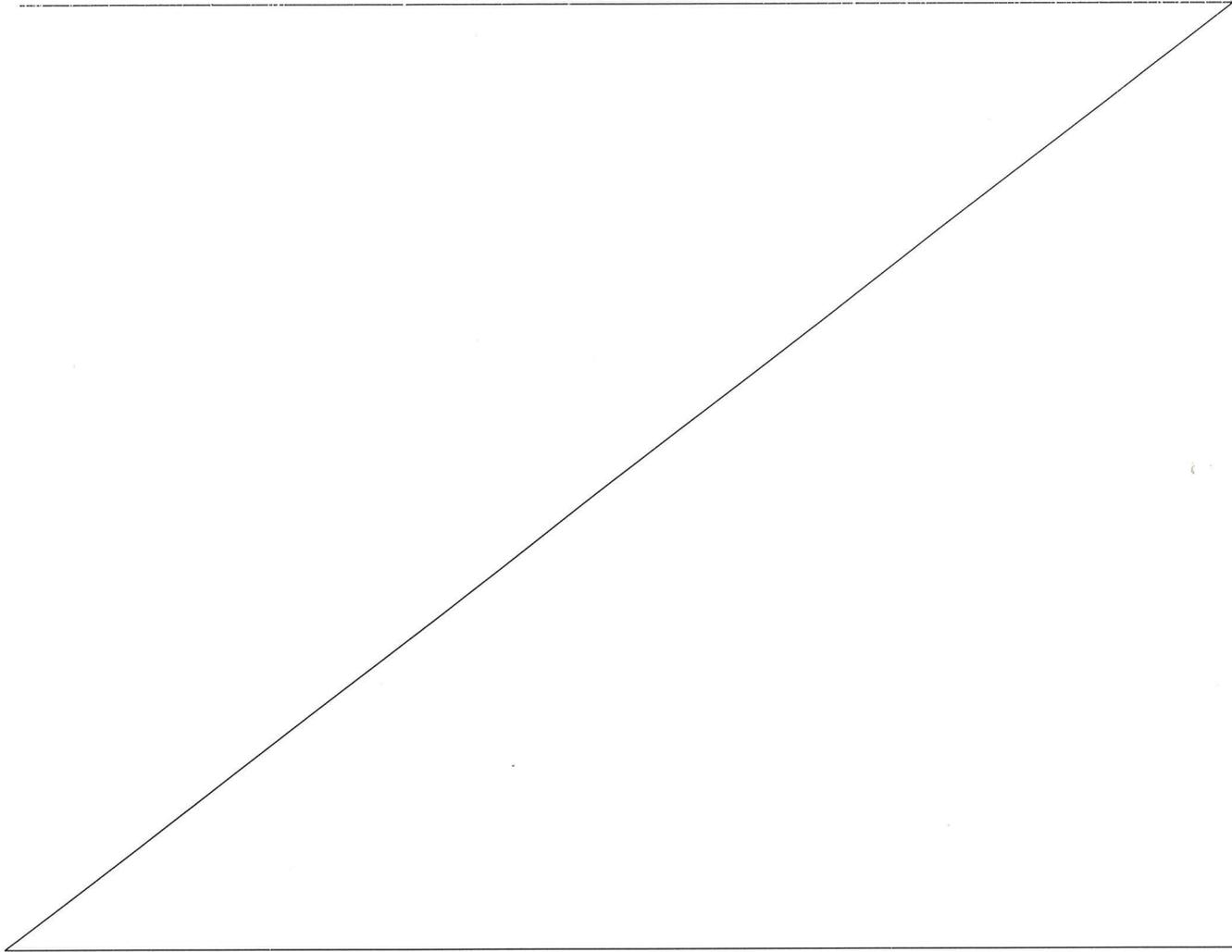
WHEREAS, the FEMA Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program requires a 25% local (non-federal) match; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Emergency Services submitted a Concept Proposal to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Grant Program to satisfy the local match requirement; and

WHEREAS, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy subsequently requested a full proposal to be submitted on October 28, 2022; and

WHEREAS, if awarded, acceptance of this grant will be brought to the Board of Supervisors for approval per County Policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Nevada County does hereby retroactively authorize the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services to submit a grant application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Grant Program in the total amount of \$214,666 to be matched by \$643,999 in the FEMA Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program and authorizes the Director of Office Emergency Services, or their designee, to execute all additional documents required to fulfill the requirements of the grant application on behalf of the County of Nevada.



PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada at a regular meeting of said Board, held on the 6th day of December, 2022, by the following vote of said Board:

Ayes: Supervisors Heidi Hall, Edward Scofield, Dan Miller, Susan K. Hoek and Hardy Bullock.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

ATTEST:

JULIE PATTERSON HUNTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: 


Susan K. Hoek, Chair

12/6/2022 cc: OES*
AC*



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SNC Project #	1512
Project Title 60-character limit	South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project
Project Category	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation
Anticipated Funding Amount Requested	\$ 214,666
Anticipated Total Project Cost SNC request plus funding or in-kind from other sources	\$ 858,666
Applicant Organization	County of Nevada
Applicant Authorized Representative Person who is authorized to sign the grant agreement Name Title Phone Email Mailing and/or Physical Address	Craig Griesbach Director, Office of Emergency Services 1-530-265-1583 craig.griesbach@nevadacounty.ca.gov 950 Maidu Avenue Suite 130 Nevada City, CA 95959
Applicant Day-to-Day Contact Person who manages the project Name Title Phone Email Mailing and/or Physical Address	Alex Keeble-Toll Senior Administrative Analyst, Office of Emergency Services 1-530-557-5118 alex.keeble-toll@co.nevada.ca.us 950 Maidu Avenue Suite 130 Nevada City, CA 95959
Subregion(s)	Central Sierra
County(ies)	Nevada County
SNC Project Lead	Chris Dallas



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Project Area Contact Information

In compliance with SNC's governing statute, SNC will notify and may consult with project area stakeholders during project evaluation. If additional space is needed you may submit this information on a separate sheet.

Tribal Contact(s)

Tribe Name	<i>Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan</i>
Contact Name	<i>Shelly Covert</i>
Phone Number	<i>530-570-0846</i>
Email or Mailing Address	<i>P.O. Box 2624 Nevada City, CA 95959</i>
Tribe Name	<i>United Auburn Indian Community</i>
Contact Name	<i>Rebecca Allen</i>
Phone Number	<i>530-883-2390</i>
Email or Mailing Address	<i>10720 Indian Hill Road Auburn, CA 95959</i>
Tribe Name	Click or tap here to enter text.
Contact Name	
Phone Number	
Email or Mailing Address	
Tribe Name	Click or tap here to enter text.
Contact Name	
Phone Number	
Email or Mailing Address	

County(ies) Planning Director

Contact Name	<i>Brian Foss</i>
Contact Title	<i>Director of Planning</i>
Phone Number	<i>1-530-265-1256</i>
Email or Mailing Address	<i>950 Maidu Avenue Nevada City, CA 95959</i>
Contact Name	Click or tap here to enter text.
Contact Title	
Phone Number	
Email or Mailing Address	

Nearest Public Water Agency

Contact Name	<i>Nevada Irrigation District</i>
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Contact Title	Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager
Phone Number	1-530-273-6185
Email or Mailing Address	1036 West Main Street Grass Valley, CA 95945



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A note on using the fillable form fields in this document:

All of the fillable form fields in this document allow you to vary the text format as needed, using font sizes, bold, italics, underlines, tables, and lists. Bullet and numbered lists work in the form fields except on the first and last line of each field; you may use enter/return to add an extra line before and after a list as needed. You may also compose answers in word, then cut and paste into the form fields and adjust formatting as needed.

Please be concise when answering the narrative questions below.
The Concept Proposal should not exceed 17 pages.

Project Summary

Provide a Project Summary, including purpose, location, landownership, acreage, partners, and estimated cost.

Please limit the response to six sentences or bullet points.

The South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project has been identified as a top priority by a suite of partners including CAL FIRE Battalion 14, North San Juan Fire Protection District, 13 Firewise communities, and place-based non-profit Yuba Watershed Institute. The purpose of this project is to conduct landscape-scale forest health treatment in order to reduce the unacceptable level of wildfire risk that the disadvantaged communities of North San Juan, Nevada City, Grass Valley, Penn Valley and Rough and Ready currently face. This project will complete the necessary planning for treatment of 800 acres of privately owned land that is nested within a 6,000-acre landscape-scale strategic planning area located on the San Juan Ridge in Nevada County. In sum, project implementation will result in a contiguous area of hazardous fuels reduction stretching along the north rim of the South Yuba River canyon from Bridgeport east for 16 miles to North Bloomfield. It will link together and build upon completed actions on State, Federal, and private lands and protect over 44,000 residents, critical infrastructure, and the Wild and Scenic South Yuba River from the impacts of wildfire. The planning phase of this project will cost an estimated \$858,666 of which we are requesting \$214,666 from Sierra Nevada Conservancy to be leveraged against FEMA funds; the total project cost is estimated to be \$4.2 million.

Project Location



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Location Description

Describe the project location, including the county, nearby communities and public lands, the watershed in which the project is located, nearby forest health projects, and project acreage.

In sum, the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project knits together existing projects to create holistic community protection and ecological function for a priority forested area in need of wildfire mitigation. Planning for and implementing this work is imperative to the safety of thousands of residents and in addition protects important riverine habitat and vulnerable species in the vicinity of the Wild and Scenic designated South Yuba River.

PDF Location Maps to be included with Proposal

Include at least one general project location map in PDF format in the Submission Folder.

The map(s) may be combined into one PDF file with the proposal form, or uploaded as a separate file with the naming convention #####_Map.

Confirm the number of maps submitted below.

Six maps are submitted as a separate PDF with this proposal

Background & Need

Concisely describe the background and need for the project. Why is this project a priority? What risk will be mitigated or recovery reached by implementing this project? Is it part of a larger plan? How is this project a strategic approach to address local or landscape-scale priorities?

Creating a landscape-scale swath of healthy, thinned, wildfire-resilient forest across the rugged South Yuba Rim is a community and expert endorsed solution to guard against the uncontrolled spread of future wildfires that will ultimately save lives. The threat of catastrophic wildfire is real for the 102,241 residents of Nevada County, 92% of whom live in high to very high fire severity zones. Nevada City and Grass Valley have been identified by CAL FIRE as the second and fourth highest priority target areas for Vegetation Management/Fuels Modification Projects in the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit. The South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project is a priority project listed in the CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit Plan 2022 Strategic Fire Plan, furthers the overarching goals of the Nevada County



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Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and confronts the wildfire component of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Wildfire Mitigation is a Priority: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) estimates that every \$1 spent on mitigation saves \$6 on future disaster losses. The Rices Fire that occurred in June of this year underscored this point. The 900-acre fire destroyed several homes and outbuildings and cost nearly \$13 million to suppress. (See Additional Supporting Documentation). The South Yuba Rim project proposes to conduct the planning necessary to reduce fuel loading and mitigate wildfire risk on 800 acres. The total cost of this project is budgeted to be \$4.2 million or about a third of the cost to suppress a similar size fire in the same area. At the implementation stage approximately 177 habitable at-risk structures within the project area with a combined rebuild value of \$59,798,875 will be protected. Thousands more homes are located within the project impact area.

The mountainous terrain, limited roads, and extreme forest density of the South Yuba Rim make it difficult to combat wildfires and thus all fires in this area pose an existential threat to the communities of western Nevada County. When wildfire has occurred suppressing it as swiftly as possible has been critical to the protection of life and property. With the exception of June's Rices Fire, a wildfire has not occurred within the strategic planning area of the project in recorded fire history (i.e. since 1911). (See Location Maps, page 5). Shaded fuel breaks, fire breaks and recent burn scars are all considered key tactical locations for first responders to take a stand against and gain control of wildfires. The South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project is desperately needed to reduce the severity of future fires by making catastrophic fire less likely and providing a zone that can be leveraged by fire-fighting agencies should fire occur. By conducting fuels reduction actions on private properties with a focus on treatment along ingress and egress routes this project furthermore makes evacuation routes safer for residents of the San Juan Ridge.

Any wildfire along the South Yuba Rim is likely to require swift evacuations of hundreds or thousands of residents. The 2018 Camp Fire burned at a rate of up to 80 football fields (800 yards) per minute, or just under a mile every two minutes. Using the Ladris Evacuation Pre-Planner tool for Nevada County, it is estimated that it could take 77 minutes or longer during an evacuation to travel the 14 miles from North San Juan across the South Yuba River Canyon to the town of Nevada City. This translates to a rate of one mile every five and a half minutes. In other words, wildfire could potentially be moving almost three times as fast as those evacuating. During a wildfire the community of the San Juan Ridge would potentially need to evacuate immediately if a wildfire occurred within 40 miles because at a rate of one mile every two minutes, fire could arrive within 80 minutes. Residents would literally need that much of a head start in order to "out run" the fire over the 77-minute drive to Nevada City. This scenario makes the creation of areas where fire can be slowed or stopped fundamental to protecting lives.

A Landscape-Scale Strategic Vision: The need for the 800 acre South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project has been recognized for over a decade by both community members and fire experts. It is a thread through private lands that will tie together a 6,000 acre landscape-scale strategic planning area. The landscape-scale vision was conceived by Sean Griffis, former Battalion Chief of Nevada-Yuba-Placer (NEU) Unit Battalion 14 (Smartsville – Columbia Hill Battalion). The 2020 Strategic Fire Plan for the CAL FIRE's NEU Unit lists several key elements of the project in the Ignition Management Plan for Battalion 14. The following roads within the project area were listed as needing maintenance for fire road access: Jackass Flats Road, Hoyt's Crossing Road, Murphy Road, and Rice's



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Crossing Road – the location of June’s Rices Fire. The Ignition Management Plan also lists several fire mitigation projects that are within the 6,000 acre strategic planning area including: Bunker Hill VMP, Bunker Hill Fuel Break, Jackass Flats Road, Shady Creek Fuel Break. The Ignition Management Plan also lists the community of French Corral as a “High Priority Target Area.” Several other projects in the area, including the Reader Ranch VMP, the Malakoff Diggins VMP, and the Inimim Forest project will be tied in via the 800 acres of treatment that this project will achieve.

In addition to the aforementioned, several parts of the strategic planning area are included in the North San Juan Fire Protection District Community Fire Plan. The Montezuma Ridge Fuel Break is mentioned as a recent and current project. The Plan also calls for shaded fuel breaks to be established along major evacuation routes, including Pleasant Valley Road. This Community Fire Plan was included as an appendix to the 2016 Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Nevada County, produced by the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County.

The bottom line is that if no action is taken, then there is an unacceptably high probability that a devastating wildfire will occur in the project zone in the near future. Any wildfire in the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project area poses a threat to surrounding communities regardless of wind direction. If a fire breaks out on a day with a north wind, the fire risks spreading south to Rough and Ready, Penn Valley, and Grass Valley. If a fire breaks out with a south wind, it threatens North San Juan. An east wind threatens Rough and Ready and Penn Valley. A west wind, the most common in Nevada County, threatens Nevada City and Grass Valley. This project has been developed to create strategic locations where firefighting resources can be more effective in suppressing wildfire thus preventing loss of life and property, impacts to critical infrastructure, and degradation of the natural resources associated with the South Yuba River watershed.

Anticipated Outcomes

Describe anticipated outcomes of the project, including expected deliverables and long-term public benefits that will result from this project.

The overall anticipated outcome of the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project is mitigation of the risk of catastrophic wildfire by creating and maintaining forest health at the landscape-scale in a strategically significant portion of the County. This will provide protection from the spread of wildfire to the communities of North San Juan, Rough and Ready, Penn Valley, Grass Valley, and Nevada City. By reducing hazardous fuels along the South Yuba Rim, this project will support more resilient forest ecosystems that are resistant to drought impacts and pest infestations – all predicted to be future drivers of wildfire.

Planning Project Outcomes

The specific outcomes of the planning phase of this project being proposed for SNC funding will be meaningful community engagement, completed treatment design, individual landowner permissions,



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and environmental permitting, resulting in a project that is shovel ready for implementation. Specifically, this project will result in the following deliverables listed by task:

Task 1: Outreach and Engagement Deliverables: List of Contacts; List of Meetings/Outreach Events Attended; Meeting Notes and Agendas; Social Media Posts, Print Articles, Radio Interviews

Task 2: Project Design & Cost Estimate Deliverables: Landowner Right of Access Agreements; Landowner Land Tenure & Maintenance Agreements; Treatment Area Maps; Treatment Prescriptions Developed by RPF; Landowner Approval of Treatment Prescriptions; Final Project Design; Cost Estimate

Task 3: Environmental Permitting Deliverables: Reconnaissance-Level Biological Survey (California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) and USFWS data); Cultural Resource Records Search (CHRIS info data sheets or other information obtained from SHPO); Cultural Resource Site Surveys; Pre-Treatment Biological Surveys; PSA, Addendum, and MMRP under CalVTP; Visual Impact Survey

Long-Term Public Benefit: This project directly benefits the community of North San Juan (where the project is located) and in addition conveys substantial public benefit to four other communities in western Nevada County. Furthermore, as the project protects the County seat (Nevada City) it is in the interest of all County residents.

The location of the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project has been strategically identified to prevent the spread of a wildland fire moving from the north towards the dense population centers of Grass Valley, Nevada City, Rough and Ready, and Penn Valley. The fuel break will also help prevent the spread of a wildland fire moving from the South Yuba River canyon north into the communities of the San Juan Ridge. Fuels reduction will provide a safer area, cleared of hazardous fuels, from which fire personnel can attempt suppression activities during such fires. The removal of hazardous vegetation will also act to slow or reduce fire behavior by reducing overall fuel levels and continuity between surface, ladder, and crown fuels. This will increase safety for fire personnel and the public during a wildland fire, and reduce the risk of damage to the numerous habitable structures in the Project Influence Zone. A reduction of fuels along primary evacuation routes for residents in the French Corral, Bunker Hill, Montezuma Ridge, and Lake City-Grizzly neighborhoods, will provide safer ingress and egress pathways for multiple communities.

The benefits of this project will be enduring because participating landowners will be educated on the value of maintaining the fuels reduction treatment with maintenance every 2-3 years to ensure that the wildfire mitigation outcome remains intact. Landowners will commit to 10 years of maintenance at a minimum as part of ensuring the durability of investment associated with this project. The 800 acres of this project will tie in with several CAL FIRE Vegetation Management Program (VMP) areas, which are locations where private landowners have entered into a contract with CAL FIRE to achieve resource management goals. CAL FIRE is committed to maintenance of VMPs, thus the project area in its entirety will be maintained in the interest of wildfire mitigation and to the benefit of the public at large.



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Anticipated Schedule

Anticipated start and completion dates of the project, and any key deadlines, if known. Awards will be made no earlier than March 2023.

The planning phase of the South Yuba River Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project will conduct three key tasks in addition to project administration in order to have a shovel-ready implementation project within two years. The anticipated project timeline is July 2023-July 2025.

Task 1: Outreach and Engagement: ~July 2023-December 2023, and Ongoing

A key step for this project will be to identify and prioritize the treatment areas that will best mitigate the risk of future devastating wildfires. This will be accomplished through engagement of residents and experts on the San Juan Ridge, including the North San Juan Fire Protection District, CAL FIRE Battalion 14 leadership, staff of local non-profit Yuba Watershed Institute, members of the 13 Firewise communities, and private landowners within the planning area. It is anticipated that the bulk of the outreach and engagement work will take place during the first six months of the project, however, many aspects of outreach and engagement will be ongoing as it will be critical to keep the community involved and informed as the project moves forward.

Task 2: Project Design & Cost Estimate: ~January 2024-December 2024

After critical partnerships are forged, priority treatment areas will be identified and permissions from private landowners to initiate treatment design and agree to right of access, land tenure, and maintenance will commence. Treatment design will include surveying and mapping of treatment areas, development of treatment prescriptions by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) and landowner approval of treatment prescriptions. These steps will be leveraged to develop the Final Project Design and Cost Estimate that together will constitute a comprehensive plan for reducing fuels and maintaining health forests.

Task 3: Environmental Permitting Deliverables: ~January 2024-July 2025

The final task of this planning project will be to take the steps necessary to satisfy the requirements for State environmental permitting. This will include conducting reconnaissance-level biological surveys, conducting a cultural resource records search and cultural resource site surveys, and conducting pre-treatment biological surveys. These data will be used to prepare the required State environmental permitting elements including a PSA, Addendum, and MMRP under CalVTP. In addition, a visual impact survey and environmental justice analysis will be conducted.

Project Partners

Identify other partners involved in the project. Describe who is/was engaged in project planning and who will be responsible for implementation. Identify if the project is part of a larger plan, collaborative group, or process that included public input. Highlight local agencies, citizen groups, or tribal organizations engaged with the project. Identify what



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other partners are contributing in-kind or financial resources to the project, and if that funding has been secured.

The on-the-ground partners associated with this project include individual community members whose properties will benefit from hazardous fuels reduction activities, The leaders of the 13 Firewise Communities who have expressed support for this project, the North San Juan Fire Protection District, CAL FIRE Battalion 14 leadership, and local non-profit Yuba Watershed Institute (YWI).

Leaders of the Firewise Communities of the San Juan Ridge have been reaching out to the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services with project priorities as the County gears up to embark on an update to the County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project is a top priority for these communities and their localized knowledge and credibility will be valuable for getting widespread buy-in. In addition, these project partners have place-based knowledge that will be instrumental in informing treatment design.

Local Fire and CAL FIRE leaders are important partners as they have identified the priorities for the larger 6,000 acre landscape-scale strategic planning area of which this 800 acre project is part. Their insight will help to ensure that this project maximizes the potential mitigation benefit by linking to other important projects in the planning area.

YWI will be the project implementation partner for this project. Their personal relationships in the community of North San Juan will be vital to achieving the local engagement needed to ensure that this project is a success. YWI will coordinate with additional experts as needed to complete the steps necessary to develop the treatment design and satisfy environmental permitting requirements. YWI is also a pillar of the Nevada County fuels reduction community.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be the funding partner for this project. The County of Nevada has applied to FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for Phase 1 (Planning) and Phase 2 (Implementation) funds. Cal OES has reviewed the application and the County has satisfied four requests for additional information. This application has now been advanced to FEMA for consideration. FEMA requires a 25% local match for their grant program. At this time we are asking SNC to provide the 25% local match for the planning aspect of this project. SNC's commitment to funding the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project will allow the County of Nevada to leverage SNC's investment three times over in order to move this critically important project forward.

Organizational Capacity

Describe the applicant's ability to complete the project as proposed. Identify the resources (staff, project partners, or contractors) intended to complete the tasks described in the work plan and explain the applicant's expertise or experience completing similar projects.



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The County of Nevada has extensive experience in applying for and successfully managing grants, including private, state and federal grants, maintaining a stellar track record of successful outcomes, completion, and compliance. The Nevada County Office of Emergency Services (OES) specifically secures and manages major state and federal grants and prides itself on the timely completion of grant funded projects while reaching desirable milestones. Nevada County OES regularly applies for, receives, and manages the Emergency Management Performance Grant and the Homeland Security Grant. Other recent large grants OES has secured include:

Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone: CAL FIRE #5GG18114: \$2,536,477 + \$1,000,000 in a separate contract; South County Shaded Fuel Break: CAL FIRE #5GG20116: \$952,610; Access and Functional Needs – 4353: FEMA HMGP #DR-4353-0230033R: \$516,273.75; Access and Functional Needs – 4344: FEMA HMGP #DR-4353-0230033R: \$498,167.29; Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Extension: FY22 Federal Earmark: \$750,000; Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break: CAL FIRE#5GG1227: \$2,178,004; Nevada County Evacuation Route Planning: California Firesafe Council #5GG21105: \$135,422.

Community Support

SNC strongly encourages engagement with communities and local government during project planning and implementation. Describe community support for the project, as well as any known opposition to the project. Explain any concerns and efforts to address those concerns.

Letters of Support are strongly encouraged and may be submitted with a Full Proposal but are not required as part of the Concept Proposal.

The South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project is part of a larger landscape-scale vision for forest health and wildfire mitigation on the San Juan Ridge. The development of this vision arose out of community concern and has involved considerable community input. The location of this project is recognized by fire experts as an area in dire need of treatment and as such this project has significant buy-in not just at the local level, but at the County and State level as well. Support for this project comes from the leaders of the 13 Firewise Communities in the vicinity of the South Yuba Rim, the North San Juan Fire Protection District, CAL FIRE Battalion 14 leadership, and local non-profit Yuba Watershed Institute (YWI).

A multitude of organizations and agencies have been involved in the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project to date. These include: CAL FIRE's NEU Unit Battalion 14, which is leading the effort to reduce fuels and conduct prescribed burning at the Reader Ranch, Malakoff, and Bunker Hill VMP projects. CAL FIRE has been the main proponent and organizer behind the larger landscape-scale strategic planning area of which the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project is part, but has asked for assistance from the County and its non-profit partners in order to expand the capacity to knit together the different projects into a contiguous shaded fuel break; U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Mother Lode Field Office, which has collaborated with the YWI on the portions of



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the landscape-scale strategic planning area that are part of the 'Inimim Forest Restoration Project, particularly large areas along Jackass Flats Road, MacNab Cypress Road, Kadaheska Way, and Sumi Way. The BLM is completing the NEPA analysis for 519 acres of fuels reduction treatments that will extend this project once implementation funding is secured; North San Juan Fire Protection District, which has provided input for the development of this project scope; San Juan Ridge Taxpayers Association (SJRTA), which provided support for the preparation of this project scope by convening a meeting of all San Juan Ridge Firewise Communities, which included a discussion of this project. The SJRTA will continue to provide support for this project as it moves forward Firewise Communities, including Outer Jackass Flats, Montezuma Ridge West, French Corral, and Lake City-Grizzly, who provided input into the design of this project, and will provide critical assistance during outreach to landowners whose parcels were included in project planning areas.

Beyond the community support that has already been secured, Task 1 of this project will ensure that the local community is sufficiently educated about the benefit of this and similar projects and that place-based knowledge is leveraged toward a sustainable and effective treatment design.

Engagement with California Native American Tribes

Recognizing that Native Americans have inhabited and cared for the land of present-day California since time immemorial, the SNC strongly encourages engagement with Native American tribes as early as possible in the development, planning, and implementation of projects. SNC staff can assist with identifying Native American tribes whose ancestral homelands may be in the project area and help provide contact information for those tribes.

In the space below, identify Native American tribes (other than the applicant, if the applicant is a tribal entity) that may have an interest in the project. Describe any current or anticipated role for local tribes in the project. SNC grant funds can be used to provide financial support for tribal participation in the project.

Letters of Support are strongly encouraged and may be submitted with a Full Proposal but are not required with the Concept Proposal.

The Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe are the original people of Nevada County. United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) is the federally recognized tribe who may have interest in this project based on a potential for this project to encompass ancestral homelands. Per AB 52 this project will involve consultation with UAIC as part of completing CEQA.



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Anticipated Project Budget

SNC understands that the budget below is an estimate that is likely to change before the Full Proposal.

Complete the charts below. The charts do not automatically calculate totals and percentages.

Administrative Costs must not exceed 15% of Direct Project costs.

For Additional Project Costs, include in-kind or funding from sources other than SNC used within the scope and timeline of the project described here.

Direct Project Costs	SNC Funding
<i>County of Nevada, Project Management Salaries and Wages</i>	\$ 10,000
<i>Contractual, Yuba Watershed Institute</i>	\$ 32,500
<i>CEQA/Biological Surveys</i>	\$ 132,500
<i>Registered Professional Forester</i>	\$ 12,500
<i>Travel</i>	\$ 1,701
enter text.	\$ enter text.
Total Direct Project Costs	\$ 189,201

Administrative Cost (not to exceed 15% of the Direct Project Costs)	\$ 25,465
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TOTAL SNC REQUEST (Total Direct plus Administrative Costs)	\$ 214,666
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Additional Project Costs by Source	Pending or Secured?	In-Kind or Funding from Other Sources
<i>County of Nevada, Project Management Salaries and Wages</i>		\$ 106,395
<i>Contractual, Yuba Watershed Institute</i>		\$ 97,500
<i>CEQA/Biological Surveys</i>		\$ 397,500
<i>Registered Professional Forester</i>		\$ 37,500
<i>Travel</i>		\$ 5,104
Total Additional Project Costs		\$ 643,999

TOTAL PROJECT COST (SNC Request plus Additional Project Costs)	\$ 858,665
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Environmental Compliance

All projects must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) at the time the SNC Governing Board authorizes a grant. Since the complexity of CEQA compliance will vary depending on project activities and type of grantee, it is important to consult with SNC staff regarding which documents may be required in what timeframe. In addition to CEQA compliance, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance is required for all projects proposed on federal land and a NEPA decision must be in place at the time the SNC Governing Board authorizes a grant.

For projects not exempt from CEQA, if CEQA is not complete at the time of Full Proposal submission the Lead Agency for CEQA must be identified in the Full Proposal. If no project partner has standing to serve as CEQA Lead Agency, then SNC will consider a request to serve as Lead Agency. This request must be made in this section during the Concept Proposal phase.

Provide a brief description of CEQA and NEPA status below, including if the project is exempt, Lead Agency or if there is a request for SNC to serve as Lead Agency, and expected timeline if CEQA or NEPA is not yet complete. Please include the title of or a link to any existing documents.

CEQA will be completed as part of this planning project. Yuba Watershed Institute will be the contractor responsible for management of the design and permitting process, including preparing the PSA, Addendum, and MMRP under CalVTP, coordination of reconnaissance-level biological surveys, coordination of cultural resource records search and site surveys, and coordination of pre-treatment biological surveys. We request that SNC serve as the Lead Agency for CEQA. The anticipated timeline for this work is 18 months, June 2023- December 31, 2024.

Site Visits for Implementation Projects

SNC intends to conduct site visits for all Implementation projects to gain a greater understanding of the project and assist in developing the project and the Full Proposal. Key participants include a representative from the applicant organization (required), technical expert(s) associated with the project, landowner(s), and appropriate SNC staff. If the applicant is not a tribal entity and does not already have tribal representation on their team, they are strongly encouraged to invite tribal representatives who have been contacted through outreach efforts to participate in this site visit.

All site visits will be limited to a maximum of two hours and may occur during inclement weather. SNC will contact applicants after submission of the Concept Proposal to schedule a visit; all site visits should be complete before October 7, 2022. SNC encourages applicants to anticipate that scheduling a site visit will require cooperative responsiveness and flexibility.



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For Implementation projects, in the space below please note if there are any concerns related to site visit scheduling or participation.

N/A; Planning Project

Confirmation of Nonprofit Eligibility

All tax-exempt entities (such as nonprofits) applying for a grant must confirm their tax-exempt status and eligible standing by submitting

**a current IRS Exemption Determination Letter, and
the organization's Articles of Incorporation.**

State below if both documents are being submitted through the Submission Folder, or enter N/A if the applicant is not a tax-exempt entity.

N/A



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Requirements for a Future Full Proposal

Please review the following requirements if projects are deemed eligible to submit a Full Proposal. These items are not required for the Concept Proposal.

Project Maps in pdf format which show the boundaries of the activities to be supported by SNC, as well as the project location within the larger landscape with approximate locations of larger project and/or nearby complementary activities.

Geospatial files of project location

Photographs of the project site

Letter(s) of Support, if applicable

Letter(s) from Landowner(s) stating intent to enter into tenure agreement for an implementation project, or permission for a planning project.

If CEQA is complete, CEQA documents OR online links.

If CEQA is not yet complete, a letter from CEQA Lead Agency confirming intent to serve as Lead and expected timeline for completion.

For projects on federal land, NEPA documents OR online links included.

Authorization to Apply, such as a project-specific governing board resolution, a letter of authorization, or documentation of delegated authority

Concept Proposal Submission Checklist

Please save the documents listed below to your submission folder. Check the boxes below to confirm that the following documents are included, using the naming convention described with the assigned project number.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Completed Concept Proposal form. The form may be saved as a .pdf or remain in the existing Word document format. Naming Convention: #####_ConceptProposal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project Location Map (.pdf format) Naming Convention: #####_Map
<input type="checkbox"/>	Organizational Documents – <i>Required for tax-exempt organizations ONLY</i> IRS determination letter of tax-exempt status Articles of Incorporation Naming Convention: #####_OrgDocs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Additional Supporting Documentation – NOT REQUIRED. If there is additional supporting documentation relevant to the project, please compile into one .pdf document. Naming Convention: #####_DocumentType



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Submission Instructions

Upload the Proposal Form and Supporting Documentation to your Project Submission Folder using the link in your Welcome email.

Name all documents with the project number and document type.

For example: #####_maps, #####_photos, #####_letters

Compile all GIS files into one folder before uploading to submission folder.

If you cannot find or have difficulty accessing the link, please contact the SNC Grants Team at grants.snc@sierranevada.ca.gov, 530-906-4771 or 530-906-7345.

SNC recommends that applicants only upload files to the Project Submission Folder once they are final, to avoid potential issues related to editing files in a protected folder.

SNC recommends that applicants maintain a complete record of all documents submitted.

Send an email to the SNC Grants Team when all final documents are in the Project Submission folder.

Use the project number as the subject of the email, and state that all documents are in the Submission Folder.

Send to: grants.snc@sierranevada.ca.gov

DO NOT attach the Project Submission Folder to the email.

This email will serve as the official submission of your Proposal Form. The SNC Grants Team will confirm receipt and initiate the review process.

SNC #1512: Additional Documentation

Rices Fire Photo-Documentation

Date Started: June 28, 2022

Date Contained: July 11, 2022

Location: Rices Crossing Road and Cranston Road



Figure 1: Rices Fire, North San Juan, June 30, 2022

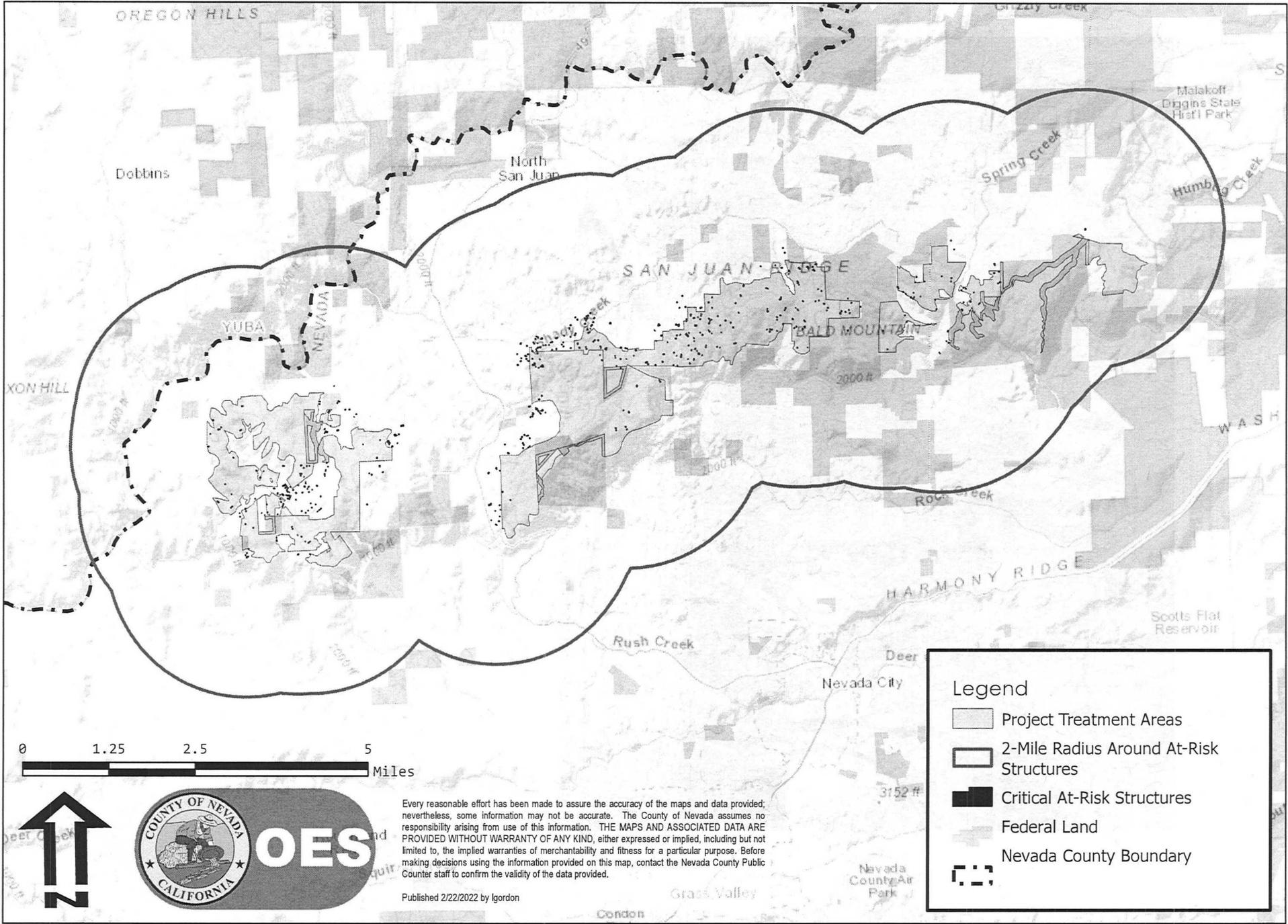


Figure 2: Nevada County OES meets with first responders, Rices Fire, North San Juan, June 30, 2022



Figure 3: Homesite, Rices Fire, North San Juan, June 30, 2022

SNC#1512 South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project



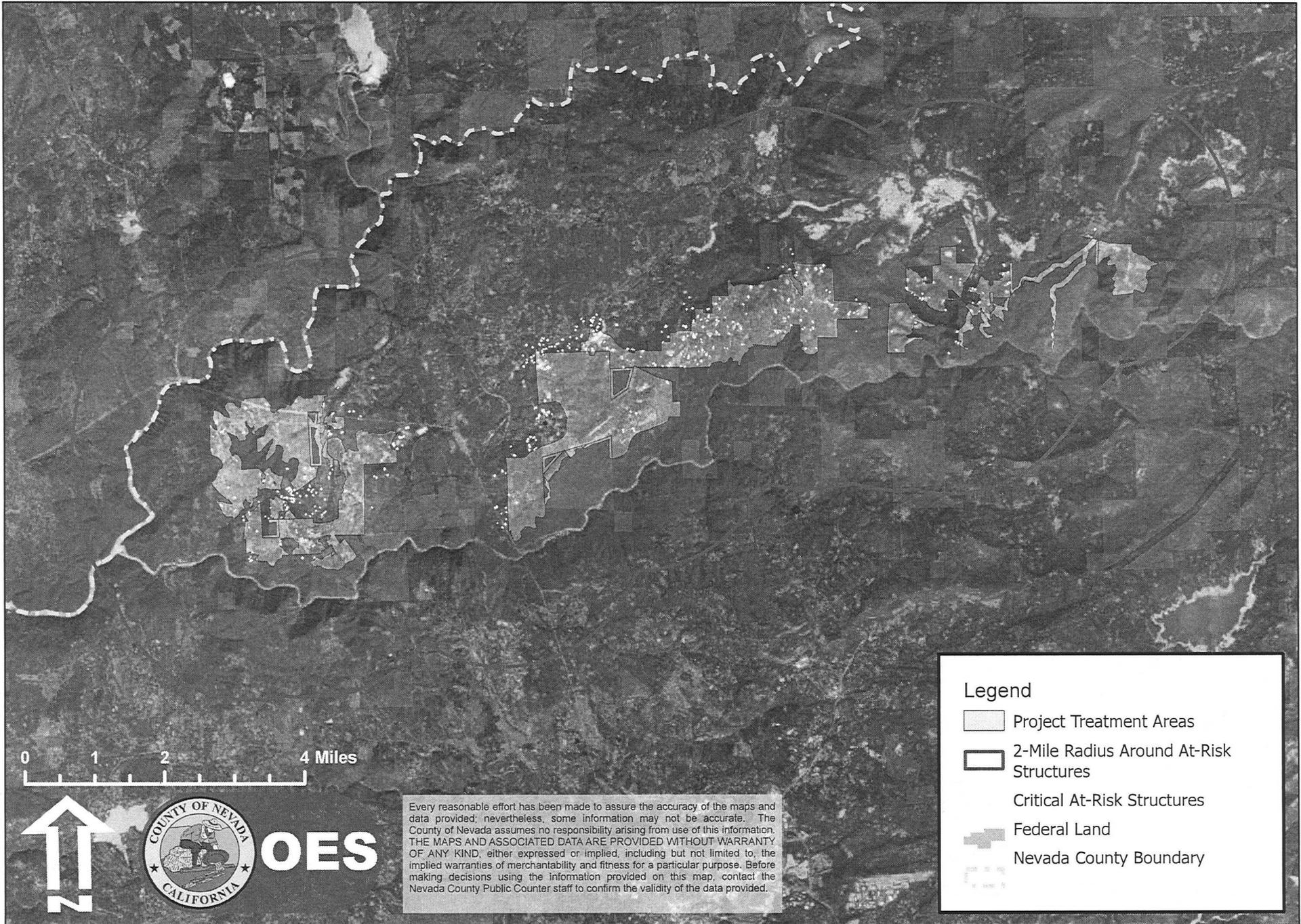
Legend

- Project Treatment Areas
- 2-Mile Radius Around At-Risk Structures
- Critical At-Risk Structures
- Federal Land
- Nevada County Boundary

Every reasonable effort has been made to assure the accuracy of the maps and data provided; nevertheless, some information may not be accurate. The County of Nevada assumes no responsibility arising from use of this information. THE MAPS AND ASSOCIATED DATA ARE PROVIDED WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, either expressed or implied, including but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. Before making decisions using the information provided on this map, contact the Nevada County Public Counter staff to confirm the validity of the data provided.

Published 2/22/2022 by I Gordon

SNC#1512 South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

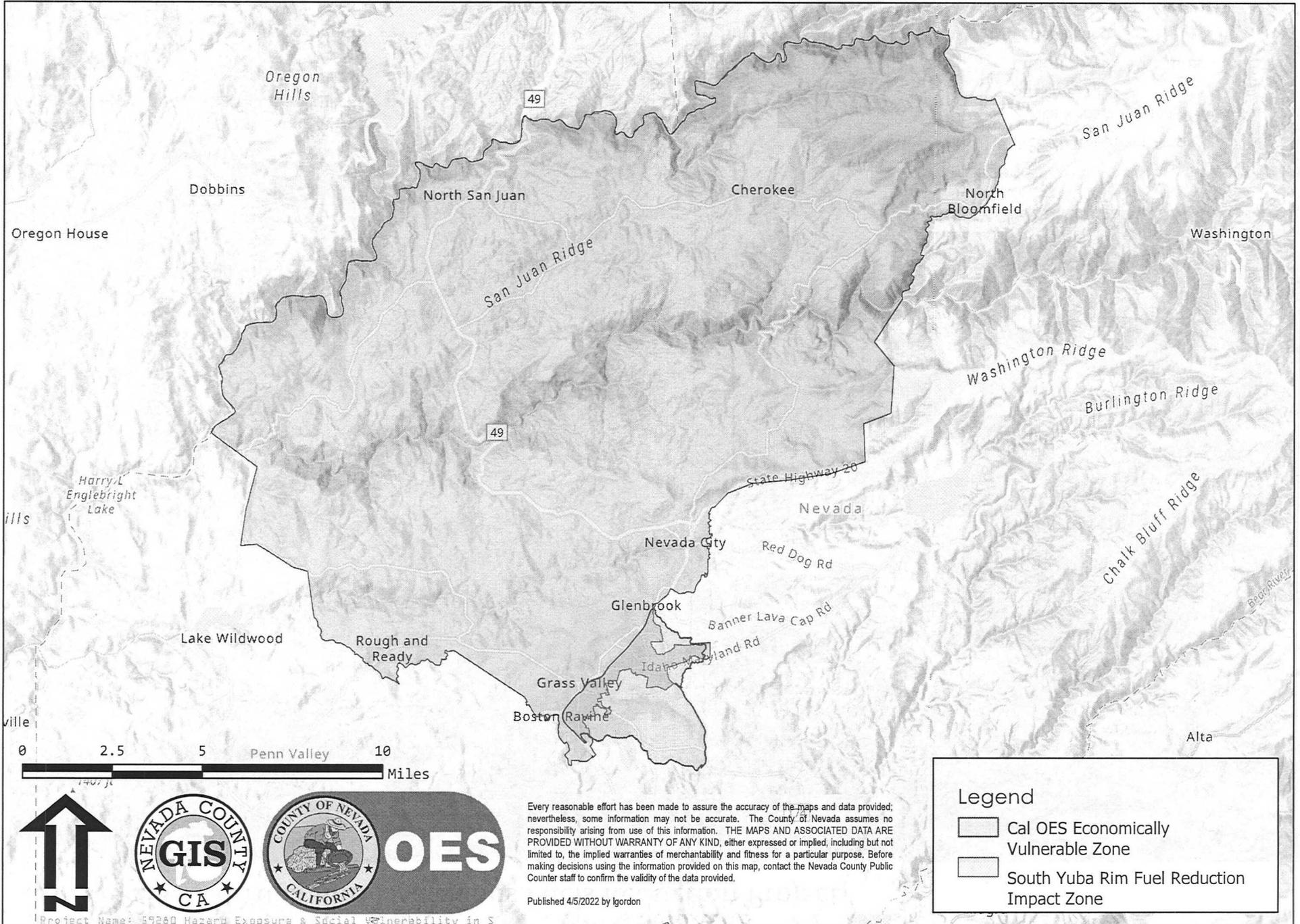


Legend

- Project Treatment Areas
- 2-Mile Radius Around At-Risk Structures
- Critical At-Risk Structures
- Federal Land
- Nevada County Boundary

Every reasonable effort has been made to assure the accuracy of the maps and data provided; nevertheless, some information may not be accurate. The County of Nevada assumes no responsibility arising from use of this information. THE MAPS AND ASSOCIATED DATA ARE PROVIDED WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, either expressed or implied, including but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. Before making decisions using the information provided on this map, contact the Nevada County Public Counter staff to confirm the validity of the data provided.

South Yuba Rim Fuel Reduction Impact Zone Overlap with Nevada County Economically Vulnerable Zone



Legend

- Cal OES Economically Vulnerable Zone
- South Yuba Rim Fuel Reduction Impact Zone

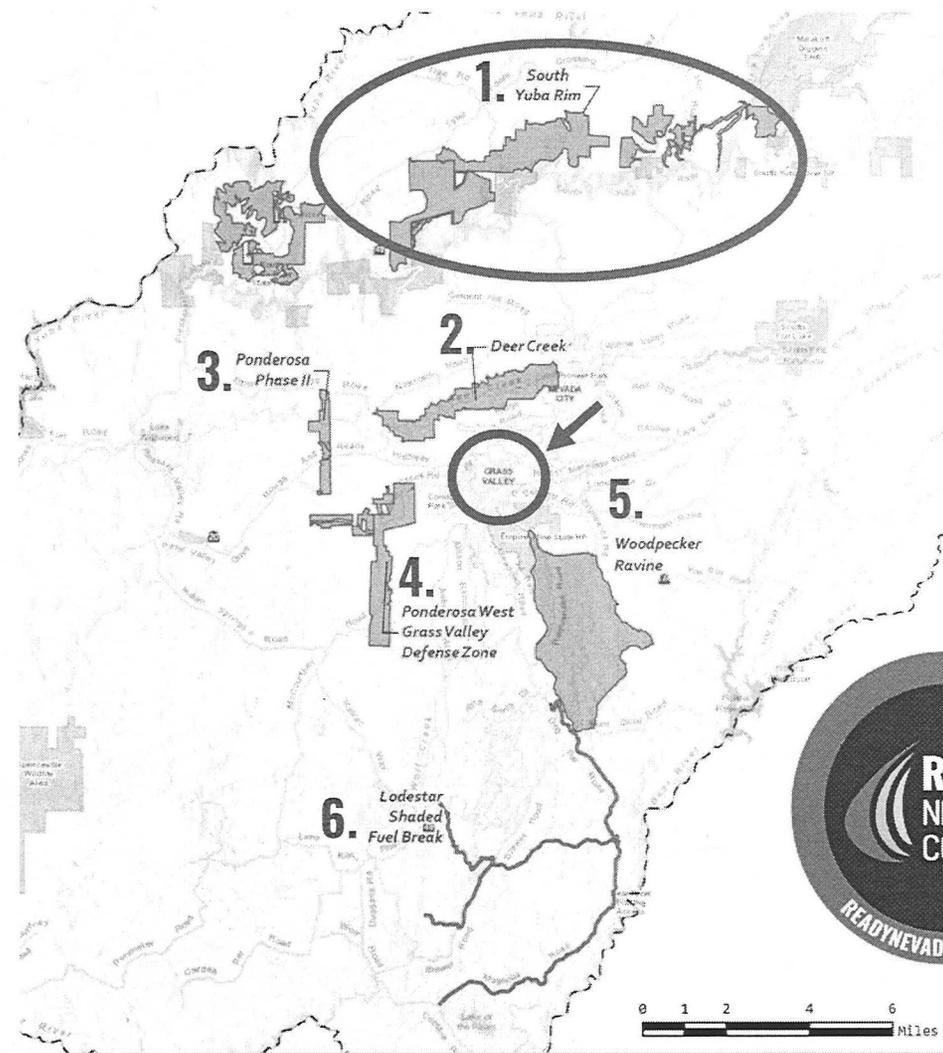
Every reasonable effort has been made to assure the accuracy of the maps and data provided; nevertheless, some information may not be accurate. The County of Nevada assumes no responsibility arising from use of this information. THE MAPS AND ASSOCIATED DATA ARE PROVIDED WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, either expressed or implied, including but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. Before making decisions using the information provided on this map, contact the Nevada County Public Counter staff to confirm the validity of the data provided.

Published 4/5/2022 by I Gordon

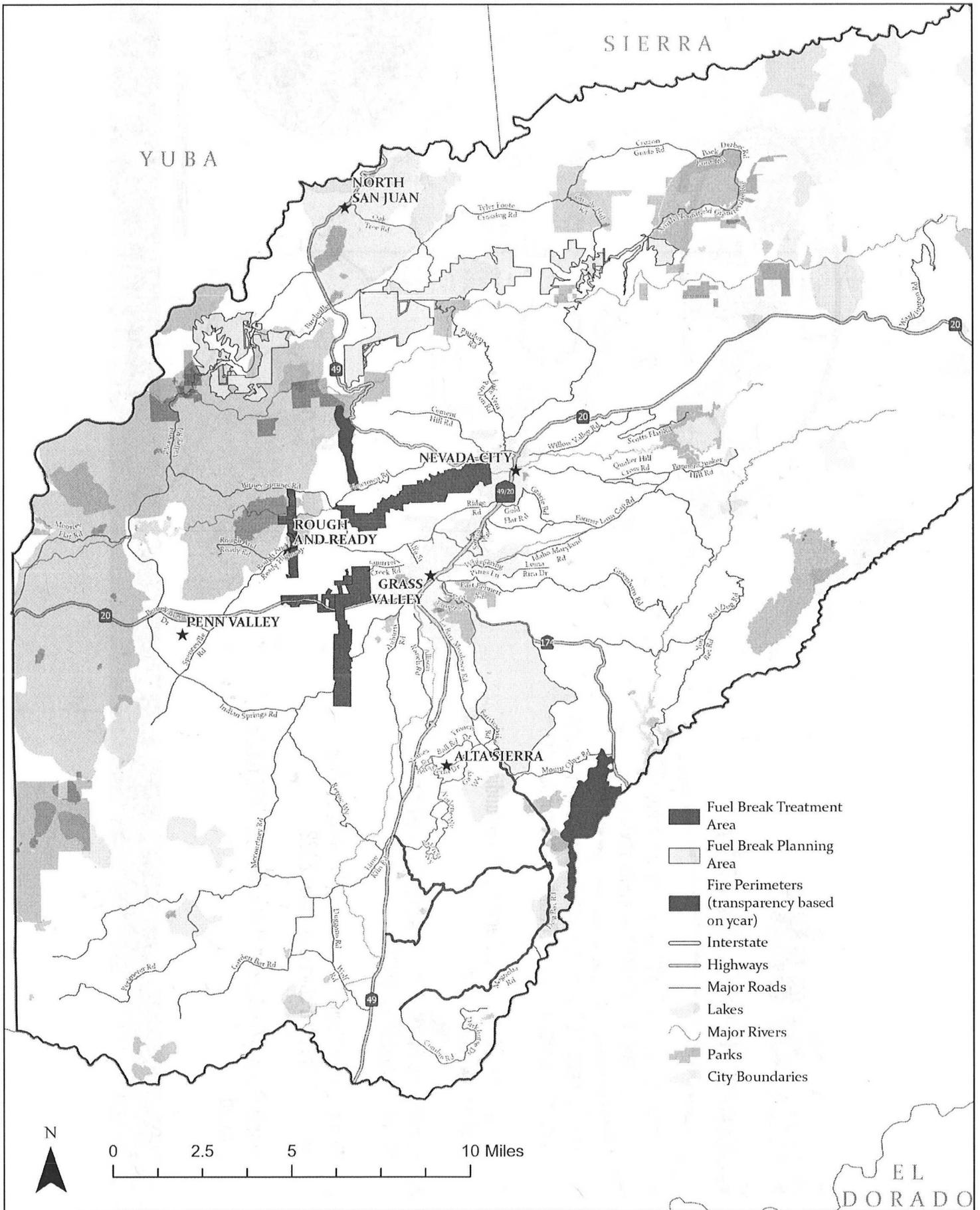
Fuel Breaks

Western Nevada County

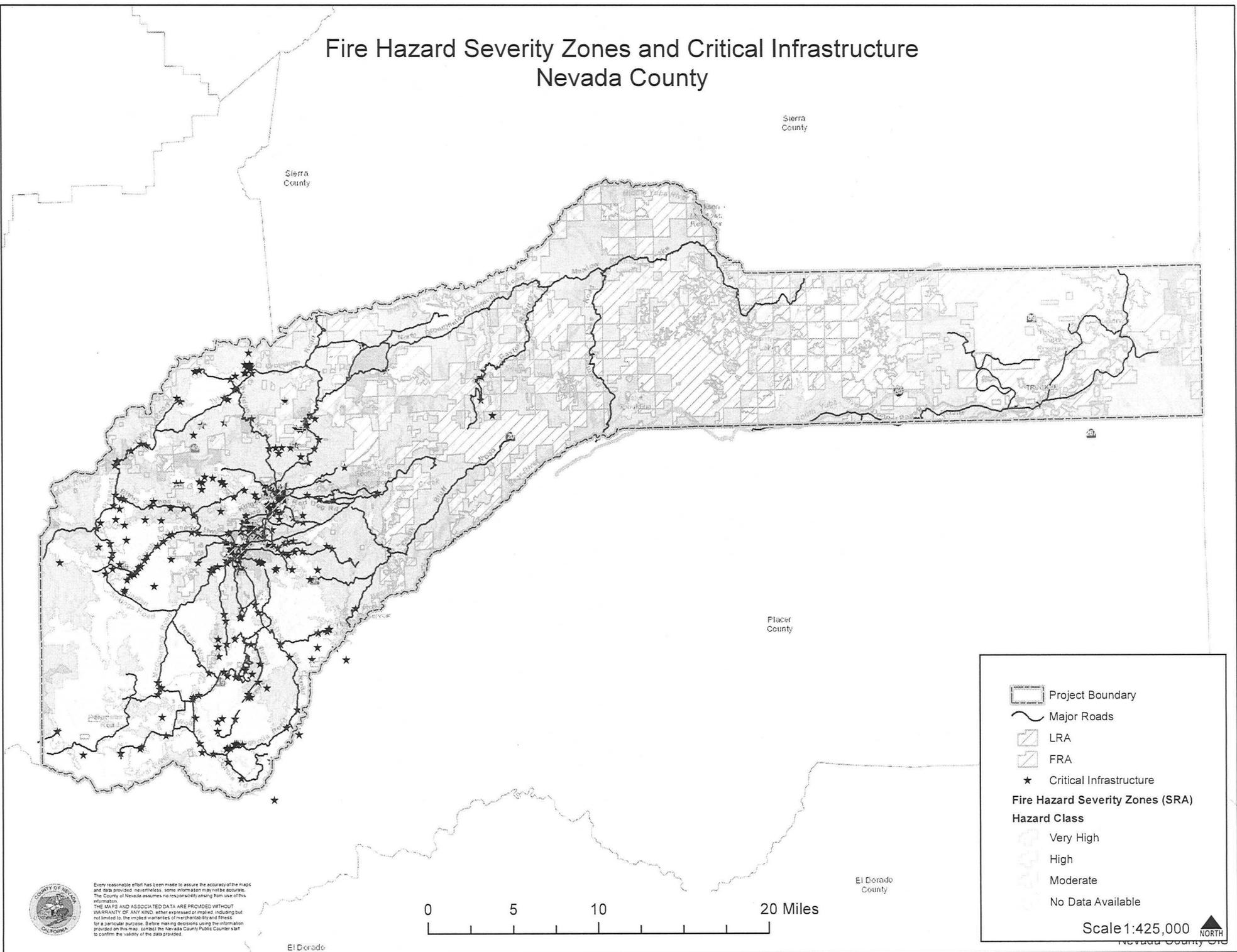
1. **South Yuba Rim:** 6,000 acre planning area, ~800-acre treatment. FEMA proposal under review.
2. **Deer Creek:** 1,600 acres. FEMA Proposal under review (FireSafe Council of Nevada County is the applicant).
3. **Ponderosa Phase 2:** 600 acres. Federal funding and local match are secured.
4. **Ponderosa Phase 1:** 1,087 acres. CAL FIRE grant closed out March 15, 2022.
5. **Woodpecker Ravine:** 414 acres. CAL FIRE funding secured. Estimated start is October 2022.
6. **South County/Lodestar:** 339 acres. CAL FIRE funding secured.



Historical Fire Perimeters in Western Nevada County (1911-2021)



Fire Hazard Severity Zones and Critical Infrastructure Nevada County



Every reasonable effort has been made to assure the accuracy of the maps and data provided; nevertheless, some information may not be accurate. The County of Nevada assumes no responsibility arising from use of this information.
THE MAPS AND ASSOCIATED DATA ARE PROVIDED WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, either expressed or implied, including but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. Before making decisions using the information provided on this map, contact the Nevada County Public Counter staff to confirm the validity of the data provided.

0 5 10 20 Miles

- Project Boundary
- Major Roads
- LRA
- FRA
- Critical Infrastructure
- Fire Hazard Severity Zones (SRA)**
- Hazard Class**
- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- No Data Available

Scale 1:425,000 NORTH

El Dorado

Nevada County GIS



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SNC Project #	1512
Project Title <i>60-character limit</i>	South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project
Project Category <i>Select one</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation
Funding Amount Requested	\$ 214,666
Total Project Cost <i>SNC request plus funding or in-kind from other sources</i>	\$ 858,666
Applicant Organization	County of Nevada
Applicant Authorized Representative <i>Person who is authorized to sign the grant agreement</i>	Craig Griesbach Director, Office of Emergency Services 1-530-265-1583 craig.griesbach@nevadacounty.ca.gov 950 Maidu Avenue Suite 130 Nevada City, CA 95959
Name Title Phone Email Mailing and/or Physical Address	
Applicant Day-to-Day Contact <i>Person who manages the project</i>	Alex Keeble-Toll Senior Administrative Analyst, Office of Emergency Services 1-530-557-5118 alex.keeble-toll@co.nevada.ca.us 950 Maidu Avenue Suite 130 Nevada City, CA 95959
Name Title Phone Email Mailing and/or Physical Address	
Subregion(s)	Central Sierra
County(ies)	Nevada County
SNC Project Lead	Chris Dallas



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A note on using the fillable answer fields in this document:

All of the fillable form fields in this document allow you to vary the text format as needed, using font sizes, bold, italics, underlines, tables, and lists. Bullet and numbered lists work in the form fields except on the first and last line of each field; you may use enter/return to add an extra line before and after a list as needed. You may also compose answers in a separate document, then cut and paste into the answer fields and adjust formatting as needed.

Please be concise when answering the narrative questions below.
The Proposal should not exceed 26 pages.

Concise Project Summary

Provide a Project Summary, including purpose, location, landownership, acreage, partners, and estimated cost.

Please limit the response to six BRIEF sentences or bullet points. This should be a list of the six characteristics requested.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to conduct landscape-scale forest health treatment in order to reduce the unacceptable level of wildfire risk that the disadvantaged communities of North San Juan, Nevada City, Grass Valley, Penn Valley and Rough and Ready currently face.

Location: Project implementation will take place on the San Juan Ridge in western Nevada County, resulting in a contiguous area of hazardous fuels reduction stretching along the north rim of the South Yuba River canyon from Bridgeport east for 16 miles to North Bloomfield.

Landownership: This project will focus on private property, linking together and building upon completed actions on State, Federal, and private lands within Firewise Communities, protecting over 44,000 residents, critical infrastructure, and the Wild and Scenic South Yuba River from the impacts of wildfire. (See Location Maps 1-8 and Photographs of Resources that will be Protected Figures 7-10).

Acreage: This project will complete the necessary planning for treatment of 800 acres of privately owned land that is nested within a 6,000-acre landscape-scale strategic planning area. (See Location Maps 1-2).

Partners: The South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project has been identified as a top priority by a suite of partners including CAL FIRE Battalion 14, North San Juan Fire Protection District, 13 Firewise communities, and place-based non-profit Yuba Watershed Institute.



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Estimated Cost: The planning phase of this project will cost an estimated \$858,666 of which we are requesting \$214,666 from Sierra Nevada Conservancy to be leveraged against FEMA HMGP funds; the total project cost is estimated to be \$4.2 million.

Project Location, Maps, and Photographs

Location Description

Describe the project location, including the county, nearby communities and public lands, the watershed in which the project is located, nearby forest health projects, and project acreage.

Please limit the response to one paragraph.

The South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project is an 800-acre project nested within a 6,000-acre strategic planning area on the San Juan Ridge in Nevada County, in one of the United States Forest Service's (USFS) top 10 priority fireheds for the Pacific Southwest Region. (See Location Maps 1-8). This high-impact, multi-benefit project will reduce wildfire risk for over 44,000 residents in five disadvantaged communities and protect critical infrastructure and natural resources, including two State Historic Parks, the South Yuba River watershed (a Wild and Scenic designated river), Tahoe National Forest and BLM public lands. The Project is independent of existing projects on the San Juan Ridge., however it will leverage priority treatment areas together alongside the efforts of local Firewise Communities to maximize landscape-scale benefit. Refer to the Background and Need section for a complete list of projects and treatment areas. Details on a select set of these projects include (See Location Maps 4-5):

- **Malakoff State Park Vegetation Management Project (VMP):** This project is a partnership between California State Parks and CAL FIRE to conduct management actions on 1,000 acres within the 3,700-acre North Bloomfield area. The primary treatment is prescribed fire in combination with post-fire work and the goal is to restore native forest composition, structure, and function while reducing risk of catastrophic wildfire.
- **Reader Ranch/Birchville Road VMP:** This project consists of 2,300 acres and has twenty-two landowners involved including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The treatment consists of brush fuel abatement by hand crews, masticating with machinery, pile or broadcast burns, and reestablishment of control lines.
- **'Inimim Forest Restoration Project:** This project consists of treatment of 1,200 acres of BLM land (2,000 acres) and private property along 30-miles of the South Yuba Rim. Treatment consists of hand cutting and piling of small-diameter woody material, hand cutting and chipping along high priority roadways, pile burning, and hazard tree removal.



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PDF Location Maps to be included with Proposal

Include the following project maps, in PDF format.

- 1) Project within the Landscape.**
The map(s) should display the project location as part of the larger landscape in relation to communities, infrastructure, water sources, or complementary projects.
- 2) Project Boundaries.**
The map(s) should clearly delineate where SNC funds will be used and, if the proposed SNC activities are part of a larger project, boundaries of that larger project. For planning projects, the map should identify where the pre-project activities will be focused and the potential location of the future implementation project, if applicable.
- 3) Project Site Plan for implementation projects. Planning projects may include a Site Plan, if applicable.**
A map or diagram identifying types and locations of vegetation treatments or activities and/or other project details.

In the space below, confirm the number of maps submitted. If the project does not have a Site Plan, briefly state why.

A total of eight maps have been submitted with this project as follows: Maps 1-2: Project Treatment Area with 2-Mile Radius Around At-Risk Structures; Map 3: Project Impact Zone with Cal OES Economically Vulnerable Zone Overlay; Map 4: CAL FIRE NEU Plan Projects; Map 5: Inimim Forest Phase 1 and 2 Locations; Map 6: Historical Fire Perimeters in Western Nevada County; Map 7: Project Location in Relation to Firewise Communities; Map 8: Fire Hazard Severity Zones and Critical Infrastructure Nevada County.

GIS Shapefiles to be included with Proposal

Include a GIS polygon shapefile delineating the area where SNC funds will be expended. Fields in the shapefile data should include:

- 1) SNCGrant (Integer) the grant number you have been assigned by your SNC Area Rep.**
- 2) OrgName (Text) the name of the applicant organization.**
- 3) ProjName (Text) the project name as it is on the Proposal**

If the applicant organization has challenges developing this information, SNC will assist with the development of GIS files. This request for assistance must be made as early as possible



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All GIS files should be compiled into one folder before uploading into the Submission Folder

In the space below, briefly confirm if GIS files are included with submission, or if they were developed separately with SNC.

GIS Files for the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project are included with this Full Proposal submission.

Photographs to be included with Proposal

Provide no more than 6 photographs of the project area, highlighting important aspects of the project. Photographs of the project area are required.

Additionally, no more than 4 photographs of resources that will be protected by the project may be included. For example: a community, waterway, public infrastructure, or recreation site. These photographs are optional but may illustrate the importance of the project.

All photographs should be submitted as one pdf file, with two or more photographs on each page. At a later time SNC may request original digital copies of photographs for informational purposes.

In the space below, please provide a brief description of each photograph submitted.

Included with this Full Proposal are six photographs of the Project Area and 4 photographs of Resources to be Protected as follows:

Photographs of Project Area

Figure 1: South Yuba Rim Project, Outer Jackass Flats: Tree mortality along Jackass Flats Road, a location listed as needing maintenance for fire road access in the Battalion 14 Ignition Management Plan (2020 Strategic Fire Plan for the CAL FIRE NEU Unit). The Outer Jackass Flats Firewise Community has submitted a Letter of Support for this project.

Figure 2: Private Property Adjacent to BLM/'Inimim Forest: Dense understory and ladder fuel characterize a private parcel adjacent to BLM land treated as part of the Yuba Watershed Institute Project on the 'Inimim Forest.

Figure 3: Montezuma Ridge Looking Across the South Yuba River Canyon: The Montezuma Ridge Fuel Break is a recent and current project listed by the North San Juan Fire Protection District in their Community Fire Plan. The fuel break includes a road that can be used by residents of Outer Jackass Flats to evacuate toward Murphy Road and vice versa if it and the roadside vegetation abatement is maintained.

Figure 4: Recently Treated BLM Parcel, 'Inimim Forest: This BLM parcel that is part of the 'Inimim Forest Project was recently cleared using hand crews. The South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project would tie existing work like this



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in with untreated private lands like Figure 2 to create a contiguous zone of protection stretching 16 miles along the South Yuba Rim.

Figure 5: Reader Ranch VMP: The Reader Ranch VMP is maintained as partnership between CAL FIRE and the private landowners of Reeder Ranch. In 2022 CAL FIRE conducted their annual recertifications at the site. The South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project would tie the Reeder Ranch VMP in with the Montezuma Ridge Fuel Break (Figure 3) providing protection on both sides of Highway 49 – a key evacuation artery for the San Juan Ridge.

Figure 6: Rices Fire Aftermath, June 30, 2022: A homesite that burned in the 900 acre Rices Fire which started on June 28, 2022 at Rices Crossing and Cranston Road and was contained on July 11, 2022. The Rices Fire Burn scar near Bridgeport State Historic Park would anchor the Southwest end of the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project.

Photographs of Resources that will be Protected

Figure 7: Tyler Foote Crossing Road, A Critical Ingress/Egress Route for San Juan Ridge Residents: Tyler Foote Crossing Road, a key evacuation artery providing access to Highway 49, runs parallel to the middle section of the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project. Already completed work on key 'Inimim Forest BLM parcels that will be tied in with this project are nested on both sides of Tyler Foote Crossing Road.

Figure 8: The South Yuba River. North Bloomfield Road at Edwards Crossing: The South Yuba River State Park and the South Yuba Wild & Scenic River Recreation Area are popular recreation areas that receive over 800,000 visitors each year. The lower reaches of the Yuba River provide critical habitat for threatened Spring Run Chinook Salmon and many tributary streams provide critical habitat for sensitive species including Yellow-Legged Frog.

Figure 9: The North Columbia Schoolhouse Cultural Center: The historic North Columbia Schoolhouse Cultural Center is an important gathering place for the communities of the San Juan Ridge. Just down Tyler Foote Road (Figure 7) is the Grizzly Hill School (K-8) in North Columbia. These and other important community resources will be protected by the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project.

Figure 10: Historic Downtown Nevada City: The 16-acre Nevada City Downtown Historic District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985, is one of California's 14 cultural districts. Just across Highway 49, The Nevada County Administrative Center is a hub for social services, employment services, environmental health services, and emergency services for a county-wide rural population of nearly 100,000 people. The Madelynn Helling Library, which is the main branch for the County and includes a 5,000 square foot Collaborative Technology Center that is a vital resource for under-resourced community members lacking access to technology at home, is next door.

Background & Need

Concisely describe the background and need for the project. Why is this project a priority? Why is it important that the project happen now? What risk will be mitigated or recovery reached by implementing this project? Is it part of a larger plan? How is this project a strategic approach to address local or landscape-scale priorities?



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Please limit the response to one page or less.

This project is a priority. Creating a landscape-scale swath of healthy, thinned, wildfire-resilient forest across the rugged South Yuba Rim is a community and expert endorsed solution to guard against the uncontrolled spread of future wildfires that will ultimately save lives. The threat of catastrophic wildfire is real for the 102,241 residents of Nevada County, 92% of whom live in high to very high fire severity zones. Nevada City and Grass Valley have been identified by CAL FIRE as the second and fourth highest priority target areas for Vegetation Management/Fuels Modification Projects in the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit. The South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project is a priority project listed in the CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit Plan 2022 Strategic Fire Plan, furthers the overarching goals of the Nevada County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and confronts the wildfire component of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, in addition to addressing the regional priorities of the Watershed Improvement Plan (WIP) and the broader priorities of California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan (WFRAP).

This project needs to happen now. The mountainous terrain, limited roads, and extreme forest density of the South Yuba Rim make it difficult to combat wildfires and thus all fires in this area pose an existential threat to the communities of western Nevada County. When wildfire has occurred suppressing it as swiftly as possible has been critical to the protection of life and property. Shaded fuel breaks, fire breaks and recent burn scars are all considered key tactical locations for first responders to take a stand against and gain control of wildfires. The South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project is desperately needed to reduce the severity of future fires by making catastrophic fire less likely and providing a zone that can be leveraged by fire-fighting agencies should fire occur. By conducting fuels reduction actions on private properties with a focus on treatment along ingress and egress routes this project furthermore makes evacuation routes safer for residents of the San Juan Ridge. (See Photographs of Resources that will be Protected Figure 7).

This project mitigates risk. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) estimates that every \$1 spent on mitigation saves \$6 on future disaster losses. The Rices Fire that occurred in June of 2022 underscored this point. The 900-acre fire destroyed several homes and outbuildings and cost nearly \$13 million to suppress. (See Photographs of Project Area Figure 6). The South Yuba Rim project proposes to conduct the planning necessary to reduce fuel loading and mitigate wildfire risk on 800 acres. The total cost of this project is budgeted to be \$4.2 million or about a third of the cost to suppress a similar size fire in the same area. At the implementation stage approximately 177 habitable at-risk structures within the project area with a combined rebuild value of \$59,798,875 will be protected. Thousands more homes are located within the project impact area.

This project addresses strategic local and landscape-scale priorities. CAL FIRE, Nevada County Office of Emergency Services, local fire protection districts, and community residents have repeatedly stressed that the number one wildfire mitigation priority is protection of life and property. Any wildfire in the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project area poses a threat to surrounding communities (all or part of Census Tracts 4.02, 5.02, 6, 7.02, 8.01, 8.02, and 9), regardless of wind direction. If a fire breaks out on a day with a north wind, the fire risks spreading south to Rough and Ready, Penn Valley, and Grass Valley. If a fire breaks out with a south wind, it threatens North San Juan. An east wind threatens Rough and Ready and Penn Valley. A west wind, the most common in Nevada County, threatens Nevada City and Grass Valley. This project has been developed to create strategic locations where firefighting resources can be more effective in suppressing wildfire thus preventing loss of life and property, impacts to critical infrastructure, and degradation of the natural resources associated with the South Yuba River watershed.



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Project Description

- 1) Clearly explain the project purpose, goals, and expected outcomes.
- 2) Explain the methodology to be used and why this approach was chosen.
- 3) Describe in detail the specific work to be completed with SNC grant funds.
- 4) Clearly identify specific deliverables (e.g., planning or environmental compliance documents, types of treatment by acre) resulting from this project.

Please limit the response to two pages or less.

Purpose, Goals, and Outcomes

The specific **purpose** of this planning project is to complete the necessary steps to be shovel-ready for implementation in 18 months. The **goal** is development of a project that is built out from the ground up – based on the priorities and values of community members, respectful of the place-based knowledge of residents, responsive to the strategic needs of local fire prevention experts, and also exemplary of regional plans like the WIP and state plans like the WFRAC. **Outcomes** being proposed for SNC funding will be meaningful community engagement, completed treatment design, individual landowner permissions, and environmental permitting, resulting in a project that is shovel-ready for implementation.

Methodology

The methodology employed has been chosen based on what has worked well already in Nevada County – notably what Nevada County Office of Emergency Services has learned through the implementation of the 1,200-acre Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Project and what Yuba Watershed Institute has learned through the 1,200-acre 'Inimim Forest Restoration Project. In sum these projects provide a model of best-practices for engaging with individual landowners to conduct fuels mitigation treatments on private property and a like model for how to work with State and Federal landowners to link together cross-jurisdictional objectives into consistent and contiguous zones of treatment. The intent is to holistically provide for multiple benefits including protection of life and property, improved ingress and egress, forest and watershed health, habitat protection and restoration for sensitive species, and resilience of the recreation, economic, and cultural assets that make Nevada County unique to residents and visitors alike.

Work and Deliverables

The planning phase of the South Yuba River Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project will conduct three key tasks in addition to project administration in order to have a shovel-ready implementation project within two years. The anticipated project timeline is July 2023-July 2025.

Task 1: Outreach and Engagement: ~July 2023-December 2023, and Ongoing

A key step for this project will be to identify and prioritize the treatment areas that will best mitigate the risk of future devastating wildfires. This will be accomplished through engagement of residents and experts on the San Juan Ridge, including the North San Juan Fire Protection District, CAL FIRE Battalion 14 leadership, staff of local non-profit Yuba Watershed Institute, members of the 13 Firewise communities, and private landowners within the planning area. It is anticipated that the bulk of the outreach and engagement work will take place during the first six months of the project, however, many aspects of outreach and engagement will be ongoing as it will be critical to keep the community involved and informed as the project moves forward.

Task 1: Outreach and Engagement Deliverables:



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- List of Contacts
- List of Meetings/Outreach Events Attended
- Meeting Notes and Agendas
- Social Media Posts, Print Articles, Radio Interviews

Task 2: Project Design & Cost Estimate: ~March 2023-December 2024

After critical partnerships are forged, priority treatment areas will be identified and permissions from private landowners to initiate treatment design and agree to right of access, land tenure, and maintenance will commence. Treatment design will include surveying and mapping of treatment areas, development of treatment prescriptions by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) and landowner approval of treatment prescriptions. These steps will be leveraged to develop the Final Project Design and Cost Estimate that together will constitute a comprehensive plan for reducing fuels and maintaining health forests.

Task 2: Project Design & Cost Estimate Deliverables:

- Landowner Right of Access Agreements
- Landowner Land Tenure & Maintenance Agreements
- Treatment Area Maps
- Treatment Prescriptions Developed by RPF
- Landowner Approval of Treatment Prescriptions
- Final Project Design
- Cost Estimate

Task 3: Environmental Permitting: ~January 2024-July 2025

The final task of this planning project will be to take the steps necessary to satisfy the requirements for State environmental permitting. This will include conducting reconnaissance-level biological surveys, conducting a cultural resource records search and cultural resource site surveys, and conducting pre-treatment biological surveys. These data will be used to prepare the required State environmental permitting elements including a PSA, Addendum, and MMRP under CalVTP. In addition, a visual impact survey and environmental justice analysis will be conducted.

Task 3: Environmental Permitting Deliverables:

- Reconnaissance-Level Biological Survey (California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) and USFWS data)
- Cultural Resource Records Search (CHRIS info data sheets or other information obtained from SHPO)
- Cultural Resource Site Surveys
- Pre-Treatment Biological Surveys
- PSA, Addendum, and MMRP under CalVTP
- Visual Impact Survey
- EPA Environmental Justice Analysis

The three project Tasks associated with the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project are proposed as being funded jointly by SNC and FEMA, with FEMA carrying 75% of project costs and SNC carrying 25% of project costs in order to satisfy the local match as required by FEMA. In the event that FEMA were to not award funding (a proposal to FEMA HMGP was submitted in April 2022, award notification is expected in Spring 2023) the key deliverables of the environmental permitting aspect (Task 3) of this project would be independently completed using SNC funds.

Refer to the Budget Narrative section of the Full Proposal for details on the cost-breakdown of this project.



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Program Priorities and Public Benefits

Explain how this project addresses wildfire recovery and forest resilience and supports the goals of California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan and the SNC Watershed Improvement Program.

What public benefits – including natural resource benefits – will be realized through this public investment? Please be specific and quantify benefits, if known. For example: community / critical infrastructure / special habitat / cultural resources / recreation resources protected from wildfire, acres restored from the impacts of wildfire, GHG reduction or carbon stabilized, reintroduction of natural fire regimes, growth or stabilization of ecologically-sound forest-based economies.

Please limit the response to one page or less.

This project is fundamentally in alignment with the goals of both California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan (WFRAP) and the Watershed Improvement Plan (WIP) because it serves to increase the pace and scale at which healthy forest ecosystems are restored in a county renowned for outdoor recreation and tourism, and it does so while simultaneously reducing wildfire risk and improving community resilience. The South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project represents a knitting together of regionally developed strategies – notably CAL FIRE's NEU Strategic Plan which identifies the project as a priority – with the place-based knowledge of local Firewise Communities and on-the-ground expertise of non-profit Yuba Watershed Institute. (See Location Maps 4, 7, and 5 respectively). Specifics of alignment with the WFRAP include:

Goal 1: The project will increase the pace and scale of forest health projects in an area with an unhealthy accumulation of fuels (see Photographs of Project Area Figures 1-2), reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire and safeguarding water quality for the Wild and Scenic Yuba River (see Photographs of Resources that will be Protected Figure 8) and habitat for sensitive wildlife species including the California Spotted Owl and Northern Goshawk. The project will link together actions on private, state, and federal lands to implement a strategic fire management zone identified by experts as key for protecting community and public safety. (See Background and Need section for details on the larger landscape-scale plan).

Goal 2: The project will strengthen protection of the San Juan Ridge by supporting the development of fire adapted communities through broad engagement of local residents, involvement of Firewise Communities in resident and community mitigation (see Location Map 7), and the implementation of landscape treatments responsive to safety and evacuation needs.

Goal 3: The project will provide protection to the Wild and Scenic South Yuba River, a recreation hub of Nevada County and thus serves to sustain outdoor recreation on Forestland. (See Photographs of Resources that will be Protected Figure 8).

Critical Infrastructure & Key Assets

The communities of the San Juan Ridge (such as French Corral, Sweetland, North San Juan, Cherokee, North Columbia, Lake City, and North Bloomfield) contain numerous critical infrastructure and key assets that are at risk from wildfires and would be better protected by implementation of this project. These include:

- A major PG&E transmission line that runs from Grass Valley in Nevada County to Pike to Sierra County.
- Community centers such as the North San Juan Community Center, North San Juan Community Library, San Juan Ridge Family Resource Center, and North Columbia Schoolhouse Cultural Center.



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- The Oak Tree School in North San Juan and the Grizzly Hill School (K-8) in North Columbia.
- The South Yuba River State Park and the South Yuba Wild & Scenic River Recreation Area, popular recreation areas that receive over 800,000 visitors each year (the lower reaches of the Yuba River provide critical habitat for threatened Spring run Chinook salmon).

The Project Influence Zone, which includes the major population centers of western Nevada County, contains many other additional infrastructure and assets at risk. (See Location Map 8 and Photographs of Resources that will be Protected Figures 7-10). The potential for loss of irreplaceable records, historic resources, and health and human services is imminent. Nevada City is the Nevada County seat and the communities of Nevada City, Grass Valley, North San Juan, and Rough and Ready form the epicenter of the California Gold Rush. County buildings, historic libraries, and museums house original documents that do not exist in digitized form. Furthermore, Nevada County is home to two of California's 14 cultural districts, the only hospital in western Nevada County lies just outside Nevada City, and numerous public services that rural and isolated residents region-wide rely upon are based in Nevada City/Grass Valley.

Landscape-Level Context

Describe this project in the context of the larger landscape. Is the project proximate to essential community services, public lands, or recreational amenities? Is it part of a larger plan and/or does it complement and support nearby efforts? If so, please describe the plan and this project's role. How does the proposed project support a broader, cumulative effort to restore and/or protect forest health or wildfire resilience?

Please limit the response to two paragraphs or less.

The need for the 800-acre South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project has been recognized for over a decade by both community members and fire experts. It is a thread through private lands that will tie together a 6,000-acre landscape-scale strategic planning area. The landscape-scale vision was conceived by Sean Griffis, former Battalion Chief of Nevada-Yuba-Placer (NEU) Unit Battalion 14 (Smartsville – Columbia Hill Battalion). The 2020 Strategic Fire Plan for the CAL FIRE's NEU Unit lists several key elements of the project in the Ignition Management Plan for Battalion 14. The following roads within the project area were listed as needing maintenance for fire road access: Jackass Flats Road, Hoyt's Crossing Road, Murphy Road, and Rice's Crossing Road – the location of June's Rices Fire. The Ignition Management Plan also lists several fire mitigation projects that are within the 6,000 acre strategic planning area including: Bunker Hill VMP, Bunker Hill Fuel Break, Jackass Flats Road, Shady Creek Fuel Break. The Ignition Management Plan also lists the community of French Corral as a "High Priority Target Area." The current Battalion Chief for Battalion 14, Landon Haack, has included language in the 2021 and 2022 NEU Strategic Fire Plans describing the South Yuba Rim as a priority project for his Battalion. Several other projects in the area, including the Reader Ranch VMP, the Malakoff Diggins VMP, and the 'Inimim Forest project will be tied in via the 800 acres of treatment that this project will achieve. (See Location Maps 4-5).

In addition to the aforementioned, several parts of the strategic planning area are included in the North San Juan Fire Protection District Community Fire Plan. The Montezuma Ridge Fuel Break is mentioned as a recent and current project. (See Photographs of Project Area Figure 3). The Plan also calls for shaded fuel breaks to be established along major evacuation routes, including Pleasant Valley Road. This Community Fire Plan was included as an appendix to the 2016 Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Nevada County, produced by the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County.



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Project Partners

Identify other partners involved in the project. Describe who is/was engaged in project planning and who will be responsible for implementation. Identify if the project is part of a larger plan, collaborative group, or process that included public input. Highlight local agencies, citizen groups, or tribal organizations engaged with the project. Identify what other partners are contributing in-kind or financial resources to the project, and if that funding has been secured.

Please limit the response to two paragraphs or less.

This project has been identified as a priority in the 2022 Strategic Fire Plan for the Nevada Yuba Placer Unit of CAL FIRE as a result of ongoing public input about the importance of the project in combination with the collaborative hazard and risk assessment of local and regional fire mitigation leaders. The on-the-ground partners associated with this project include individual community members whose properties will benefit from hazardous fuels reduction activities, the leaders of the 13 Firewise Communities who have expressed support for this project, the North San Juan Fire Protection District, CAL FIRE Battalion 14 leadership, and local non-profit Yuba Watershed Institute (YWI). Leaders of the Firewise Communities of the San Juan Ridge have been reaching out to the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services with project priorities as the County gears up to embark on an update to the County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project is a top priority for these communities and their localized knowledge and credibility will be valuable for getting widespread buy-in. In addition, these project partners have place-based knowledge that will be instrumental in informing treatment design. Local Fire and CAL FIRE leaders are important partners as they have identified the priorities for the larger 6,000-acre landscape-scale strategic planning area of which this 800-acre project is part. Their insight will help to ensure that this project maximizes the potential mitigation benefit by linking to other important projects in the planning area. YWI will be the project implementation partner for this project. Their personal relationships in the community of North San Juan will be vital to achieving the local engagement needed to ensure that this project is a success. YWI will coordinate with additional experts as needed to complete the steps necessary to develop the treatment design and satisfy environmental permitting requirements. YWI is also a pillar of the Nevada County fuels reduction community and have taken the lead on implementation for the 'Inimim Forest Restoration Project on the San Juan Ridge - the culmination of over 30 years of collaboration between local residents and the U.S Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be the funding partner for this project. The County of Nevada has applied to FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for Phase 1 (Planning) and Phase 2 (Implementation) funds. Cal OES has reviewed the application and the County has satisfied four requests for additional information. This application has now been advanced to FEMA for consideration. FEMA requires a 25% local match for their grant program. At this time, we are asking SNC to provide the 25% local match for the planning aspect of this project. SNC's commitment to funding the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project will allow the County of Nevada to leverage SNC's investment three times over in order to move this critically important project forward.



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Organizational Capacity

Describe the applicant's ability to complete the project as proposed. Identify the resources (staff, project partners, or contractors) intended to complete the tasks described in the work plan and explain the applicant's expertise or experience completing similar projects.

Please limit the response to two paragraphs or less.

The County of Nevada has extensive experience in applying for and successfully managing grants, including private, state, and federal grants, maintaining a stellar track record of successful outcomes, completion, and compliance. The Nevada County Office of Emergency Services (OES) specifically secures and manages major state and federal grants and prides itself on the timely completion of grant funded projects while reaching desirable milestones. Nevada County OES regularly applies for, receives, and manages the Emergency Management Performance Grant and the Homeland Security Grant. Other recent large grants OES has secured include:

Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone: CAL FIRE #5GG18114: \$2,536,477 + \$1,000,000 in a separate contract; South County Shaded Fuel Break: CAL FIRE #5GG20116: \$952,610; Access and Functional Needs – 4353: FEMA HMGP #DR-4353-0230033R: \$516,273.75; Access and Functional Needs – 4344: FEMA HMGP #DR-4353-0230033R: \$498,167.29; Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Extension: FY22 Federal Earmark: \$750,000; Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break: CAL FIRE#5GG1227: \$2,178,004; Nevada County Evacuation Route Planning: California Firesafe Council #5GG21105: \$135,422.

All grant applications countywide are approved by the CEO's office, and fiscal alignment monitored and supported by the Auditor/Controller.

Community Support

SNC strongly encourages engagement with communities and local government during project planning and implementation. Describe community support for the project, as well as any known opposition to the project. Explain any concerns and efforts to address those concerns.

In addition to the narrative, SNC recommends providing evidence of community support for this project, in the form of a letter(s) of support. Please provide a list of all letters included in the narrative below.

Please limit the response to two paragraphs or less, plus the list of supporting letters.

The South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project is part of a larger landscape-scale vision for forest health and wildfire mitigation on the San Juan Ridge. The development of this vision arose out of community concern and has involved considerable community input. The location of this project is recognized by fire experts as an area in dire need of treatment and as such this project has significant buy-in not just at the local level, but at the County and State level as well. Support for



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this project comes from the leaders of the 13 Firewise Communities in the vicinity of the South Yuba Rim, the North San Juan Fire Protection District, CAL FIRE Battalion 14 leadership, and local non-profit Yuba Watershed Institute (YWI).

A multitude of organizations and agencies have been involved in the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project to date. These include:

- CAL FIRE's NEU Unit Battalion 14, which is leading the effort to reduce fuels and conduct prescribed burning at the Reader Ranch, Malakoff, and Bunker Hill VMP projects. CAL FIRE has been the main proponent and organizer behind the larger landscape-scale strategic planning area of which the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project is part but has asked for assistance from the County and its non-profit partners in order to expand the capacity to knit together the different projects into a contiguous shaded fuel break.
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Mother Lode Field Office, which has collaborated with the YWI on the portions of the landscape-scale strategic planning area that are part of the 'Inimim Forest Restoration Project, particularly large areas along Jackass Flats Road, MacNab Cypress Road, Kadaheska Way, and Sumi Way. The BLM has led the NEPA analysis for 519 acres of fuels reduction treatments that will extend this project once implementation funding is secured.
- North San Juan Fire Protection District, which provided input for the development of this project scope.
- San Juan Ridge Taxpayers Association (SJRTA), which provided support for the preparation of this project scope by convening a meeting of all San Juan Ridge Firewise Communities, which included a discussion of this project. The SJRTA will continue to provide support for this project as it moves forward.
- Firewise Communities, including Outer Jackass Flats, Montezuma Ridge West, French Corral, and Lake City-Grizzly, who provided input into the design of this project, and will provide critical assistance during outreach to landowners whose parcels were included in project planning areas.

Letters of Support submitted with this proposal include the following:

17 individual community members who will directly benefit from this project.

Yuba Watershed Institute
Montezuma Ridge West Firewise Community
Lake Vera Round Mountain Firewise Community
Outer Jackass Flats Firewise Community
Salmon Mine-East Sages Firewise Community
Lake City/Grizzly Hill Firewise Community
Ananda Village Firewise Community
Toller Ridge Court Firewise Community
Hyatt/Blue Sage Firewise Community

Engagement with California Native American Tribes

Recognizing that Native Americans have inhabited and cared for the land of present-day California since time immemorial, the SNC strongly encourages engagement with Native American tribes as early as possible in the development, planning, and implementation of projects. SNC staff can assist with identifying Native American tribes whose



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ancestral homelands may be in the project area and help provide contact information for those tribes.

In the space below, identify Native American tribes (other than the applicant, if the applicant is a tribal entity), that may have an interest in the project. Describe any current or anticipated role for local tribes in the project, including if funding is requested to provide support for tribal participation.

Please limit the response to two paragraphs or less.

The Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe are the original people of Nevada County. United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) is the federally recognized tribe who may have interest in this project based on a potential for this project to encompass ancestral homelands. Per AB 52 this project will involve consultation with UAIC as part of completing CEQA.

A component of developing ecologically sound and culturally sensitive treatment prescriptions for this project will be engaging with members of the two aforementioned tribes. The intent will be to respectfully incorporate any traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) they are able and willing to share into the overall approach to the extent possible. The County of Nevada would welcome the opportunity to provide stipends for these tribes to participate in the project as a component of match funding above and beyond what is delineated in the project budget.

Long-Term Management and Monitoring

How will the public benefits of the project be sustained? Describe plans and/or planning for the long-term management, monitoring, and sustainability of the project. If long-term management and monitoring are part of an existing plan, identify the plan and cite the applicable section. Identify known or anticipated funding sources to support long-term management and monitoring.

For planning projects, please describe the anticipated approach for long-term management and monitoring of the future project.

Please limit the response to two paragraphs or less.

Fuels reduction will provide a safer area, cleared of hazardous fuels (see Photographs of Project Location Figure 1-2), from which fire personnel can attempt suppression activities during such fires. The removal of hazardous vegetation will also act to slow or reduce fire behavior by reducing overall fuel levels and continuity between surface, ladder, and crown fuels. (See Photographs of Project Location Figure 4 for an example of treated land). This will increase safety for fire personnel and the public during a wildland fire and reduce the risk of damage to the numerous habitable structures in the Project Influence Zone. This project directly benefits the community of North San Juan (where the project is located) and in addition conveys substantial public benefit to four other communities in western Nevada County. Furthermore, as the project protects the County seat (Nevada City) it is in the interest of all County residents. The location of the project has been strategically identified to prevent the spread of a wildland fire moving from the north towards the dense population centers of Grass Valley, Nevada City, Rough and Ready, and Penn Valley. The fuel break will also help prevent the spread of a wildland fire moving from the South Yuba River canyon north into the communities of the San Juan Ridge. Firewise Communities and individual



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residents on both sides of the river canyon have expressed their support for this project and their willingness to leverage and extend the sustainability of this project by conducting wildfire mitigation actions on their land, even if the property does not end up in the final treatment zone identified as an outcome of this planning project.

A reduction of fuels along primary evacuation routes for residents in the French Corral, Bunker Hill, Montezuma Ridge, and Lake City-Grizzly neighborhoods, will provide safer ingress and egress pathways for multiple communities. (See Photographs of Resources that will be Protected Figure 7). Where land along county roads is treated, County of Nevada has a vested interest in prioritizing these locations for maintenance on a 2-3 year cycle as after 5 years all mitigation benefit is likely to be lost. The outcomes of this project will furthermore be enduring because participating landowners will be educated on the value of maintaining the fuels reduction treatment with maintenance every 2-3 years to ensure that the wildfire mitigation outcome remains intact. Landowners will commit to 10 years of maintenance at a minimum as part of ensuring the durability of investment associated with this project. The 800 acres of this project will tie in with several CAL FIRE Vegetation Management Program (VMP) areas, which are locations where private landowners have entered into a contract with CAL FIRE to achieve resource management goals. (See Photographs of Project Area Figure 5). Yuba Watershed Institute is committed not only to working with BLM to ensure that outcomes on federal land are sustained through maintenance activities including the use of prescribed fire but are furthermore engaged in monitoring outcomes of actions on forest and watershed health to ensure that best-practices can be identified and replicated for the micro ecosystems that exist across the project area. In sum, through the actions and commitment of the diverse partners engaged at different points on the landscape of this project, the project area in its entirety will be maintained to the benefit of the public at large.

Project Workplan and Schedule

List the anticipated start and completion dates of planning or implementation conducted under this grant. No grant awards will be made before March 2023. Dependent on funding source, some projects will need to be complete by January 1, 2027, although select projects may continue until January 1, 2028. Please be clear in the schedule below if the project will be complete by January 2027, or if project work is expected to continue into 2027.

Anticipated start date	July 2023
Anticipated completion date	July 2025

Complete the chart below. Please include all tasks and deliverables, including SNC reporting requirements.

Project Tasks and Deliverables	Timeline
Task 1: Outreach and Engagement	July 2023-December 2023, and Ongoing
List of Contacts	February 2023-August 2023
List of Meetings/Outreach Events Attended; Meeting Notes and Agendas	July 2023-December 2023, and Ongoing
Social Media Posts, Print Articles, Radio Interviews	February 2023-August 2023



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Task 2: Project Design and Cost Estimate	March 2023-December 2024
Landowner Right of Access Agreements; Land Tenure and Maintenance Agreements	March 2023-July 2023
Treatment Area Maps; Treatment Prescriptions Developed by RPF; Landowner Approval of Treatment Prescriptions	March 2023-July 2024
Final Project Design and Cost Estimate	August 2024-December 2024-
Task 3: Environmental Permitting	January 2024-July 2025
PSA, Addendum, and MMRP under CalVTP; Reconnaissance-Level Biological Surveys; Cultural Resource Records Search and Site Surveys	January 2024-July 2025
Pre-Treatment Biological Surveys; Visual Impact Survey; EPA Environmental Justice Analysis	January 2024-July 2025
SNC 6-month Progress Reports	Ongoing: January 2024; July 2024; January 2025; July 2025
SNC Final Report with Performance Measures Reporting	July 2025
Estimated Project Completion Date:	July 2025

Project Costs

Project Budget

Complete the charts below.

The charts do not automatically calculate totals and percentages.

- In the Tribal Participation line, include all funds anticipated to be used to directly fund costs incurred by tribes for project participation. If there are no funds to be directly used by tribes, please enter \$0.
- In the Equipment line, include all equipment anticipated to cost more than \$5,000 per item. If there is no equipment to be purchased, please leave blank.
- Administrative Costs must not exceed 15% of Direct Project costs. Administrative costs, also referred to as overhead or indirect costs, refer to organizational overhead expenses. A typical method for documentation of administrative overhead expenses is a Cost Allocation Plan which determines the general percentage of an organization's overhead expenses. All costs related to administration and management of this specific project should be listed as direct project costs.
- For Additional Project Costs, include in-kind or funding from sources other than SNC used within the scope and timeline of the project described here.

Direct Project Costs	SNC Funding
County of Nevada, Project Management Salaries and Wages	\$ 10,000
Contractual, Yuba Watershed Institute (Project Management)	\$ 32,500
Contractual, Yuba Watershed Institute (CEQA/Biological Surveys)	\$ 132,500



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Contractual, TBD (Registered Professional Forester)	\$ 12,500
Travel	\$ 1,701
NOTE: Refer to the budget narrative section for details on Project Costs by line item, cost division between SNC and FEMA, and the plan for the Project should FEMA funds not be awarded.	\$ enter text.
enter text.	\$ enter text.
enter text.	\$ enter text.
Tribal Participation:	\$ enter text.
Equipment: Not Applicable	\$ enter text.
Total Direct Project Costs	\$ 189,201

Administrative Cost (not to exceed 15% of the Direct Project Costs)	\$ 25,465
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TOTAL SNC REQUEST (Total Direct plus Administrative Costs)	\$ 214,666
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Additional Project Costs	In-Kind or Funding from Other Sources
County of Nevada, Project Management Salaries and Wages	\$ 106,395
Contractual, Yuba Watershed Institute (Project Management)	\$ 97,500
Contractual, Yuba Watershed Institute (CEQA/Biological Surveys)	\$ 397,500
Contractual, TBD (Registered Professional Forester)	\$ 37,500
Travel	\$ 5,104
Total Additional Project Costs	\$ 643,999

TOTAL PROJECT COST (SNC Request plus Additional Project Costs)	\$ 858,665
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Project Budget Narrative

Describe the budget in additional detail. This should include a description of unit costs used to calculate the line item totals, justification for activity and treatment costs, reasoning behind the estimated expenses, and other information as needed. Identify the source, type, and status of non-SNC funds involved in the project. Applicants may submit a separate, more detailed budget spreadsheet if they wish, but this is not required.

Please limit the response to one page or less.

The three project Tasks associated with the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project are proposed as being funded jointly by SNC and FEMA, with FEMA carrying 75% of project costs and SNC carrying 25% of project costs in order to satisfy the local match as required by FEMA. In the event that FEMA were to not award funding (a proposal to FEMA HMGP was submitted in April 2022, award notification is expected in Spring 2023) the key deliverables of the environmental permitting aspect (Task 3) of this project would be independently completed using SNC funds.

Specifically, in the absence of FEMA funding: County of Nevada would provide in-kind support to manage the project, conduct outreach and engagement activities (Task 1) and secure letters of support from remaining landowners indicating their intent to meet land tenure requirements. County of Nevada would also cover Administrative Costs associated with this project. County of Nevada would contract with Yuba Watershed Institute to:

Prepare the PSA, Addendum, and MMRP under CalVTP (\$90,000)

Conduct reconnaissance-level biological surveys (\$45,000)

Conduct cultural resource records search and site surveys (\$175,00)

In this instance the project cost would total \$310,000. Sierra Nevada Conservancy would fund \$214,666 of the \$310,000 project and County of Nevada would commit to funding the remaining \$95,334 necessary to complete this work. Refer to each line-item below for the projected impacts to the project in the event that FEMA funding is not awarded.

SOUTH YUBA RIM HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT LINE ITEMS

County of Nevada, Project Management Salaries and Wages

Senior Administrative Analyst salary and benefits (including health, dental, vision, life, and retirement) for project scheduling and coordination, project meetings, and subcontractor oversight (Phase 1, Tasks 1-3). These costs are based on actual costs for salaries and wages and benefits; hours are based on similar projects completed. 132 hours @ \$75.75 per hour. Total: \$10,000. Administrative Analyst 2 salary and benefits (including health, dental, vision, life, and retirement) for Phase 1, Task 1: Outreach and Engagement. These costs are based on actual costs for salaries and wages and benefits; hours are based on similar projects completed. 1660 hours @ \$64.09 per hour. Total: \$106,395.

Project Total: \$116,396

Sierra Nevada Conservancy: \$10,000

FEMA HMGP: \$106,395

*If FEMA funding is not awarded and overall project scope is reduced, County of Nevada will commit to provide Project Management support to this project as in-kind.



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Contractual, Yuba Watershed Institute (Project Management)

Yuba Watershed Institute for management of design and permitting process (Phase 1, Task 2): 1 senior staff (salary and benefits) at 32 hours/week for 18 months. These costs are based on actual costs for salaries and wages, inclusive of benefits; hours are based on similar projects completed.

Project Total: \$130,000

Sierra Nevada Conservancy: \$32,500

FEMA HMGP: \$97,500

If FEMA funding is not awarded, Task 2 activities will be omitted from this project with the exception of the minimum level of design necessary to complete environmental permitting. Any costs associated with design will be rolled into the line-item associated with CEQA. Should funds above and beyond be required, County of Nevada will commit to providing those funds as match. Securing letters of support from remaining landowners indicating their intent to meet land tenure requirements will be accomplished via the in-kind efforts of County of Nevada and Yuba Watershed Institute.

Contractual, Yuba Watershed Institute (CEQA/Biological Surveys)

Yuba Watershed Institute to prepare PSA, Addendum, and MMRP under CalVTP (\$90,000); conduct reconnaissance-level biological survey (\$45,000); conduct cultural resource records search and site surveys (\$175,000); and conduct pre-treatment biological surveys (\$220,000). These costs are based on similar projects completed.

Project Total: \$530,000

Sierra Nevada Conservancy: \$132,500

FEMA HMGP: \$397,500

If FEMA funding is not awarded the pre-treatment biological surveys (\$220,000) will be removed from this project and written into the implementation (Phase 2) of this project, thus reducing this line-item to \$310,000. In this case, the total project activities would consist of preparing the PSA, Addendum, and MMRP under CalVTP (\$90,000); conducting reconnaissance-level biological surveys (\$45,000); and conducting cultural resource records search and site surveys (\$175,000). Sierra Nevada Conservancy would fund \$214,666 of the \$310,000 project and County of Nevada would commit to funding the remaining \$95,334 necessary to complete this work.

Contractual, TBD (Registered Professional Forester)

RPF to survey and support development of treatment design. These costs are based on similar projects completed.

Project Total: \$50,000

Sierra Nevada Conservancy: \$12,500

FEMA HMGP: \$37,500

If FEMA funding is not awarded the services of an RPF will be retained TBD as needed and only to the extent necessary to complete environmental permitting. Should funds above and beyond be required, County of Nevada will commit to providing those funds as match.

Travel

Cost to travel to site for project management 1 time per week for 18 months during Phase 1. These costs are calculated based on actual mileage to the project site at the federal mileage reimbursement rate for 2022. Staff Travel 1x per week (40 mi RT). 3,000 miles @ \$0.59 per mile. Total: \$1,770



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Costs for staff per diem during site visits 1 time per week for 18 months during Phase 1. These costs are based on projected days at the project site calculated at the federal per diem rate for California for 2022. Staff Per Diem 1x per week. 75 days @ \$67.14 per day. Total: \$5,035

Project Total: \$6,805

Sierra Nevada Conservancy: \$1,701

FEMA HMGP: \$5,104

If FEMA funding is not awarded and overall project scope is reduced, overall travel days will be reduced by 75% to project site visits 1 time per month and County of Nevada will cover these costs in-kind.

Administrative Cost

Administrative Cost @15% of Direct Project Costs to SNC.

Project Total: \$25,465

Sierra Nevada Conservancy: \$25,465

FEMA HMGP: \$0

If FEMA funding is not awarded, Administrative Costs budgeted for the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project would not be requested from SNC; these funds would be applied to completing the environmental permitting for this project.

Land Ownership and Restrictions on Land Use

The SNC cannot consider a project unless landowners of the project site have provided adequate permission. Recruiting additional landowners to give permission and participate in a project may occur after grant award. However, evaluation of the proposed project includes consideration of the number of confirmed landowners and acres at the time of proposal.

In the space below, identify all legal property owners for the land on which the project is to occur, as well as any property easements or other restrictions that may impact the project. Describe the current status of any land tenure agreements. Identify if the project includes recruiting additional landowners after proposal submission. Include a list of landowner tenure agreements / intent to enter into tenure agreements (for implementation projects) or letters of support (for planning projects) included with the proposal.

For implementation projects: If the applicant does not hold legal ownership of the project site, documentation assuring ten years of access for project implementation and maintenance is required. Proof of adequate land tenure includes, but is not limited to:

- Fee title ownership



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- An easement or license agreement
- A formal agreement between the applicant and all fee title or easement owners sufficient to give the applicant adequate site control for purposes of the project.

If the project proponent does not have tenure at the time of proposal, submit a letter from all property owners/managers indicating their intent to meet tenure requirements if the grant is awarded.

For planning projects: Letters of support from all landowners, granting permission for the project, are required.

Please limit the response to two paragraphs or less.

Landowners within the footprint of this planning project have been core to the development of project objectives and as such have had multiple opportunities to participate in public forums about this project, the most recent being a Town Hall held at the North Columbia Schoolhouse on October 17, 2022. Staff of Nevada County OES have met on the ground with impacted Firewise Communities (FWC) within the last three months including leaders of the Outer Jackass Flats, Ananda Village, Salmon Mine-East Sages, Lake City-Grizzly Hill, Montezuma Ridge West, Hyatt-Blue Sage, Toller Ridge Court, Lake Vera-Round Mountain, and Jones Bar FWC. Outreach to 13 Firewise Communities was conducted in the lead-up to Full Proposal submission to reiterate to these communities that after years of planning funding was being sought for the project. Submitted with this Full Proposal are 17 letters of support from individual community members, along with formal LOS from 8 Firewise Communities. As part of the planning activities associated with this project additional landowners whose property will be proposed for treatment during project implementation will be sought. Landowner Right of Access Agreements and Landowner Land Tenure & Maintenance Agreements are deliverables of Task 2 of this project.

Environmental Compliance

All projects must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) at the time the SNC Governing Board authorizes a grant. Since the complexity of CEQA compliance will vary depending on project activities and type of grantee, it is important to consult with SNC staff regarding which documents may be required in what timeframe. In addition to CEQA compliance, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance is required for all projects proposed on federal land and a NEPA decision must be in place at the time of application.

For projects not exempt from CEQA, if CEQA is not complete at the time of proposal the Lead Agency for CEQA must be identified in the proposal. Please include a letter or other documentation from the Lead Agency stating they are eligible and willing to serve as Lead and the expected timeline for completing CEQA. If SNC has agreed to serve as Lead Agency, please note this in the narrative below.

Please provide a brief description of CEQA and NEPA status below, including if the project is exempt, Lead Agency, expected timeline if CEQA is not yet complete, and links to existing environmental documents. If links are not available, the documents



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must be submitted to SNC. Examples of such documents include but are not limited to Initial Study, Mitigated Negative Declaration, Timber Harvest Plan, CA FIRE 1038 exemption, Environmental Assessment, and Decision Notice.

Brief Description of CEQA Status

Please limit the response to one paragraph or less.

CEQA will be completed as part of this planning project. Yuba Watershed Institute will be the contractor responsible for management of the design and permitting process, including preparing the PSA, Addendum, and MMRP under CalVTP, coordination of reconnaissance-level biological surveys, coordination of cultural resource records search and site surveys, and coordination of pre-treatment biological surveys. We request that SNC serve as the Lead Agency for CEQA. The anticipated timeline for this work is 18 months, June 2023- December 31, 2024.

Brief Description of NEPA Status, if applicable.

Please limit the response to one paragraph or less.

Not Applicable.

Resolution or Authorization to Apply

Applicants are required to provide a copy of documentation authorizing them to apply for grant funding to the SNC. A project-specific governing board resolution is required for nonprofit organizations, tribes, and local government agencies. However, if the organization's governing board has delegated authority to a specific officer to act on behalf of that organization, the officer may, in lieu of a resolution, submit a letter of authorization along with documentation of delegated authority. The documentation of delegated authority must include the language granting such authority and the date of the delegation.

In the space below, briefly describe the authorization to apply and if it has been authorized or is scheduled for future consideration. Please include documentation with proposal submission.

Please limit the response to one paragraph or less.

Authorization to apply for grant funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has been provided by Director of the Office of Emergency Services and the Chief Executive Officer of the County of Nevada. This grant application will go before the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada for ratification at their next scheduled meeting on December 7, 2022. Please see the attached Authorization to Apply.



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Proposal Form Checklist

Included	Not Applicable	Documentation
		Project Description
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Proposal Form – please confirm all sections are complete
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape Map(s) with approximate locations of larger project and/or nearby complementary activities. • Project Map(s) in pdf format with boundaries of activities to be supported by SNC • Site Plan(s) identifying types and locations of treatments and activities within project area, if applicable.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		GIS files of project location, compiled into one folder
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		6 photographs of the project site, plus up to 4 photographs of resources protected, compiled into in one PDF document.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Letter(s) of Support, compiled into one PDF document.
		Land Tenure
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Signed Land Tenure Agreement(s), compiled into one PDF document. OR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Letter(s) from Landowner(s) stating intent to enter into tenure agreement for an implementation project, or permission for a planning project, compiled into one PDF document.
		Environmental Compliance
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEPA documents OR online links included. For projects on federal land.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CEQA documents OR online links included Required if CEQA is complete
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Letter from CEQA Lead Agency confirming intent to serve as Lead and expected timeline for completion. Required if CEQA is not yet complete
		Submission Information
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Authorization to Apply Required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Certification of Submission (on the following page) Required

Other (please list below)

enter text.



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Certification of Submission

SNC Project #	1512
Project Name	South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project
Applicant Organization	County of Nevada

Please complete the checklist on the previous page to confirm a complete application packet before signing the Certification below.

CERTIFICATION OF SUBMISSION	
By entering my name below, I certify that the information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge and I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of this organization.	
Name	Craig Griesbach
Title	Director, Office of Emergency Services
Organization	County of Nevada
Date	October 28, 2022



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Submission Instructions

- 1) Upload the Proposal Form and Supporting Documentation to your Project Submission Folder using the link in your Welcome email.**
 - a. Name all documents with the project number and document type.
For example: #####_maps, #####_photos, #####_letters
 - b. Compile all GIS files into one folder before uploading to submission folder.
 - c. If you cannot find or have difficulty accessing the link, please contact the SNC Grants Team at grants.snc@sierranevada.ca.gov, 530-906-4771 or 530-906-7345.
 - d. SNC recommends that applicants only upload files to the Project Submission Folder once they are final, to avoid potential issues related to editing files in a protected folder.
 - e. SNC recommends that applicants maintain a complete record of all documents submitted.

- 2) Send an email to the SNC Grants Team when all final documents are in the Project Submission folder.**
 - a. Use the project number as the subject of the email, and state that all documents are in the Submission Folder.
 - b. Send to: grants.snc@sierranevada.ca.gov
 - c. DO NOT attach the Project Submission Folder to the email.

This email will serve as the official submission of your Proposal Form. The SNC Grants Team will confirm receipt and initiate the review process.