

COUNTY OF NEVADA
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October 24, 2017

Jim Branham
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste. 205
Auburn, CA 95603

RE: Letter of Support for UC Berkeley – Sagehen Creek Field Station's Grant Proposal to Reintroduce Fire through Broadcast Burning in the Sagehen Basin

Dear Mr. Branham:

On behalf of the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, I am submitting this Letter of Support for the Sagehen Creek Field Station's proposal to reintroduce fire on a minimum of 950 acres and up to 1,500 acres within the Sagehen Basin as the final step of the Sagehen Forest Restoration Project.

The effort to restore this section of forest began in 2004, and has involved a significant collaborative process to better understand forest ecology, reduce fire danger, and enhance functioning of the ecosystem through a multi-phase implementation process. This process has included 1) thinning the forest through hand and mechanical methods, and 2) burning the waste piles thus created. The third and final step is to reintroduce low-intensity fire to the understory through broadcast burning. After this is completed, it is anticipated that the Sagehen Basin forest ecosystem will be more resilient to fire and will also enjoy improved water quality and other natural resource benefits.

Because of these fire-safety and forest-related benefits, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors supports the Sagehen Creek Field Station's proposal to seek financial support from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to reintroduce fire to the Sagehen Basin.

Sincerely,

Hank Weston
Chair, Board of Supervisors

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