

**Proposition 84 (13-14 Grant Round)**

**Project Proposal Form**  
**EGID# (Insert number here)**

Choose Either: **Category Two Pre-Project Activities**

---

Project Title: **Amador Calaveras Consensus - Foster-Mattley Meadow Restoration** (Limit to 10 words or less. If CEQA/NEPA has been completed for this project, please use the same name as on the environmental documents.)

County: **Eldorado and Calaveras County**

SNC Subregion: **South Central Sierra Region and Central Sierra Region**

SNC Area Representative: **Brandon Sanders**

Area Manager: **Julie Bear**

**ORGANIZATION INFORMATION**

Organization: **U.S. Forest Service,  
Eldorado National Forest,  
100 Forni Road  
Placerville, CA 95667**

(Including legal name, address and zip code)

Organization Type: **Government (U.S. Forest Service)**

(Either: Non-profit Organization; Government (specify agency); Tribal Organization)

Organization Website: **N/A**

Has the organization successfully completed similar project(s)?: **Yes**

If yes, please describe the project(s): **Indian Valley Meadow Restoration (see attachment)**  
(Supplemental Page may be used to describe)

If applicant is a Non-Profit, do we currently have Articles of Incorporation and Non Profit Status on file? **N/A**

**PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION**

*Authorized Representative/Title:* **Rick Hopson, District Ranger, Amador Ranger District**  
(Authorized to sign grant agreement, requests for payment and other formal documents as required)

*Email:* **rhopson@fs.fed.us**

*Address:* **26820 Silver Dr.**

*City, State, Zip:* **Pioneer, CA, 95666**

*Phone Number:* **209-295-5910**

*Fax Number:* **209-295-5998**

*Day-to-Day Grant Project Manager (Person/Title):* **Chuck Loffland, District Biologist**

**Proposition 84 (13-14 Grant Round)**

**Project Proposal Form**

**EGID# (Insert number here)**

*(Only include if different than the Authorized Representative)*

Email: [cloffland@fs.fed.us](mailto:cloffland@fs.fed.us)

Address: 26820 Silver Dr.

City, State, Zip: Pioneer, CA 95666

Phone Number: 209-295-5954

Fax Number: 209-295-5998

**PROJECT DETAILS**

Project Description (Provided by applicant, to be attached as a word document)

information will be gathered as the project is developed; the final project description must address:

- project design and readiness,
- desired outcomes or tangible results,
- the degree to which a forest health project builds on existing partnerships or collaborations which may include SNC's involvement or support,
- the degree to which an abandoned mine land project aligns with purposes of the AML Initiative
- likelihood of success based on applicants capacity and experience implementing similar projects
- the degree to which the project leverages other resources
- community support
- a plan for long term management (if applicable)
- a plan for future implementation and necessary resources (if a Cat. II Project)

Is there any known opposition to this project?: **No**

If yes, provide details: **N/A**

If the project addresses AML issues is there an identified Responsible Party? If not, what is the agency/organization's role?: **N/A**

Has this project been previously considered by the SNC?: **No**

If so, list the name, project number and outcome. **N/A**

Does the project build upon another project previously funded or supported by the SNC?  
**No**

If so, list the name, project number and outcome, or identify non-grant SNC support. **N/A**

Is this project resulting from a collaborative effort? (Choose either: **Yes**)

If so, identify the partners and whether or not the SNC has played a role.

The project is resulting from Collaborating with the Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG). SNC is an active participant in ACCG. In addition, the project would be planned and implemented with collaboration from Stan Del Orto, private landowner of Mattley Meadow.

**Proposition 84 (13-14 Grant Round)**

**Project Proposal Form**  
**EGID# (Insert number here)**

Approximate beginning and ending project dates (project must be completed by March 1, 2017): [Meadow restoration design plans would be developed between August 2013 to October 2013.](#)

Amount requested: [\\$75,000](#)

Total project cost: [\\$ 100,000](#)

Source(s) of other project funds: [Forest Service](#)  
(If applicable, list funding source with anticipated amount.)

Project location: [Pioneer CA, 95666 and Arnold CA, 95223](#)  
(List specific project location, city (list nearest), county, zip code and APN#)

Project latitude and longitude: [Foster Meadow - 38.589369, -120.252056](#)  
[Mattley Meadow - 38.460041, -120.124512](#)

---

(List specific project coordinates using the "Find Your Coordinates" tool on the [SNC Regional Map](#) page.)

**CEQA/NEPA PROJECT INFORMATION**

Is this a project under CEQA? **No**

If **No**, please describe why you believe the activity proposed is not a project under CEQA: [Requested funds would be used to develop meadow restoration designs. It would not be used for project implementation.](#)

Has CEQA been completed? **No**

If **Yes**, please provide information as to the CEQA compliance and the CEQA Lead Agency **N/A**

What supporting documents and permits have been created (or what is the expected timeframe for the creation of these documents?)

[No permits are needed to develop restoration designs. ACCG and Private landowner would submit letters supporting project.](#)

---

Do you propose that SNC acts as lead agency in determining that the project is exempt under CEQA? **No**

If **Yes**, what exemption do you believe applies?

---

Is NEPA compliance required for this project? **No**  
(If yes, please complete the NEPA Questionnaire.) **N/A**

NEPA Lead Agency: **N/A**  
(If applicable.)

## **Amador Calaveras Consensus Group - Foster-Mattley Meadow Restoration Project Details**

### **Project design and readiness**

Funding from this proposal would be used to develop meadow restoration design plans for two meadows within the Cornerstone CFLR project area: Foster Meadow on the Eldorado National Forest, and Mattley Meadow on the Stanislaus National Forest. Project designs would provide the process to mechanically alter stream channels so that they access the floodplain, spread out and reduce the energy of the water flow, and raise the water table.

Foster Meadows is a 45-acre meadow in the headwaters for the Middle Fork Cosumnes River. This meadow has deeply eroded channels, channel migration, and other factors that have lowered the water table and led to the replacement of meadow vegetation with dryland species and bare non-vegetation areas.

Mattley Meadow is an approximate 109-acre meadow of which approximately 62 acres are privately owned. In addition, there are approximately 23-acres of disconnected meadows around Mattley Meadow, potentially disconnected by encroaching conifers, altered hydrology, and other environmental stressors. Mattley Creek enters into the North Fork Mokelumne River approximately 0.4 miles above Salt Springs Reservoir. Similar to Foster Meadow, Mattley Meadow has channel migration, deeply eroded channels, and a change in meadow floristic composition, trending towards dryland species and non-vegetation areas.

### **Desired outcomes or tangible results**

Funding would be used to develop engineered plans for a pond and plug meadow/stream restoration at Foster meadow and Mattley Meadow along approximately 1.0 mile (per meadow) of eroded channel(s) and design appropriate treatments approximately 1.0 mile upstream of Foster Meadow along the riparian area and stream which are contributing to downstream watershed and habitat concerns. In addition, the project would design hydrologic restoration actions to potentially re-connect adjacent meadows to Mattley Meadow.

After project implementation, the seasonal water table is expected to stay higher for longer into the dry season, encouraging the growth of riparian vegetation, and providing cooler water for fish and wildlife downstream. Planting of riparian vegetation would be considered in project design.

Project objectives include:

- 1) Meadow restoration design that provides sufficient data and description to complete NEPA/CEQA documentation and decision;
- 2) Provide for data necessary to compete for and acquire grant and appropriated funding for project implementation;
- 3) Provide the plan to allow for implementation of the project once funding is acquired.

### **The degree to which a forest health project builds on existing partnerships or collaborations which may include SNC's involvement or support**

Project planning and implementation would be developed in collaboration with the Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG), which is a local collaborative that works to create healthy forests and watersheds, fire-safe communities, and sustainable local economies. ACCG fosters partnerships among

private, nonprofit, state, and federal entities with a common interest in the health and well-being of the landscape and communities in the Mokelumne and Calaveras watersheds. The group is advancing an All-Lands strategy to create a heightened degree of environmental stewardship, local jobs, greater local economic stability, healthy forests and communities. ACCG principles reflect the group's emphases on balancing environmental, social and economic goals. SNC is an active member in ACCG.

In addition, restoration actions on Mattley Meadow would be planned and implemented in partnership with Stan Del Orto, private land owner of Mattley Meadow. Field trips to both meadows have garnered community support for this project.

### **The degree to which an abandoned mine land project aligns with purposes of the AML Initiative**

This project does not contain an abandoned mine project.

### **Likelihood of success based on applicants capacity and experience implementing similar projects**

In 2012, the Eldorado National Forest, Amador Ranger District completed the Indian Valley Meadow Restoration project (see attached description). As such, the Forest Service has direct experience in implementing similar projects. Lessons learned from the Indian Valley project will increase the likelihood of successful implementation. In addition, this project will be planned, implemented, and monitored in collaboration with ACCG and the private landowner.

### **The degree to which the project leverages other resources**

Successful Category II SNC grant award would assist in leveraging other resources from NRCS (project implementation on private land), ACCG, and the US Forest Service (project planning and implementation). In addition, other private or non-profit funds could be leveraged (see Indian Valley Meadow Restoration Project). Efforts related to the Mokelumne Watershed Environmental Benefits Program may also provide leveraged funds. Cornerstone CFLR dollars are available as project implementation match for both meadows.

### **Community support**

Public field trips to Foster and Mattley Meadow, coordination with ACCG, and Private landowner, indicate that these projects have broad community support. Letters of support would be submitted with the full proposal.

### **A plan for long term management (if applicable)**

This project would fund the design for hydrologic actions needed to allow these two meadows to function as meadow environments in the long-term. Without restoration action, these meadows would continue a slow transition to dryer environments.

### **A plan for future implementation and necessary resources (if a Cat. II Project)**

Restoration designs would feed into NEPA and CEQA analyses and documentation. Project implementation would follow environmental documentation utilizing leveraged, Cornerstone CFLR, NRCS, and Forest Service funds.

## Indian Valley Meadow Restoration Description

The Indian Valley Meadow Restoration was a plug and pond restoration on about 6,000 feet of a low-gradient tributary of Deer Creek in Indian Valley. The goals of the project were to improve meadow ecosystem function, maintain and enhance plant and wildlife habitat, and to provide a clean and consistent water supply for human use.

This project was implemented, and continues to be monitored by a combination of USDA FS funded employees and cooperator/partners which include : Coca Cola Corporation, American Rivers, Alpine Watershed Group, Institute for Bird Populations, Foothill Conservancy, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and others. The total project implementation and monitoring cost (costs have been approximated) is \$490,000, with \$105,000 being provided by the Forest Service, and the balance, \$385,000, coming from partners/cooperators. Funding includes salary, contracting costs, and in kind contributions.

Plug and pond is a process where a ponded area of water is created by plugging the stream channel with a barrier, allowing water to flow over the barrier at an elevation higher than the existing stream elevation. The plug was partially constructed by material excavated from the upstream channel area. The work consisted of excavating approximately 30 plugs, 1 to 4 feet high.

All actions implemented within the floodplain of the drainage were permitted through California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (CRWQCB, CVR) and Army Corps of Engineers. Project design, erosion control techniques, and water quality standards as specified by the CRWQCB, CVR, Forest Service Best Management Practices (BMPs) and other regulatory agencies limited the potential for sediment moving off site. Perennial riparian species such as willows and alders were replanted on bare areas immediately after construction, reducing the potential for erosion.

Success of the project would be monitoring via photo points. Approximately 4-6 photo points along the restoration area were used to monitor the success of the project on vegetation, and habitat changes for species such as Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs, Yosemite toads, and willow flycatchers. Photo points would be installed prior to implementation and data would be collected at intervals after implementation. In addition, groundwater levels are monitored pre- and post-project using existing piezometers.

