

Staff Report

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Neysa King, Environmental Resources Administrator
Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager

DATE: October 12, 2022

SUBJECT: **Grant Application- Upper Yuba Headwaters Forest Restoration Project (400-acres Implementation on NID parcels)**

ADMINISTRATION

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution No. 2022-54 (Authorizing the Application for Grant Funds for the 2022 Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Upper Yuba Headwaters Forest Restoration Project in the amount of \$1,420,000).

BACKGROUND:

On July 27, 2022, NID submitted a pre-proposal to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) for the Wildfire Recovery & Forest Resilience Directed Grants Program: the "Upper Yuba Headwaters Forest Restoration Project." This is one of two pre-proposals NID staff developed for this funding opportunity. In September and after SNC's review of all pre-proposal submissions, NID was invited to submit for a complete funding application. The final application is due October 28, 2022, and requires the attached Board Resolution to apply for and receive grant funding should NID be selected for an award.

The Upper Yuba Headwaters Forest Restoration project proposes to reduce fire fuels and hazard trees on 400-acres in the Middle and South Yuba River watersheds near Jackson Meadows Reservoir. Treatments will be a combination of hazard tree removal, mastication and hand crew understory thinning on Nevada Irrigation District properties to reduce the risk and severity of potential wildfire adjacent to water conveyance and storage infrastructure.

Project objectives include reducing wildfire risk, improving forest health and function, and protecting critical infrastructure including recreational assets and unique montane meadow environments throughout the 400-acre area. Additional objectives of this project include improved forest health and resiliency to stress and disease through reduced stand density, reducing environmental impacts for severe wildfire, increased hydrologic activity resulting from a thinned and managed understory, and the protection and enhancement of montane meadow habitats for wildlife.

The English Meadow Restoration Project is an ongoing project of the District, and is also within the Middle Yuba headwaters, and includes 300-acres of fire fuels thinning. By continuing the landscape scale fuel treatment, we hope to achieve a notable reduction in wildfire risk and the severity of potential wildfire and to secure reliable and high-quality water resources downstream; free from the detrimental effects that a catastrophic wildfire can have. Managed forests as a result of this project will be healthier, experience decreased resource competition, have enhanced carbon sequestration rates, experience increased hydrologic activity, and be more resilient to pest and climatic disturbances. Forest plots will be installed throughout our treatment areas to quantify pre and post-treatment conditions, and to inform retreatment prioritization for future site management.

This grant will partially support a 4-year forestry project in the District's Upper Division. NID staff will support Project Management and grant administration as an in-kind contribution, and District funding of \$400,000 over four years (estimate \$100,000 per year) will be leveraged to complete 400-acres of fire fuels reduction activities.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

There will be no fiscal budgetary impact in FY 2022. If awarded, expenditures and revenues will be part of a FY 2023 Budget Amendment as needed.

Funding amount requested: \$1,420,000 (Handcrew and mastication will range from \$3,500-5,000/ac. in this area, and grant funding will also provide Forester support)

Total Project Cost including in-kind: \$1,985,000 (Project management and grant administration provided by NID as in-kind match of \$165,000; \$400,000 provided by NID to partially pay for the hand crew and mastication contractors)

Schedule: This is a 4-year project. If selected for a grant award, grant agreement execution should be complete by May 2023. Project implementation will occur July-November in 2023-2027. A CAL FIRE Exemption will be prepared by NID and our consulting Forester prior to project submission, and annually thereafter.

NK & GJ

Attachments (2)

- Resolution 2022-54 (Authorizing the Application for Grant Funds for the 2022 Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Upper Yuba Headwaters Forest Restoration Project)
- Grant proposal map



Austin Meadows - mastication treatment unit



Woodcamp Campground (Jackson Meadows)– mastication unit



RESOLUTION NO. 2022-54
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

**APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR
THE 2022 WILDFIRE RECOVERY AND FOREST RESILIENCE DIRECTED GRANT
PROGRAM OF THE SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY FOR THE UPPER YUBA
HEADWATERS FOREST RESTORATION PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to support the 2022 Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (the "SNC") has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of a portion of these funds through a Directed Grant Program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the governing board of each applicant before submission of said application(s) to the SNC; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada Irrigation District (the "District") has identified the *Upper Yuba Headwaters Forest Restoration Project (SNC Grant # 1542)* (the "Project") as valuable toward meeting its mission and goals.

WHEREAS, the Upper Yuba Headwaters Forest Restoration project proposes to reduce fire fuels and hazard trees on 400-acres in the Middle and South Yuba River watersheds near Jackson Meadows Reservoir; and

WHEREAS, treatments will be a combination of hazard tree removal, mastication and hand crew understory thinning on Nevada Irrigation District properties to reduce the risk and severity of potential wildfire adjacent to water conveyance and storage infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Total project cost is estimated at \$1,985,000 with an estimated SNC grant request of \$1,420,000. NID staff will support project management and grant administration as an in-kind contribution. District funding over four years is estimated at \$400,000 to be leveraged to complete 400-acres of fire fuels reduction activities; and

WHEREAS, the District intends to submit an application to SNC for the Project; and

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

Resolution No. 2022-54

Authorizing the Application for Grant Funds for the 2022 Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Upper Yuba Headwaters Forest Restoration Project

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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the above recitals are true and correct; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Directors approves the submittal of an application for the Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Directors certifies that District understands the assurances and certification requirements in the application; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Directors certifies that District will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the resource(s) consistent with the long-term benefits described in support of the application; or will secure the resources to do so; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Directors certifies that District will comply with all legal requirements as determined during the application process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Directors appoints its General Manager, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to: applications, agreements, payment requests, and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project(s).

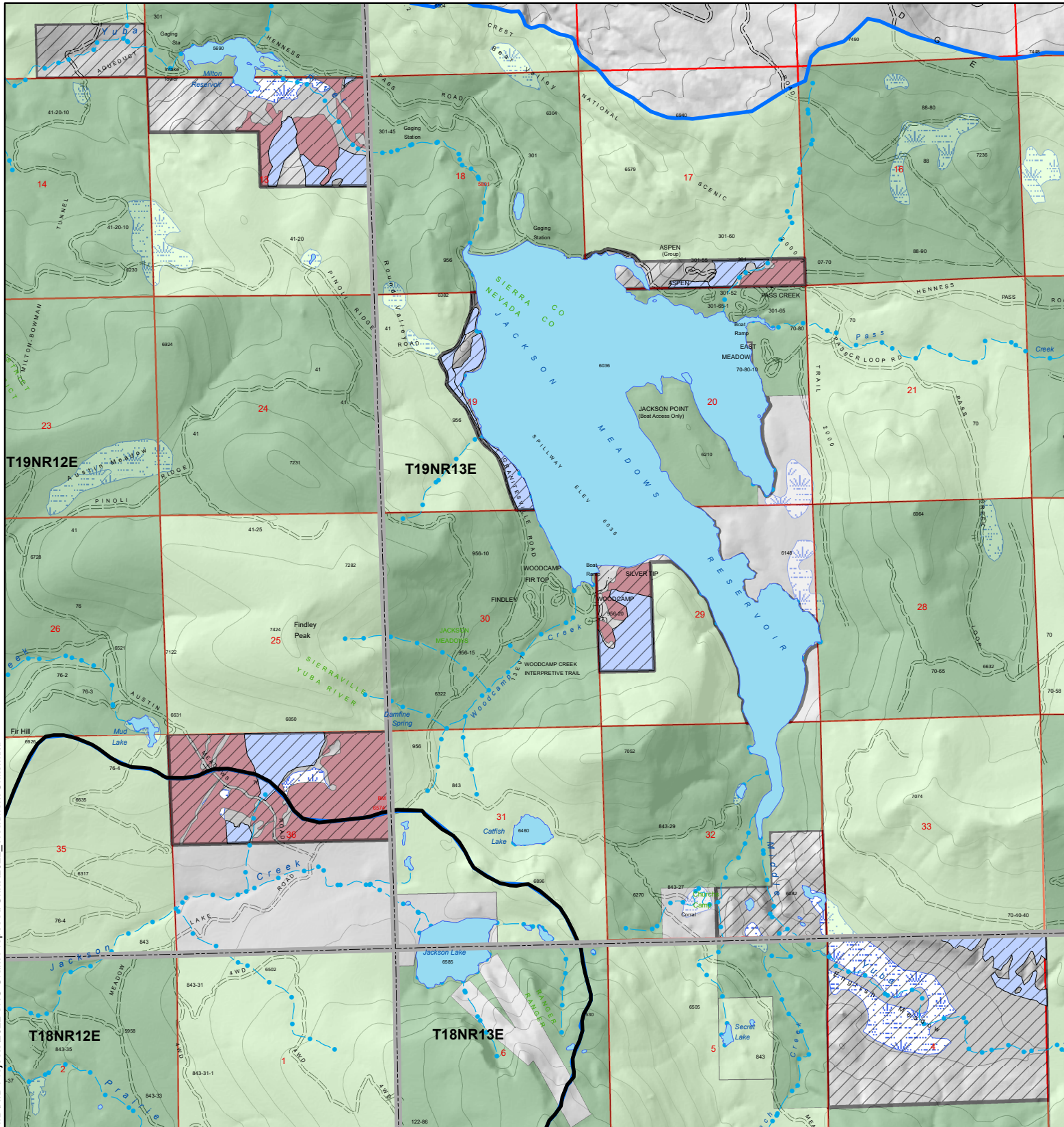
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Irrigation District at a regular meeting held on the 12th day of October, 2022 by the following vote:

AYES:	Directors:
NOES:	Directors:
ABSENT:	Directors:
ABSTAINS:	Directors:

President of the Board of Directors

Attest:

Secretary to the Board of Directors



Watershed Ownership & NID Treatment Units

Legend

- Middle Yuba Watershed
- South Fork Yuba Watershed
- Roads
- 200ft Contours

Ownership

- Nevada Irrigation District
- Other Private - Miscellaneous
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- Tahoe N.F.

NID Proposed Treatment

- Hand Crew - 210 Ac
- Mastication - 340 Ac

