

1. Describe the manner in which the proposal will be implemented to achieve ecological and community economic benefit, including capacity building to accomplish restoration.

Implementation Approach:

The Cornerstone Project seeks to integrate a more sustainable local environment, community and economy for an all-lands, triple bottom line result. This integration will frame the collaborative approach for restoration plan development, land treatment, project design and implementation. It will also define a dynamic, multi-party inter-jurisdictional all lands monitoring system to inform and guide long-term adaptive management consistent with ACCG adopted principles for restoring lands in the all-lands planning area. The project will prioritize treatments that reduce wildfire risk to lives, habitat, water quality, cultural areas and property while providing ecosystem restoration to overstocked and homogenous stands, degraded meadows, degraded roads, plantations, damaged streams, and lands burned in previous wildland fires. The 390,904 acre Cornerstone Project planning area is nested in a larger Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG) strategy for an 840,316 acre all-lands planning area. This section of the upper Mokelumne, Consumnes and Calaveras River watersheds is dominated by mixed-conifer forests, transitioning to oak-pine woodlands and chaparral at lower elevations. The ACCG will leverage CFLRA funding with additional federal and nonfederal investments for a collaborative all lands approach to restoration that includes BLM, BOR, State Parks, private, public, industrial and homeowner watershed lands. The communities of Amador and Calaveras Counties are home to thousands of WUI residents, including Native Americans, descendants of early miners and ranchers, and families who once worked the rich forest landscapes. The ACCG includes community job training agencies and organizations such as the CA Indian Manpower, Mother Lode Job Training, CHIPS and the Amador Calaveras Cooperative Association for Biomass Utilization (ACCABU) that are positioned to assist in re-tooling the local job force and provide jobs in diverse, value-added small businesses. The ACCG project intends to use a community-based partnership that builds social and economic capacity to restore and maintain the surrounding forest landscapes consistent with the General Technical Report PSW-GTR-220, An Ecosystem Management Strategy for Sierran Mixed-Conifer Forests, the R-5 Ecological Restoration Leadership Intent, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Sierra Nevada Forest Communities Initiative and other triple-bottom-line principles and policies adopted by the ACCG.

Ecological, Community and Economic Benefits:

The success of the Cornerstone Project is vested in the tri-dependent relationships of the local environment, community and economy. The project will create a more-resilient vegetation condition that reduces the risk of uncharacteristic fire; restore wildlife habitat; restore forest structure, ecological processes, and function; and restore watersheds, meadows and streams. Moreover, treatments will restore growing conditions that will favor site-appropriate, diverse native vegetative species for long-term sustainability of restoration efforts and economic viability of traditional and underutilized forest materials. This project will be the cornerstone of an all-lands sustainable supply of economically-generated forest products that will result in industrial investments and community development to economically utilize forest materials for local and regional energy, posts and poles, firewood, landscape, animal bedding, artisan fencing, furniture, lumber, and other products. Community social benefits anticipated include, but are not limited to, improved recreational opportunities, improved access to native plants and materials for traditional crafts and health, enhanced volunteerism linking community youth and seniors to the forests, and increased fire-safe communities and homes in the local wildland urban interface. Other planned benefits anticipated over the life of the project include sustainable employment, creation and retention of 204 jobs, reduced costs in fire protection and water treatment, decreased poverty rates, lower dependency on subsidized school lunch programs, increased community self-reliance and sustainability, reductions in crime and incarceration, and increased levels of education.

Restoration Capacity Building:

Guided by its principles and adapting from its experience, the ACCG intends to “build the road it travels” toward restoring and maintaining all of the lands in the larger all-lands stewardship planning area. It will design and construct the systems, infrastructure and processes necessary for a sustainable, healthy and functional balance among the environment, community and economy on the 840,316 acre planning area. A focus on a healthy triple bottom line has already inspired local contractors to form the ACCABU, conduct a feasibility study for a product yard and utilization center, and united the community resources of the Mother Lode Job Training Agency, California Indian Manpower, CHIPS, Central Sierra Resource Conservation and Development, community action agencies, local private businesses, Fire Safe Councils, BLM and the USFS to employ trained workers in ecosystem restoration, cultural site protection, timber harvesting, biomass salvaging and woody biomass value-added activities. Continued collaborative and cooperative capacity building activities include increasing access to local qualified NEPA and CEQA professionals to expedite pre-project environmental work, diversifying small businesses for woody biomass value added utilization, developing the Sierra Cascade All Lands Enterprise (SCALE) Demonstration project in cooperation with the Burney Hat Creek CFLRP collaborative project to develop triple bottom line monitoring, adaptive management metrics and best practices.

2. Anticipated unit treatment cost reduction over ten years:

Performance Measure Code	Average Historic Unit Cost	Cost Reduction per Unit	Assumptions
FOR-VEG-EST	375	25	Some cost reduction from larger scale contracts
FOR-VEG-IMP	250	18	Some cost reduction over time from larger scale projects and retreatments
INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC	423	25	Cost savings assumes reduction in treated acres from effective treatments on NFS lands
S&W-RSRC-IMP	1500	25	Some cost reduction over time from larger scale projects and maintenance treatments
HBT-ENH-LAK	2,156	0	No cost reductions anticipated – repeated treatments
HBT-ENH-STRM	3,077	0	No cost reductions anticipated
HBT-ENH-TERR	436	0	Some cost reduction may occur from reductions in move in/out costs, but cannot anticipate successful bidder(s)
RG-VEG-IMP	926	0	Anticipate no cost reduction due to small project size
RD-HC-MAIN	238	0	No cost reductions anticipated
RD-PC-MAINT	1,348	0	No cost reductions anticipated
RD-DECOM	7,000	700	Some cost reduction over time from larger scale projects.
RD-PCIMP	4,675	0	No cost reductions anticipated
RD-HCIMP	986	0	No cost reductions anticipated
STRM-CROS-MTG-STD	10,000	2000	Some cost reduction over time from larger scale projects.
TL-MAINT-STD	1,600	320	Some cost reduction over time from larger scale projects and retreatments
TL-IMP-STD	18,700	4000	Some cost reduction over time from larger scale projects and retreatments

Performance Measure Code	Average Historic Unit Cost	Cost Reduction per Unit	Assumptions
LND-BLMRK-MAINT	1,000	100	Some cost reduction over time from larger scale projects and retreatments
TMBR-SALES-TRT-AC	128	15	Some cost reduction over time through more effective implementation of GTR-220
TMBR-VOL-SLD	0	0	No costs – Costs of offering timber volume are captured under Timbr-sales-trt-ac
BIO-NRG	0	0	No costs – Costs of offering timber volume are captured under Timbr-sales-trt-ac
FP-FUELS-NON-WUI-OUT	256	25	Cost savings over time assumes reduction costs associated with 2 nd entry retreatments
FP-FUELS-NON-WUI-IN	172	10	Cost savings over time assumes reduction costs associated with 2 nd entry retreatments
FP-FUELS-WUI	272	25	Cost savings over time assumes reduction costs associated with 2 nd entry retreatments
SP-INVSPF-FED-AC			No projects in this performance measure

3. Anticipated costs for infrastructure needed to implement project:

Type of Infrastructure	Anticipated Cost	Funding Source (federal, private, etc)

4. Projected sustainability of the supply of woody biomass and small diameter trees removed in ecological restoration treatments:

Fiscal Year	Number of acres to be treated	Projected Green Tons Removed per Acre	Total Green Tons Available
2012	230	15	3,450
2013	800	15	12,000
2014	800	15	12,000
2015	800	15	12,000
2016	800	15	12,000
2017	800	15	12,000
2018	800	15	12,000
2019	800	15	12,000

5. Projected local economic benefits:

Type of projects	Direct Part and Full-time Jobs	Total Part and Full-time Jobs	Direct Labor Income	Total Labor Income ¹
Commercial Forest Products	54.9	101.5	\$2,966,626	\$4,883,207
Other Project Activities	92.2	112.7	\$2,612,404	\$3,404,566
TOTALS:	147.1	214.2	\$5,579,030	\$8,287,773

6. Document the non-Federal investment in the priority landscape:

Source of Investment	Amount of Investment	Description of Use
Sierra Nevada Conservancy	\$100,000	NEPA
California State OHV fund	\$822,000	Trailhead Improvement Project
Cal. Transportation Enhancement Grant	\$404,000	Arnold Rim Trail Improvement Project
Pacific Gas and Electric	\$766,616	Noxious Weed Treatments
California Fish and Game	\$10,000	Habitat Improvement
Trout Unlimited	\$5,000	Habitat Improvement
Various	\$363,500	Habitat Improvement
Range Permittees	\$18,000	Range Management Resource Protection
State of California –Prop 84 and 40	\$1,035,000	Trail Maintenance and Improvement
State of California	\$25,000	Winton Road Co-op Fuel Break

7. Plans to decommission any temporary roads established to carry out the proposal:

Projected accomplishment year (fiscal)	Number of Miles to be Decommissioned
2012	0.5
2013	0.5
2014	0.5
2015	0.5
2016	0.5
2017	0.5
2018	0.5
2019	0.5
2020	0.5
2021	0.5

¹ Values obtained from Treatment for Restoration Economic Analysis Tool (TREAT) spreadsheet, "Impacts-Jobs and Income" tab. Spreadsheet available at INSERT WEBSITE HERE