**Sierra County**  
**Board of Supervisors’ Agenda Transmittal & Record of Proceedings**

**MEETING DATE:** 1 October 2019  
**TYPE OF AGENDA ITEM:** Regular Timed  
**Consent**

**DEPARTMENT:** Board of Supervisors  
**APPROVING PARTY:** Lee Adams, Supervisor – District One  
**PHONE NUMBER:** 530.289.3506; hangman@sierracounty.ca.gov

**Item:** Approval of Letter of support for Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship Proposition 68 - Connected Communities grant.

**SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTS ATTACHED:**  
- Resolution  
- Agreement  
- Other

**FUNDING SOURCE:**  
**GENERAL FUND IMPACT:** NA  
**OTHER FUND:**  
**AMOUNT:** NA

**ARE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL REQUIRED?**  
- Yes, --  
- No

**IS THIS ITEM ALLOCATED IN THE BUDGET?**  
- Yes  
- No

**IS A BUDGET TRANSFER REQUIRED?**  
- Yes  
- No

**SPACE BELOW FOR CLERK’S USE**

**BOARD ACTION:**  
- ☐ Approved  
- ☐ Approved as amended  
- ☐ Adopted  
- ☐ Adopted as amended  
- ☐ Denied  
- ☐ Other  
- ☐ No Action Taken  
- ☐ Set public hearing  
- ☐ For: ________________  
- ☐ Direction to: ________________  
- ☐ Referred to: ________________  
- ☐ Continued to: ________________  
- ☐ Authorization given to: ________________  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution 2017-__</th>
<th>Agreement 2017-__</th>
<th>Ordinance __</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ By Consensus</td>
<td></td>
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**Vote:**  
- Ayes:  
- Noes:  
- Abstain:  
- Absent:  

**COMMENTS:**

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**CLERK TO THE BOARD**

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**DATE**
1 October 2019

Ms. Lynn Campbell
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
North Central Subregion Representative
11521 Blocker Dr., Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Subject: Letter of support for Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship Proposition 68 - Connected Communities grant

Dear Ms. Campbell:

Sierra County is working in partnership with the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship and we support their effort to secure State grant funds to develop a regional Connected Communities - Trails Master Plan.

The Trail Master Plan would engage severely disadvantaged communities across the Lassen, Plumas and Tahoe National Forests to incorporate local community input in the development of world-class multi-use trail networks (motorcycles, mountain bikes, ebikes, hikers, equestrians) which would connect communities throughout the region. Establishing a Trail Master Plan is an integral part of creating community partnerships for land stewardship and is identified in the U.S. Forest Service, National Strategy for Sustainable Trail Systems.

Communities include: City of Loyalton, Sierraville, Sierra City, Downieville, Quincy, Graeagle, City of Portola, Taylorsville, Greenville, Chester, Westwood, City of Susanville.

These communities rely heavily upon outdoor recreation to provide jobs and economic growth and SBTS is working with those communities and in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service to grow stewardship of our National Forests by creating outdoor recreation opportunities that compliment our communities. In doing so we believe that we can preserve community character, create thriving communities and build stewardship to care for our National Forests.

Sierra County looks forward to partnering with Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship on this Connected Communities project.

Sincerely,

SIERRA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By:

PAUL ROEN
Chair
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Date</strong></th>
<th>08/15/2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program</strong></td>
<td>Proposition 68 – Vibrant Recreation and Tourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Title</strong></td>
<td>Connected Communities - Trails Master Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Applicant</strong></td>
<td>Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Applicant Authorized Representative</strong></td>
<td>Greg Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phone</strong></td>
<td>530.613.2847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Email</strong></td>
<td><a href="mailto:willie@sierratrails.org">willie@sierratrails.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Applicant Day-to-Day Contact</strong></td>
<td>Greg Williams</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subregion(s)</strong></td>
<td>North, North Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>County(ies)</strong></td>
<td>Plumas, Sierra, Lassen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SNC Representative</strong></td>
<td>Lynn Campbell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funding Amount Requested</strong></td>
<td>$360,525.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project Summary & Location

Summarize the project, including purpose, acreage (if applicable), and detailed location information. From this narrative, a reader should easily understand what the project is and where it is located.

The Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship is proposing to develop a regional Connected Communities - Trails Master Plan that will plan, construct and maintain a multiple use trail system to connect the northern Sierra communities of: City of Loyalton, Sierraville, Sierra City, Downieville, Quincy, Graeagle, City of Portola, Taylorsville, Greenville, Chester, Westwood, City of Susanville.

Establishment of Connected Community Trail Master Plans will provide a basis for severely disadvantaged communities located throughout Plumas, Sierra and Lassen Counties to collaboratively envision, create and maintain a vibrant outdoor recreation economy by providing world-class multiple use trail opportunities on surrounding public lands. In addition to planning the linear trails that will connect the communities to one another, the Trails Master Plan (TMP) will identify areas within communities where trail access would create additional benefit. Areas such as schools, neighborhoods, campgrounds, parks, retail centers and trailheads (new and existing) will be identified and as part of the trail plans. Trail systems are often most frequently used by residents as part of daily routines and can attract talented individuals and families looking for a lifestyle tied to the outdoors. Having these trail systems connected to "Main Street" is ideal, as it brings visitors into town for restaurants, accommodations and services, and allows convenient access to public lands for residents.

Background & Need

Concisely describe the background and need for project.

Project Need:

- 70% of the land in Plumas and Sierra Counties is National Forest, and in Lassen County 58% of the land is National Forest. The National average is 8%.
- Plumas, Sierra and Lassen Counties were amongst the richest counties in California - once during the Gold Rush and again during the Timber Boom.
- Jobs in these rural counties have historically come from extractive industries that utilized resources on public lands. Due to government and environmental regulations, those jobs are gone and Plumas, Sierra and Lassen are now among California's poorest counties.
- The U.S. Forest Service, National Strategy for Sustainable Trail Systems identifies the need to inventory, plan, maintain and construct trails with partnerships.
- The U.S. Forest Service, 10-Year Sustainable Trail Stewardship Challenge specifically identifies the need to complete Trail Master Plans on each forest.
The Trails Master Plan (TMP) will create a vision for community investment, lifestyle and lift the ceiling for economic opportunity by building a world-class recreational resource on public land. New local jobs for working families in disadvantaged communities located in Plumas, Sierra and Lassen Counties by creating new tourism. Timing of the TMP’s is critical as each of the National Forests (Plumas, Tahoe and Lassen) are in the process of updating their Forest Land & Resource Management Plans. Trail Master Plans will be developed with community input and identify a broad range of local and regional interconnected trails. Trail Master Plans will also identify unclassified roads and trails which may be blocked and restored to a natural condition. These TMP’s will provide timely, accurate and useful information for National Forests to plan land access, recreational trails and community needs for the next 10-30 years.

Project Description

Describe what the project will accomplish and how it will be accomplished. Include specific information about the project, such as tangible deliverables, expected outcomes, comparing existing vs. expected conditions, etc. Identify long-term benefits that will result from this project.

The Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship proposes to develop a regional Connected Communities - Trails Master Plan to prioritize and facilitate the planning, construction and maintenance of a multiple use trail system that will connect the northern Sierra communities of: City of Loyalton, Sierraville, Sierra City, Downieville, Quincy, Graeagle, City of Portola, Taylorsville, Greenville, Chester, Westwood, City of Susanville.

The Trails Master Plan will be carried out in 4-Phases: Phase 1 (Planning) funded through Sierra Nevada Conservancy. Phase 2 (NEPA), Phase 3 (Construction) and Phase 4 (Maintenance) funded through California OHV Division grants, California State Parks & Recreation grants, Recreational trails Program grants and SBTS matching funds.

This plan will collaboratively envision, create and maintain the trail system by engaging communities to implement those communities trail priorities. In addition to planning the linear trails that will connect the communities to one another, the Trails Master Plan (TMP) will identify access locations including: lodging, neighborhoods, trailheads, retail, parks, schools and other key community assets. Together communities, land managers, agencies, and counties will create a vision to preserve and celebrate the character of communities, contribute to land stewardship of public lands, and create new opportunities for prosperity.

Project Deliverables:

SBTS Trails Master Plan Deliverables (Phase 1, funded by Sierra Nevada Conservancy):
• Signed MOU - Create working partnerships with “Connected Community” stakeholders

• Challenge Cost Share Agreement with the U.S. Forest Service
  ○ Trail Master Plan
  ○ NEPA Planning

• Updated and new Sponsored Voluntary Services Agreement
  ○ Trail Maintenance
  ○ Trail Construction

• Adopted Resolution Create working partnership with Cities and Counties

• Community Engagement
  ○ Produce Trail Committee made up of stakeholders, government agencies and regional representatives
  ○ Host quarterly Trail Committee meetings to encourage project participation and provide updates on community meetings and survey findings
  ○ Engage community members in the trail planning process and gather ideas through a series of public meetings (2- meetings in each community or region) with Trail Committee Members in attendance

• Prioritizing Implementation
  ○ Conduct in-person and online surveys to establish recreational trail priorities and socioeconomic data. Surveys will be ongoing working with Chico State University

• Report and Analysis
  ○ Compile information gathered through Trail Committee and public meetings

• GIS Mapping
  ○ Collaborate with National Forests on Fuel Reduction Projects in order to piggy-back trail projects in the NEPA process
  ○ Ground-proof, GIS map, flag and photo points for all proposed linear routes connecting communities
  ○ Identify overnight hut locations

• Produce _Trails Feasibility Studies_ for each Connected Community

• Final Connected Communities Trails Master Plan, with all linear routes mapped, flagged and ready for Phase 2 NEPA/CEQA (County Leads)
  ○ Provide Trail Master Plans for public viewing (website)

*AS TMP’s are completed projects will be phased and moved into planning and implementation based upon community capability and involvement.*

SBTS Trails Master Plan Deliverables (Phase 2 - Complete NEPA/CEQA (County Leads). Funded through California OHV Division and SBTS matching funds):

• Operating under Challenge Cost Share Agreement(s) and Sponsored Voluntary Services Agreement(s), USFS and SBTS to prioritize routes and to perform NEPA/CEQA documentation.
Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program
DIRECTED GRANT PROGRAMS
PROPOSAL

- NEPA/CEQA process will utilize approved/certified contractors and specialists (wildlife, botany, heritage, hydrology and recreation) with USFS Specialist and District Ranger oversight and approval
- In partnership with the California Department of Parks and Recreation Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVR Division), SBTS to seek grant funding to complete NEPA/CEQA on linear OHV connector trails and identify hut locations
- In partnership with Connected Communities stakeholder organizations and USFS, SBTS will seek grant funding to fund NEPA/CEQA on non-motorized “system” trails
- Ideally all NEPA/CEQA for trail and hut construction will be done through a Categorical Exclusion

SBTS Trails Master Plan Deliverables (Phase 3 - Complete Construction. Funded through California OHV Division and SBTS matching funds):
- Operating under Challenge Cost Share Agreement(s) and Sponsored Voluntary Services Agreement(s), SBTS to construct routes utilizing a locally hired and professional trail crew and volunteers
- In partnership with the California Department of Parks and Recreation Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVR Division), SBTS to seek grant funding to construct linear OHV connector trails and hut locations
- In partnership with Connected Communities and USFS, SBTS will seek grant funding to fund Construction of non-motorized system trails
- SBTS to develop an Operating Plan and obtain Guide and Outfitter permit for managing hut reservations, housekeeping and maintenance

SBTS Trails Master Plan Deliverables (Phase 4 - Provide Maintenance. Funded through California OHV Division and SBTS matching funds):
- Operating under Challenge Cost Share Agreement(s) and Sponsored Voluntary Services Agreement(s) and in partnership with Connected Communities stakeholders, USFS and OHMVR Division, SBTS to maintain routes utilizing a locally hired and professional trail crew and volunteers
- SBTS to expand current and successful Adopt a Trail Program to include newly constructed trail

The Connected Communities Trails Master Plan process will provide a repeatable process/template for other rural communities to collaborate with government agencies and stakeholders, in order for land managers to make informed decisions based on the needs of the community and to prioritize potential projects in their region.
Project Partners

Describe other partners involved in the project. Describe who was engaged in project planning and who will be responsible for implementation. Highlight local agencies, citizen groups, or tribal organizations engaged with the project. Identify if other partners are contributing in-kind or financial resources to the project.

U.S. Forest Service:
- Plumas National Forest (Feather River, Mt Hough, Beckwourth Districts)
- Tahoe National Forest (Truckee, Sierraville, Yuba River Districts)
- Lassen National Forest (Eagle Lake, Almanor District)
- Pacific Southwest Regional Office

State Partners:
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- California Parks & Recreation OHV Division
- California's 1st State Assembly district

County Partners:
- Plumas
- Sierra
- Lassen

City Partners:
- City of Loyalton
- City of Portola
- City of Susanville

Project Stakeholders (NGO):
- **Truckee**
  - Truckee Trails Foundation - [https://www.truckee Trails.org/](https://www.truckee Trails.org/)
  - Truckee Dirt Riders - [https://www.truckeedirtriders.com/](https://www.truckeedirtriders.com/)
  - Truckee Chamber of Commerce - [https://truckee.com/](https://truckee.com/)
  - Tahoe Area Mountain Bike Association - [https://tamba.org/](https://tamba.org/)
  - Sierra Business Council - [http://sierrabusiness.org/](http://sierrabusiness.org/)
- **Loyalton and Sierraville**
  - East Sierra Valley Chamber of Commerce - [http://www.eastsierravalleychamber.com/](http://www.eastsierravalleychamber.com/)
- **Downieville and Sierra City**
  - Sierra County Chamber of Commerce - [https://sierracountychamber.com/](https://sierracountychamber.com/)
  - Sierra County Land Trust - [http://www.sierracountylandtrust.org/](http://www.sierracountylandtrust.org/)
Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program
DIRECTED GRANT PROGRAMS
PROPOSAL

○ Downieville Improvement Group

● Graeagle and Portola -
○ Lost Sierra Chamber of Commerce - https://www.easternplumaschamber.com/
○ Trails for Recreation and Community

● Quincy -
○ Quincy Chamber of Commerce - http://www.quincychamber.com/
○ Feather River Land Trust - https://www.frlt.org/
○ Feather River Stewardship Coalition - https://www.featherriversc.org/
○ Feather River College - https://www.frc.edu/

● Taylorsville and Greenville -
○ Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce - http://indianvalleychamber.snappages.com/

● Chester -
○ Chester-Lake Almanor Chamber of Commerce - https://www.lakealmanorarea.com/

● Westwood and Susanville -
○ Westwood Chamber of Commerce - http://westwoodareachamber.net/
○ Lassen County Chamber of Commerce - https://www.lassencountychamber.org/
○ Lassen Land & Trails Trust - https://lassenlandandtrailstrust.org/

*Support letters from National Forests, Counties and Cities, Land Trusts are being submitted

SNC and Funding Source Priorities
Describe how the project supports the SNC Strategic and Action Plans, as well as the goals and priorities of the funding source. Include reference to specific sections of the Plans or funding guidance.

Recreation on public lands currently represents the greatest economic and cultural opportunity for our rural communities. In the United States, Outdoor Recreation is an $887 billion industry with Trail Sports accounting for $201 billion. Trails on public lands are proven to create local employment, attract visitors and new businesses, and improve the health and economy of mountain communities.

Project Schedule
Complete the chart below. Please include all tasks and deliverables, including SNC reporting requirements.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MOU’s - Create working partnerships with “Connected Community” stakeholders</td>
<td>Winter/Spring 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenge Cost Share Agreement collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service: Plumas, Tahoe, Lassen and Pacific Southwest Region 5</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsored Voluntary Services Agreement updates (Land Tenure) with the U.S. Forest Service: Plumas, Tahoe, Lassen and Pacific Southwest Region 5</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopted County Resolutions. Plumas County, Sierra County, Lassen County</td>
<td>Summer 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopted City Resolutions. Loyalton, Portola, Susanville</td>
<td>Summer 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agendas and Minutes: Host quarterly Trail Committee meetings (members from all 7- regions) to encourage project participation and provide updates</td>
<td>Fall 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surveys. Conduct in-person and online surveys to establish recreational trail priorities and socioeconomic data. Surveys will be ongoing working with Chico State University</td>
<td>Fall 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report and Analysis. Quantify and share results of information gathered through public meetings and surveys</td>
<td>Winter 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIS Mapping. Ground proof, GIS map and flag proposed routes (up to 250 miles) and trailhead and parking facilities (1- in each Connected Community). Public scoping and land manager(s) published Scope of Work for project</td>
<td>Beginning Summer 2020 and ongoing through 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft Master Plan. Share draft maps and findings from meetings with National Forests, Counties and Cities for input and final direction</td>
<td>Fall 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Produce Trails Feasibility Studies for each Connected Community</td>
<td>Fall 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final. Regional Trails Master Plan</td>
<td>January 2022</td>
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</table>

**Estimated Project Completion Date:** January 2022
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. Follow these links for sample resolutions for nonprofit organizations and local government agencies.

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

___________________________________________________________________________

This grant application has been authorized. Resolution is attached.

___________________________________________________________________________

**Supplemental Information**

*Please provide any documents that will enhance the project information including maps (topo, ownership, or site), landowner support, evidence of community support, etc. Additional information may be requested by SNC staff.*

*List additional documentation included in the space below.*

___________________________________________________________________________

Connected Communities draft map attached.