



Project Title: Strengthening resiliency in Sierra Nevada meadows

Headline Title (2-5 words): Strengthening meadow resiliency

Brief Summary (Abstract): This project strengthens the resiliency of critical meadow habitat in the Sierra Nevada, a region expected to see major changes as California's climate shifts. These meadows are vital for diverse wildlife species. Partners will eradicate invasive plants projected to thrive at higher elevations under future conditions.

Project Location: the Sierra Nevada, California

Partners: [Eldorado National Forest](#), [Tahoe National Forest](#), [California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#), [Eldorado County Department of Agriculture](#), [Nevada County Department of Agriculture](#), [Placer County Department of Agriculture](#), [Truckee River Watershed Council](#), [South Yuba River Citizens League](#), Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

Background: Sierra Nevada meadow complexes are wetland habitats with great ecological importance despite their limited extent. Invasive plants have long been recognized as a threat to the region's wildlife for their range of biotic and abiotic impacts. However, the Sierra Nevada is not yet impacted by invasive plants as much as other regions of California. It has been protected in part by the more challenging climate at higher elevations. As California's climate warms, many invasive plant species are expected to find hospitable range farther into the mountains. California's Wildlife Action Plan identifies climate change and invasive plants as top threats to wildlife in the Sierra Nevada.

Project Goals: Eradicate invasive plants from six meadow complexes in the Sierra Nevada in order to improve the resilience of these habitats to climate change.

Strategy Goals Implemented: Goal 7, Strategy 7.3, Action 7.3.5.

Climate Impacts Addressed: impacts to species and habitats

Status of Project Implementation (Timeline, Milestones, Next Steps): This project began in 2014, building on past work to limit the spread of invasive plants in the region. Using 2-year project funding from the Wildlife Conservation Society's Climate Adaptation Fund, we met with regional partners to determine sites and species, select a set of meadows to serve as pilots and design invasive plant eradication efforts in and around these meadows. CalWeedMapper ([calweedmapper.cal-ipc.org](http://calweedmapper.cal-ipc.org)), showing current distribution of invasive plant species as well as projected future range, provided the basis for selecting sites and species. We have contracted with local partners to begin implementation in Summer 2014.

Project Outcomes: Through extensive partnerships with the Forest Service, county Weed Management Areas, and local watershed groups in the region, high-risk invasive plant populations will be eradicated from Sierra meadows that serve as critical habitat for climate adaptation. These pilot projects will



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CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

inform future adaptation work on other Sierra Nevada meadows. Partners are well-situated for communicating the project's accomplishments, and will work to ensure the long-term sustainability of the effort.

Funding Sources: Wildlife Conservation Society, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Tahoe Nature Fund

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Photos/Attachments:

Photo/Figure Credits: Matt Brown, Eldorado National Forest

Suggested Photo Caption: US Forest Service treats invasive yellow starthistle in Fleming Meadow in the Sierra Nevada.

