



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Mother Lode Field Office  
5152 Hillsdale Circle  
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762  
[www.blm.gov/office/mother-lode-field-office](http://www.blm.gov/office/mother-lode-field-office)

Calaveras County Resource Conservation District  
Attn: Mr. Gordon Long  
P.O. Box 1041  
San Andreas, CA 95249

Re: Bummerville/Blizzard Mine Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration Project Authorization

Dear Mr. Long:

This letter is to inform you that beginning with the execution of Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Grant 1369, and for a period of up to ten (10) years thereafter, Calaveras Resource Conservation District (CRCD), or its contractor, is authorized to implement fuels reduction and timber harvest activities on BLM-managed lands outlined in Environmental Assessment (EA) and Decision Record (DR) # DOI-BLM-CA-C080-2022-0004-EA, and Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant 1369.

Please coordinate with the BLM Forester and Fuels Specialist prior to implementation. Although it is expected that you will complete the project within two (2) years, if you do not complete the project during this timeframe, you will have access to the site for up to ten (10) years to complete work, consistent with the terms of your grant.

Coordination with BLM is required throughout the life of the grant to allow any necessary compliance inspections. BLM reserves the right to issue a stop-work order at any point during the life of the project to correct issues associated with the implementation of this project. You are required to implement the project as it is described in EA and DR of December 9, 2021.

All stipulations outlined in the EA and DR need to be adhered to as well as those attached in the attached Bummerville/Blizzard Mine Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration Project Stipulations. Please sign and date one of the two enclosed sets of stipulations and return to our office prior to the start of implementation.

If there are any questions, please contact BLM Prescribed Fire/Fuels Technician, Lee Helgeson, at [dhelgeson@blm.gov](mailto:dhelgeson@blm.gov).

Sincerely,

Philip D'Amo  
Field Manager (Acting)

Enclosure: Authorization Stipulations – Bummerville/Blizzard Mine Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration Project (2 copies)

Bummerville/Blizzard Mine Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration Project – SNC Grant 1369

Authorization is subject to all valid existing rights, in addition to the General Terms and Conditions as set forth in 43 CFR 2920.3, 43 CRF 9212, and the California Forest Practice Rules, and to the following special terms and conditions:

I. Purpose

The purpose of this authorization is to secure the services of fuels treatment and forest health restoration on 460 acres of public lands managed by the US Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The purpose of this project is to modify the structure and continuity of vegetation to reduce fire intensity, increase forest resilience, and improve wildlife habitat characteristics.

II. Location

- All treatment shall be within the areas designated in the 2021 EA and DR # DOI-BLM-CA-C080-2022-0004-EA (EA and DR).
- BLM will designate a portion of the treatment unit boundary, pending availability of Cadastral staff. It is the responsibility of the Grantee to stay within the authorized area.

III. Management Requirements

- Grantee shall designate a representative for field operations before activities commence. This person shall be the sole field representative for the Grantee's employees and/or contractors in dealing with the Authorized Officer. Said representative shall be responsible to receive and comply with all communications and decisions issued by the Authorized Officer.
- Grantee agrees to hold harmless the United States for any and all liability, including injury to persons or damage to property, which may result directly or indirectly from the use permitted. A Certificate of Insurance, co-insuring the USDI, Bureau of Land Management at 5152 Hillsdale Circle, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762, will be issued in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 (one million) and be in effect through the duration of the contract.
- Any surface disturbing activities, including maintenance, will require notification to the BLM, and issuance of a written Notice to Proceed for the activity.
- Grantee will maintain progress at a rate that will assure completion within the authorized time. At the pre-work conference, the Grantee will provide a work schedule which must be acceptable to the BLM.
- Trucks/equipment shall be clearly identified by the Grantee.
- Grantee will always have the Letter of Authorization available on site.
- Grantee shall keep the site in a clean and orderly fashion and any refuse will be hauled away and disposed of in a legally acceptable manner.
- Upon termination of the Authorization, the Grantee shall restore the site to a condition equivalent or better than the pre-operation state, satisfactory to the BLM Authorized Officer if determined to be appropriate.
- Grantee shall notify the BLM Mother Lode Field Office within 5 working days after occupying and/or vacating an authorized site.
- Prior to removal of any trees having commercial value, the Grantee will negotiate a contract or permit with the BLM for removal of the trees from the Project Area.

IV. Erosion and Sedimentation Control

- To prevent potential degradation of perennial and ephemeral streams, buffers will be implemented as in the EA and DR. Any significant rutting of the soil caused by operations will be returned to the pre-work state or better by the Grantee.
- Heavy equipment slope restrictions will be implemented per the EA and DR.
- A higher density of tree stems and canopy cover will be retained in moist drainages.
- Brush and other fuels will be masticated or cut and chipped. If access to chipping equipment is not available, cut fuels will be treated as described in the EA and DR.
- Vehicle barriers such as cables, berms, logs and/or large boulder should be placed at strategic locations determined by the Authorized Officer or their representative to prevent vehicular trespass within the treated areas.

#### V. Weed Control

- To minimize the potential for introduction or spread of invasive weeds, equipment used for the proposed action will be cleaned prior to entering the project area and, where possible, will avoid operations within weed-infested areas.
- Crews will be educated by BLM to use best management practices to prevent weed spread, including cleaning equipment prior to entry into the project area.

#### VI. Cultural Resources

- Sites will be avoided via pre-designation; flagging-tape buffers will be established around identified cultural resources that have the potential to be affected by operations. These cultural resources would be protected via avoidance during project implementation.
- Should inadvertent or unanticipated discoveries be made, such discovery will be promptly reported to the BLM, and Grantee's operations will be suspended at that location until the significance or potential significance of the resource is determined.
- Collection or disturbance of artifacts and other archaeological, historical, and paleontological materials by Grantee, its representatives, employees, subcontractors, or associates, shall not be allowed. Offenders shall be subject to prosecution under the appropriate State and Federal laws.
- Pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) as outlined in 43 CFR 10, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act at 43 CFR 7, Section 5097.98 of the State Public Resources Code, and Section 7050.5 of the State Health and Safety Code, in the event of the discovery of human remains, all work is to stop in the vicinity of the discovery and the County Coroner shall be immediately notified.
- If the remains are determined to be Native American, BLM shall address the discovery in accordance with the provisions of NAGPRA and coordinate that process with 36 CFR 800.13 as needed.

#### VII. Wildlife Including Special Status Species

- Wood rat nests and large woody debris will be avoided during operations.
- Leave an uncut patch (minimum of 0.25 acres) for every 10 acres harvested, with patches totaling at least 5 percent of the project area. Use "leave trees" as the center for uncut patches. Riparian areas, rocky outcrops and other buffers can help satisfy this goal.
- Retain live trees with existing cavities, when possible, as well as flying squirrel nests.
- Retain large trees, defective trees, snags, and downed logs for wildlife to the extent feasible; an average of 2-3 snags per acre is the objective. Ideally, snags should be in small groups throughout the project, with a variety of snag age classes (recently dead, long dead, etc.). Snags should not be located within striking distance of fire breaks, landings, infrastructure, or property boundaries. Large snags provide hiding, denning, nesting, and food storage sites for a variety of wildlife. Retain all snags 24+ inches in diameter at breast height unless such

retention creates an unsafe concentration of fuels or other safety concerns. Leave smaller snags if necessary to meet the snag retention requirement.

- Avoid damaging existing downed woody debris, especially large (18+ inches in diameter at the large end) hollow or rotten logs and rotten stumps. The objective is to leave an average of 3 to 4 large woody pieces per acre keeping the largest logs.

*Nesting raptors and migratory birds:*

- It is recommended that project implementation occur during a limited operating period of September 15 to March 1 so as not to disrupt bird nests during the spring breeding season. Should work occur during breeding season a biologist will first survey the project area for nesting birds, with special attention to northern goshawk and California spotted owl, no later than 14 days prior to the start of project work.
- If birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are found nesting, then appropriate construction buffers shall be established to avoid disturbance of the nests until such time that the young have fledged. The size of the nest buffer will be determined by the wildlife biologist in consultation with CDFW, and will be based on the nesting species, its sensitivity to disturbance, and expected types of disturbance. Typically, these buffers range from 75 to 250 feet from the nest location. The biologist will mark sites to be avoided during vegetation removal or be onsite during work. Nesting activities shall be monitored periodically by a qualified wildlife biologist to determine when construction activities in the buffer area can resume. Once the qualified wildlife biologist has determined that young birds have successfully fledged (generally 7 continuous days of no nest activities), approval to initiate construction activities within the buffer shall be determined by the wildlife biologist. Such protection will satisfy the protection requirements per Article 9 of the CALIFORNIA FOREST PRACTICE RULES Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 4.
- Surveys are being conducted for the presence of nesting or foraging California Spotted Owls within the project area and will be concluded in June of 2022. Silvicultural prescriptions and/or operational areas may be modified pending the results of these surveys.

VIII. Noise

- During restoration activities, there would be temporary noise increases from the use of power tools, equipment, and other non-powered hand-tools. All contractors will be required to comply with all applicable noise and occupational safety standards as defined in the contract specifications, and to protect workers and other persons from the health effects of increased noise levels from the use of equipment.

IX. Fire Prevention and Suppression

- Observe all seasonal fire restrictions and local ordinances, project activity levels, and regulations. Seasonal BLM Fire Restriction Orders for Mother Lode Field Office are posted on [www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov).
- Check under vehicles when parking off road or near dry fuels. Plan any activity that could cause a spark (grinding or welding), in the morning, when the relative humidity is high, and temperatures are cooler. Also, be especially vigilant when operating heavy equipment with pivoting metal tracks on rocky ground. When treating, work from the outside edge to the center of the day's treatment area.
- The Grantee will (1) equip all combustion engines with spark arresters that meet or exceed standards set forth in the National Wildfire Coordinating Group publication for Multiposition Small Engines, #430-4 (spark arresters are not required on equipment powered by exhaust driven turbo-charged engines), (2) equip all machines powered by an internal combustion engine with at least one 10 lb. ABC rated fire extinguisher (minimum) or equivalent, (3)

remove all concentrations of wood dust and debris from the equipment daily, (4) have one 10 lb. ABC rated fire extinguisher, one shovel, and five gallons water readily available adjacent to grinding/welding operations.

- The Grantee will, independently and in cooperation with the Government, take all reasonable action to prevent and suppress fires on the project. Independent initial action will be prompt and will include the use of all personnel and equipment available in the project area.
- Emergency Reporting Requirements:
  1. **9-1-1** (Initial call for all emergencies)
  2. **(209) 754-0675** Cal Fire TCU ECC dispatch (Wildland fire emergency)

Information needed in reporting a wildland fire would include Location (Geographical reference and, if possible, latitude/longitude coordinates and access roads); Description of fire (size, rate of spread, fuel type, wind speed, etc.); Resources on scene.

- The Government may require emergency measures, including the necessary shutting down of equipment or portions of operations during periods of high fire danger.
- Under Title 43 CFR 9212, Grantee may be held liable for any and all costs should a wildland fire occur caused by the activities associated with the construction, maintenance, or operation of this project. Fire trespass action might be initiated, and wildfire suppression costs may be collected from the Grantee.

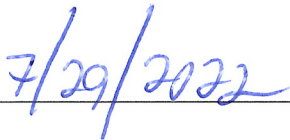
#### X. General

- Grantee cannot use a different BLM site for which he does not have a current Authorization, nor allow use of any of the Grantee's sites by another corporation/entity that does not have a valid Authorization for that site, except that Grantee may contract the work identified in this Letter of Authorization. It is the Grantee's responsibility to ensure that all contractors and subcontractors abide by the conditions in this Letter of Authorization and Stipulations.
- In cases where activities/equipment are going to stay on public land over night or for extended periods of time, Grantee can prohibit the general public from entering the area where such activity is occurring in order to maintain safety and protect equipment. Grantee must use acceptable manners and attitude when dealing with the public.
- Grantee is fully responsible for any permits or approvals required by the State, local, and other Federal agencies. Grantee shall ensure that all persons operating under the authorization have obtained all Federal, State, and local licenses or registrations. Grantee shall make every reasonable effort to ensure compliance with these requirements by all agents of the Grantee and by all clients, customers, participants, or spectators under the Grantee's supervision.
- Any deviation from these conditions, without prior approval of the BLM, may result in immediate cancellation of the Authorization, fines and/or cost of resource rehabilitation, civil or criminal trespass action, and denial of all future Authorizations by the BLM.
- BLM retains the right to occupy and use the project parcel and to issue or grant rights-of-way or other land uses over, upon, under and through the lands, provided that the occupancy and use will not reasonably interfere with the rights granted herein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned agrees to the terms, conditions and above stipulations of this Authorization and will ensure that any subcontractors working on this project will also adhere to these stipulations:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Grantee  
Name: Gordon Long  
Title: Executive Director, Calaveras Resource Conservation District



\_\_\_\_\_  
Date