

September 22, 2023

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Program 11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205 Auburn, CA 95603

Grants Administration,

Friends of Plumas Wilderness strongly supports the Tehama County Resource Conservation District grant application for the proposed Ishi Wilderness Fire Restoration Planning (IWFRP) .

Our organization has been involved with the Ishi Wilderness Fire Restoration Project since its inception; the effort fits well within our mission to maintain the integrity of natural ecosystems in the Northern Sierra and Southern Cascades. Restoring fire to the Ishi Wilderness will benefit natural ecosystems as these systems evolved with frequent, low-intensity fire. Fire must be restored within the Ishi Wilderness within the next decade to prevent understory fuels from growing to a height that will prevent prescribed fire from being used without causing stand-replacing crown fires. In order to restore fire in the Ishi Wilderness within the next decade, we need to complete essential planning tasks now.

The Ishi Wilderness Fire Restoration Project also fits well within the mission of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy because restoring fire in the Ishi Wilderness will reduce fuels in Sierra Mixed-conifer forests, restore watershed health, and protect communities within the Wildland Urban Interface. The proposed work will also protect a vital Sierra Mixed-conifer reference ecosystem, the Beaver Creek Pinery, and inform other prescribed fires within Wilderness.

Furthermore, this project is an outstanding example of collaborative planning with wide-ranging community benefits and support. Friends of Plumas Wilderness is in full support of this project and is proud to be one of its partners.

Sincerely,

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Charles Schrammel

Executive Director