

Merced Sun Star
Tuesday, Mar. 08, 2011

Mariposa County gets funding from Sierra Nevada Conservancy for watershed protection

Sun-Star Staff

AUBURN--The Sierra Nevada Conservancy said it awarded around \$10 million to watershed protection projects in the Sierra. That represents the sum total of the projects approved by the SNC's governing board at its quarterly meeting in Placerville March 3.

"These projects will provide jobs and a variety of benefits to the Sierra Nevada Region, including reducing the risk of large damaging fires, restoring meadows, protecting habitat, supporting working ranches and improving water quality," SNC Executive Officer Jim Branham said in a news release. "This work is important to all Californians who enjoy the water, scenic beauty, and other resources the Sierra Nevada provides."

Included was Mariposa County, which will get \$192,279 for invasive weed management by the Upper Merced River Watershed Council. The money will go toward removing yellow star thistle and Italian thistle from riparian habitat along the Upper Merced River, around 80 acres of sensitive riparian habitat and to stop the spread of these invasives.

Mariposa County's Stockton Creek Preserve and Trail in Mariposa Public Utility District will get \$1 million. The Mariposa Public Utility District, according to the conservancy news release, is seeking funding from it through the Proposition 84 Grant Program for the fee title acquisition of a critical portion of the Stockton Creek Watershed.