

**SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY  
PROPOSITION 84 GRANT PRE-APPLICATION FORM**

<b>GRANT APPLICATION TYPE</b> <i>(Choose One)</i>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Category One Site Improvement <input type="checkbox"/> Category One Conservation Easement Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Category Two Pre-Project Activities		
<b>PROJECT NAME</b>		
Gerle Range and Meadow Restoration Project		
<b>APPLICANT</b> <i>(Legal name, address, and zip code)</i>		
Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District		
<b>APPLICANT TYPE</b> <i>(Choose One)</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Organization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Organization		
<b>APPLICANT'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE</b>		
Name and title – type or print	Phone	Email Address
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Mark Egbert	530-295-5630	Mark.Egbert@ca.usda.gov
<b>PERSON WITH DAY-TO-DAY RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE GRANT</b>		
<i>(Include only if different from Authorized Representative)</i>		
Name and title – type or print	Phone	Email Address
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Mark Egbert	530-295-5630	Mark.Egbert@ca.usda.gov
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</b> <i>(Describe the Project Purpose, Scope, Proposed Activities and Outcomes)</i>		
NOTE: 5,000 character response limit		
<p>High Sierra Range lands are part of a working landscape, managed to balance a multitude of economic, social, and ecological benefits. Specifically, rangelands with incorporated meadows provide multiple ecosystem benefits, including maintaining landscape hydrologic functioning, serving as regional C sinks, and supporting distinct plant communities important to both wildlife habitat and domestic cattle grazing. These ranching operations traditionally have depended on government-owned allotments that allowed ranching operations during dry summer months when annual grasslands enter the inadequate dry forage period. Accessibility of these public-owned allotments has diminished. Due to their intrinsic residential value, foothill ranches are highly susceptible to urban development. For these reasons, some suggest broad-scale reductions in public grazing permits would greatly impact the viability of foothill ranches, forcing owners to sell lands to developers, which would have negative regional socio-economic and ecological implications. This proposal will implement restoration activities on a private ranch to allow grazing operations to resume.</p> <p>The project utilizes broadly accepted measures to effectively manage these grazing lands that support grazing operations sustain meadow health and function. The project is located within the Eldorado National Forest on private property, sub-irrigated by Dellar and Barts Creek which then drains into Gerle Creek a tributary to the South Fork American River.</p>		

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The project is needed based on the encroachment and establishment of primarily Lodgepole pines and other various noxious weeds. According to a study by the Pacific Northwest Research Station, they found strong correlations between grazing allotment closures and the establishment of trees (PNRS, 2007). The project will remove encroaching pines and restore grazing activities to limit further encroachment and to eradicate noxious weeds. Well-managed meadows are highly productive and can help support the local agrarian economy by providing grazing lands for livestock if it is done appropriately. Studies have shown that grazing systems that are well tailored to a particular meadow can support more livestock without causing ecological degradation (SNEP 2006).

Range-management methods include livestock exclusion from channel edges within meadows and shorter periods of more intensive grazing followed by rest to allow for regrowth. The project will include fencing to protect sensitive areas, facility improvements such as corrals, cross fencing and an improved road system to actively manage the timing and duration of grazing.

Much has been learned about sustainable grazing practices in recent decades, and with appropriate monitoring and adaptive management, these lands can support local ranches into the future (SNEP 2006). Thus, healthy meadows, with intact hydrology and appropriate grazing systems, can offer reliable, increased forage for local ranches, thereby helping to support the local agrarian economy.

**Specific goals:**

- Acres of land improved or restored: 120 acres of land will be improved and restored through removal of Lodgepole Pine and other undesirable species, reintroduction of cattle grazing, through site improvements designed in accordance with a Grazing Management Plan.
- Acre-feet of stream flow improved: Through habitat improvement activities in the meadow an estimated 4,800 feet of stream will be protected.
- Number of new, improved, or preserved economic activities: Well-managed, highly productive meadows can offer reliable, increased forage for local ranches and can help support the local agrarian economy by providing grazing lands for livestock.
- Number of Special Significance Sites Protected or Preserved: Project site will be protected from the adverse effects of pine encroachment, noxious weeds and will be improved through managed grazing. Protecting this meadow complex will improve its hydrologic function thereby increasing water flow and retention.

**Specific objectives:**

Conifer Removal & Noxious Weed Eradication: Mechanically or Hand removal of encroaching pines throughout the meadow improving local and landscape biodiversity. Removing conifers will increase water supply in the meadow restoring hydrologic function. Utilizing the restored meadow for grazing will prevent further conifer encroachment and help manage noxious weeds.

Sensitive Habitat Protection: Install fencing around sensitive areas including fencing to keep cattle out of sensitive riparian zones. Range-management methods will also dictate areas where cattle will be excluded during certain times to avoid over-grazing.

Facility & Road Improvements: Cattle grazing requires proper infrastructure such as corrals and cross fencing to responsibly manage grazing activities. Improving the road system will further decrease erosion and associated negative impacts to the meadow.

**FUNDING AND BUDGET INFORMATION**

SNC Grant Request \$ 315,000.00

 Check if SNC is the sole funder of this project

Other Funds \$ 20,000.00

Total Project Cost \$ 335,000.00

**COUNTY**

El Dorado

**CITY** *(Is project within city limits? If so, which city?)*

No

**PROJECT ADDRESS/LOCATION** *(Include zip code)*

Administrative Office:

Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District

100 Forni Rd Suite A

Placerville, CA 95667

Improvement Site :

Gerle Ranch

**LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE** *(Identify your project's latitude/longitude in the Find Your Coordinates tool on the [SNC Regional Map page.](#))*

Improvement Site :

39.015849, -120.382476

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**CEQA/NEPA COMPLIANCE**

**Document Type:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Exemption (CEQA) | <input type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exclusion (NEPA)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Negative Declaration (CEQA)           | <input type="checkbox"/> Finding of No Significant Impact (NEPA) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (CEQA)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Statement (NEPA)   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Joint CEQA/NEPA Document                |

Or

- Not a project under CEQA

**DESCRIBE STATUS OF CEQA COMPLIANCE** *(And NEPA, if applicable)*

What CEQA documentation has been prepared for the project? If none, describe the plans and timeline to complete CEQA documentation before the application due date. If you believe the project is not a "project" under CEQA or is Categorical Exempt from CEQA, describe the exemption and how this project meets the requirements of that Categorical Exemption or why it is not a project<sup>1</sup>. If a Federal Agency has approval authority over the project, describe the plans and timeline for it to complete the project's NEPA documentation.

NOTE: 2,000 character response limit

**Reasons why project is Categorical Exempt:** Project involves minor alterations to land including site improvements and construction of Agricultural Best Management Practices. Exemption Sections 15301 Existing Facilities & 15304 Minor Alterations to Land are referenced in the CEQA document. The activities do not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sediment of surface waters. A full Biological and Archeological assessment will be completed to ensure no listed plants or animals species or historical or cultural resources will be affected by the project. If resources are found, mitigation measures will be included in the final CEQA document.

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER, if applicable** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHO WAS OR IS THE LEAD AGENCY FOR CEQA?** Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District

**DESCRIBE THE TYPE AND STATUS OF LAND TENURE FOR THIS PROJECT** *(Site Improvement Projects only)*

NOTE: 2,000 character response limit

A Memorandum of Understanding and Right of Entry Agreement will be attained between the Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District and the Veerkamp family, current owners of the proposed property.

**Type**

- Fee Title Ownership  
 Leaseholder  
 Memorandum of Understanding(s)  
 Land Owner Agreement(s)

**Status**

- Secured /Completed  
 Pending  
 In Negotiation  
 Not Started

- Attach land tenure documents or complete Alternate Land Tenure Process *(must be provided as a*

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*part of final application)*

**DESCRIBE STATUS and DATE OF APPRAISAL** *(Conservation Easement Acquisition Projects only)*

NOTE: 2,000 character response limit

NA

**ATTACHMENTS CHECKLIST**

Before submitting Pre-Application for review, please be double check that the relevant required documents are included with your submission.

Attach land tenure documents if available *(must be provided as a part of final application)*

Attachments required **ONLY** of nonprofit applicants

Articles of Incorporation

IRS Letter

Bylaws

Or

The required documents are already on file with SNC *(Please confirm with your assigned SNC grant program contact)*

**All statements made in this pre-application form will require verification and documentation to determine applicant and project eligibility. Submission of a pre-application may or may not result in an invitation to submit a full application. An invitation to submit a full application does not guarantee that a project will compete successfully for a grant.**

**I understand the foregoing\*:**

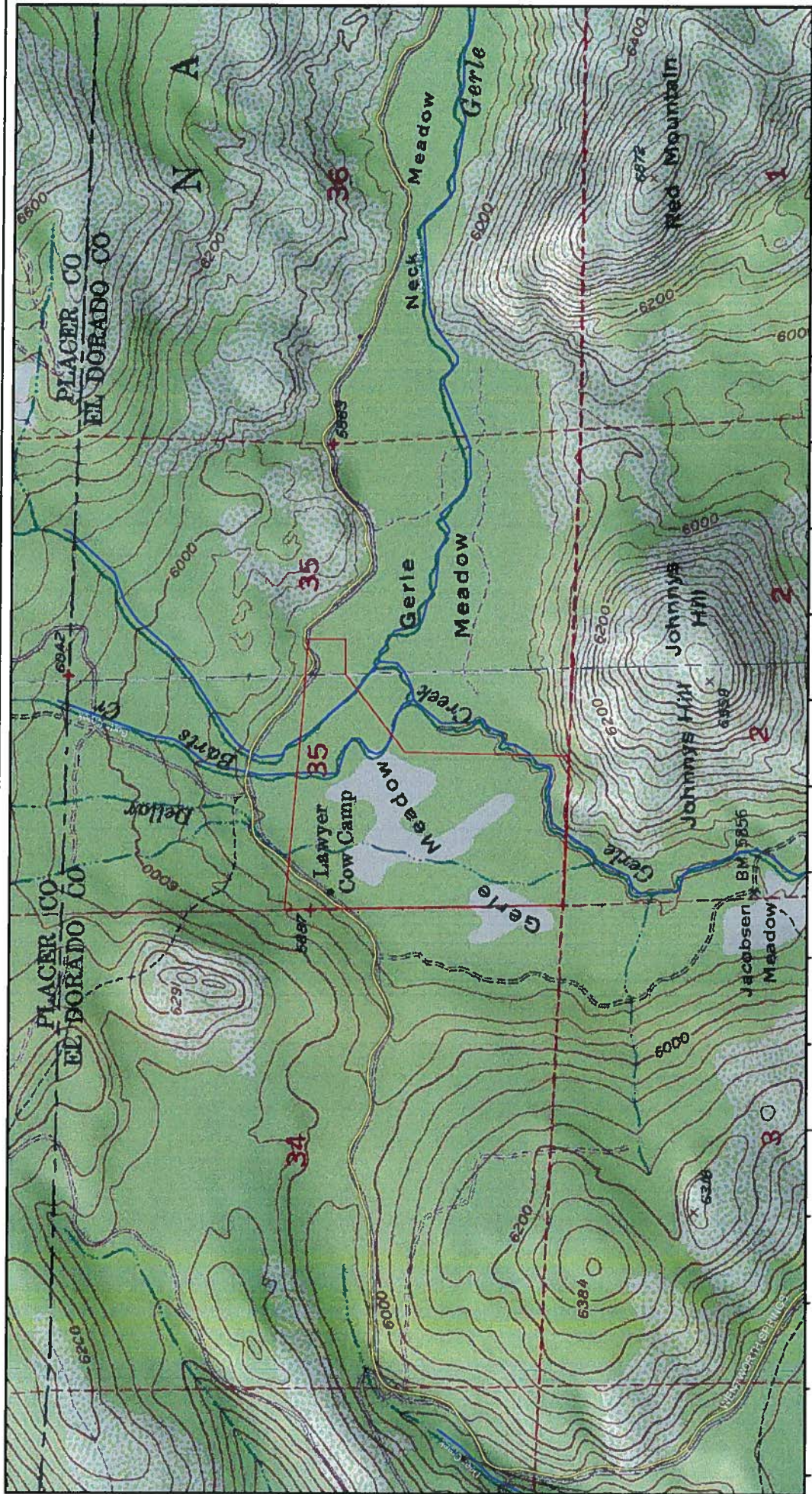
**Name/Title of person submitting pre-application form:**

Mark Egbert  
District Manager  
Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District  
100 Forni Road, Suite A  
Placerville, CA 95667

**Phone number of contact person:** 530-295-5630

**E-mail address of contact person:** Mark.Egbert@ca.usda.gov

*\*If submitting electronically, indicate understanding of this statement by typing in the name of the person submitting this pre-application form. Hardcopy submittal will have this statement signed.*



0 3,000 7,600 11,400 15,200 Feet

**El Dorado County & Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts**

Created by: Mark Egbert  
 Date: September 10, 2012  
 Contact: 100 Forni Road, Placerville CA (959) 286-6950

The Resource Conservation District (RCD) makes no representation or warranty regarding the accuracy of data or maps. The RCD shall not be liable under any circumstances for any direct, special, incidental, or consequential damages with respect to any use or third party on account of or arising from the use of data or maps.



**Gerle Meadow\_Veerkamp\_Private**

Major Roads  
 All other roads

**Gerle Creek Meadow Veerkamp Property Topographic Location Map**

12-1297.A1.6