

FEATHER RIVER STEWARDSHIP COALITION

www.featherriversc.org

Dr. Jonathan Kusel, Executive Director
Sierra Institute for Community and Environment
P.O. Box 11
Taylorsville, CA 95983

Re: Letter of Commitment for Sierra Institute's proposal to NOAA

The Feather River Stewardships Coalition is excited to support the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment (Sierra Institute) in their proposal to NOAA's Building the Environmental Literacy of K-12 Students and the Public for Community Resilience grant program. We see this proposal as an opportunity to actively engage Plumas County students and community members in building a more resilient landscape in an area critical for providing natural resources to the state of California.

The Feather River Stewardship Coalition (FRSC) formed in 2015 succeeding the Quincy Library Group (QLG), which had provided collaborative opportunities for land management in the area since 1992. The FRSC is dedicated to restoring and maintaining forest ecosystems, landscape processes, and community vitality in the upper Feather River Watershed – a 2.3 million acre area that encompasses all of Plumas County. The Upper Feather River Watershed is 64% federally owned, making Plumas National Forest a fundamental and actively engaged partner.

In addition to providing a platform for local stakeholders to share project work and lessons learned regarding forest and watershed stewardship and restoration, FRSC creates the opportunity for multiple stakeholders to collaborate on landscape-scale projects in the upper Feather River Watershed, enabling broader and more effective landscape management. While partners of the FRSC have been able to work together to secure funding to advance project work, a major challenge that remains is connecting our projects with the local community and sharing our results.

The foundation for FRSC's work is that resilient landscapes safeguard the resources these Sierra Nevada communities rely on and, ultimately, make more resilient communities themselves. Therefore, a pivotal role of the Coalition is to address the disconnect between many community members and the Coalition, the project work being done, and the threats to our communities and landscapes that drive this work. Sierra Institute's objectives in this proposal create a wonderful opportunity to engage more of our local residents in our on-the-ground work, while also collecting monitoring data and building a greater understanding of the challenges facing Sierra Nevada communities and solutions to these problems. By allowing community members to take an active role in the stewardship work being done, we believe they will build the skills to apply these same principals to increasing the resiliency of their communities along with the landscapes that surround them.

We submit this letter of commitment stating our willingness to work with Sierra Institute on the proposed project, specifically in terms of engaging students and community members in landscape monitoring work

that is available and appropriate for their engagement. We appreciate that on-the-ground data collection will be paired with classroom learning and are further excited that this data collection will help inform student understanding of pressing environmental and weather-related concerns for our area. Members of our coalition have already participated in previous Natural Resource Institutes with Sierra Institute, and we anticipate they will be equally willing to support future efforts in the Institute and Climate Adaptation Summit.

We are excited about the potential of this proposed work to engage students and community members in the climate adaptation and landscape restoration work being advanced by members of our coalition, and we would be happy to discuss further our interest in and support of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Hannah Hepner

Coordinator, Plumas County Fire Safe Council
on behalf of the Feather River Stewardship Coalition

“To restore and maintain forest ecosystems, landscape processes, and community vitality in the upper Feather River watershed.”

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