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Grants to finance environmental projects

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PLACER COUNTY – The Sierra Nevada Conservancy has awarded four grants, totaling \$147,500, to Placer County for environmental purposes.

The largest grant, \$47,500, will help coordinate the removal of tons of biomass – organic matter, such as tree waste, on forest floors – from three national forests in the conservancy's region.

The county, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, the county Air Pollution Control District and Sierra Pacific Industries, will use the biomass to produce electricity.

Two grants from the remaining \$100,000 will be used by the county's planning department to produce a low-impact development guidebook and to install signs at eastern county creek crossings.

The county's facility services will use the fourth grant to evaluate potential benefits and costs associated with the proposed preservation of the Esoteric Fraternity property, an 89-acre parcel on the west rim of the American River Canyon in Applegate that connects to river trails.

– Barbara Barte Osborn

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