

Central Sierra Resource Conservation & Development Area Council Projects and Activities for 1997-1998

1. Forested Watershed Restoration:

A. Watershed Council Organization based on the concept approved by the Board on October 1, 1997 (See attached Program Description dated September 3, 1997)

B. Watershed restoration projects opportunity review. Discussion with the State Water Resources Control Board, the Forest Service, and Counties started in October 1997, with an invitation to participate, to other private and public interests.

2. Sierra Nevada Biomass Utilization:

A. Bio-combustor Pilot Project concept. Discussed at the October 1, 1997 Board meeting. Additional information and working sites reviewed, with field observation ready for November 1997. Funding opportunities identified.

B. Ethanol production / cogeneration facility. Proposed project in the Central Sierra area. On going talks with participants in the Quincy Library Group Ethanol study and accumulation of data.

3. Fire Safe Councils (2) with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and the Forest Service:

A. Ongoing four county activity, with support for demonstration projects, photo series and new funding opportunities for fuels management. Extend fire safe council opportunity to Region 4 of the Forest Service, and Eastern Alpine County.

4. Hardwood mill facility:

A. A proposed project to establish a mill site and hardwood mill in the Central Sierra area. Development of State and Federal funding to study the concept and identify economic feasibility in a small community in the four county area with a possible link to cogeneration, or mill closure.

5. Final organization of Central Sierra RC&D Area Council activities:

A. Identification of projects and focus of attention for the 1998 work plan. Continued talks about Forest Service funding opportunities, and, a greater response to local government and community needs in resource conservation and development.