

Trinity River Watershed Council Expansion
WaterSMART: Cooperative Watershed
Management Program

Submitted by:

Trinity County Resource Conservation District

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Appendix A – Wildfire in Trinity County, excerpt pages 8-12 from the Trinity County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (Attachment)

Appendix B – Schedule of Work for Evaluation Criteria (1 page – Attachment; part of 25 page limit)

Appendix C - Letters of Support (Attachment)

Resolution by Trinity River Watershed Council (Attachment)

*Resolution by Trinity County Resource Conservation District Board
(To be supplied to Reclamation after TCRCB board meeting on May 18, 2016)*

Budget Proposal (Attachment)

Budget Narrative (Attachment)

Executive Summary

May 4, 2016

Applicant name: Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD), Weaverville, Trinity County, California

Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD/District), a special district of the state of California, proposes a two-year project to expand the existing Trinity River Watershed Council (TRWC). The District is a member of the TRWC and is applying on behalf of the TRWC in order to expand the existing watershed council. For over a decade the TCRCD has coordinated TRWC meetings on a somewhat regular basis, with a focus primarily on the main stem Trinity River from the Lewiston Dam to the North Fork of the Trinity (40 miles). This focus is driven by funding from the Trinity River Restoration Program with historical ties to restoration work approved under the 2000 Record of Decision. Funding from the WaterSMART grant opportunity will allow the TRWC to expand its focus to include all major tributaries of the main stem Trinity River down to the confluence with the Klamath River on the Hoopa Reservation; as well as the Upper Trinity River Watershed above the Trinity Dam, which includes the headwaters of the Trinity River. This project will promote sustainable use of water resources in the watershed, recognizing that a healthy watershed is the foundation for a healthy community. Expansion of the TRWC will include watershed coordinator funding; expanded outreach activities throughout the entire watershed to gather input from stakeholders in tributary and head water watersheds; development of new, review of completed, and re-examination of past watershed project concepts through a gap analysis using GIS and review and consolidation of data that is currently decentralized and held by several different agencies and groups; and development of a watershed restoration plan that includes goals, benchmarks and prioritizes project concepts - both new and prior ones found in existing watershed restoration plans.

The District anticipates that this project will take two years from time of funding, with an estimated completion date of September 30, 2018.

Background

The Trinity River, a HUC 8 river in northwestern California, drains a watershed of just under 3,000 square miles, with roughly one-quarter of the watershed above Lewiston and Trinity Dams. This powerful river once supported large populations of fall- and spring-run chinook salmon, as well as smaller runs of coho salmon, steelhead and Pacific lamprey. Trinity and Lewiston Dams were built in the 1950's-1960's as part of the California Central Valley (water) Project. Construction of these dams led to detrimental impacts to the Trinity River and anadromous fish populations when access to an estimated 109 miles of spawning and rearing habitat in the upper reaches of the river and its associated tributaries were cut off from migrating salmon, steelhead and Pacific lamprey. Other consequences attributed to the construction of the dams and the diversion of water includes substantial changes in the morphology of the Trinity River from the reduced flows. Intensive flow studies have shown that the habitat below the dams have been degraded through the elimination of new gravel recruitment from above the dams, necessary for spawning habitat; as well as the inability of the current flow releases to adequately flush fine sediments from the existing gravels. In addition, the resulting channelization of the river caused by riparian vegetation encroachment and sediment deposition further degrade available habitat. The Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) has been working on in-river restoration projects since 2005 to address these issues. However, their projects have been limited to the main stem Trinity River for 40 miles below the Lewiston Dam.

The watershed is rich in plant and animal biodiversity. Other ESA listed and/or species of concern in the watershed include the northern spotted owl, western pond turtle, the foothill yellow-legged frog, the Pacific fisher, green sturgeon, willow flycatcher, yellow warbler, osprey and several endemic plant species and one endemic gastropod.

The terrain is predominantly mountainous and forested, with little available traditional farming area. However, in the last 10 years there has been an explosion of new kinds of agricultural practices on private lands in the watershed, as well as illegal activity on public lands, due to the state laws regarding possession and cultivation of medical marijuana. Land conversion similar to "slash and burn" practices where a landowner either cuts and burns forest units or they simply use heavy equipment to clear the land for "plantations" is occurring; often the land is even terraced with heavy equipment. Roads needed to access these "plantations" are cut through the forest, often without regulated best management practices or licensed operators, leading to increased sediment delivery to water bodies. Streams and springs are dewatered with pumps and pickup-tanks to water the plantations. Many agricultural chemicals, including ones banned within the US, are utilized on the sites. Local residents are concerned about these impacts in the watershed. This is one issue that the expanded TRWC would like to address with project concepts and plans.

Elevations in the watershed range from 8888 feet in the headwater areas to less than 300 feet at the confluence with the Klamath River at Weitchpec. The majority of lands directly adjacent to the river are managed by either the USFS or the BLM. Land ownership in the entire watershed averages 70% public and 30% private. Private timber industry ownership comprises the majority of private land in the watershed, with only 5% of all lands in the watershed being small private parcels, tribal, county or state lands. The watershed is rural and remote. "Urban" development in the basin

is primarily limited to the communities of Weaverville, Lewiston, Douglas City, Junction City, Trinity Center, Hoopa, Hayfork, and Willow Creek. The entire county, which includes areas outside of the watershed, has a population under 14,000 individuals.

Stand-replacing wildfire is an ever-present threat to the health of this watershed. Trinity County is proactive in addressing this threat through two planning documents: the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. In addition, the Trinity County Fire Safe Council meets monthly. Watershed projects that cross reference fire safe plans will be examined during the course of this project by the expanded TRWC. See Appendix A, for a review of wildfire in Trinity County from the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Landscapes within the Trinity River Watershed were heavily impacted from gold mining on the mainstem and tributaries beginning with the 1849 California gold rush. Hydraulic placer mining and in-stream dredger mining forever changed the landscape of the watershed, with mining tailings still visible throughout the watershed. They are now considered archeological and cultural resources, with many riparian areas still devoid of native vegetation to cool the water. Invasive vegetation in many disturbed areas, including riparian zones, includes tree of heaven, scotch broom, dyers woad, and non-native blackberry. Commercial mining was active into the 1970's, however current recreational in-stream mining operations continue to impact the anadromous fisheries. Presence/absence of native and invasive vegetation in the watershed is another issue the expanded TRWC would like to address in project concepts and the plan.

The Trinity River Watershed has been the subject of extensive research, studies, and reports. A TMDL for sediment was prepared in 2001 by the EPA. The sedimentation in the entire Trinity River Watershed was judged to exceed existing Water Quality Standards necessary to protect the beneficial uses of the basin, particularly the cold water fishery. Accelerated erosion from land use practices, and reduced flow down the Trinity River is included on California's Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list as water quality limited due to sediment. The Final Trinity River Mainstem Fishery Restoration Environmental Impact Statement was released in November 2000. A Watershed Analysis was prepared in 1995 by the Bureau of Land Management. US Fish and Wildlife Service completed the Trinity River Flow Evaluation report in 1999 (a 12-year study) which summarizes the effectiveness of flow restoration to restore the fishery. The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan (NCRWQCB, 1994) addresses the Trinity River. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) created a Coho recovery strategy in 2004 based on the species being listed as threatened in the S. Oregon - N. California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit (SONCC ESU) under both the federal Endangered Species Act and the California Endangered Species Act. Since 1981, CDFW, together with NOAA Fisheries, has administered the Fisheries Restoration Grants Program (FRGP), funded through the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). From 2004 to 2012, FRGP has allocated a total expenditure of approximately \$100 million to coho salmon recovery projects in CA.

The Upper Trinity River Watershed Assessment Report (2006), The South Fork Trinity River Water Quality Monitoring Report (2003) and the Spring Chinook in the South Fork Trinity River: Recommended Management Actions and the Status of their Implementation (2013) are examples of

some of the reports that have been prepared for subwatersheds within the Trinity River Watershed which would contribute to the planning process for the expanded TRWC. Several other older reports exist, along with data that has not been analyzed and is held at various agencies and non-profits throughout the watershed. These reports and others all clearly describe the current condition of the watershed and make management recommendations for restoration opportunities. Multiple studies have been conducted that include temperature, vegetation, fish passage enhancements and needs, agricultural water used, water storage and availability, fish absence/presence, sediment source and reduction plans; and multiple sets of data have been collected. There is not a central depository for this information and there has been no analysis of the studies and data.

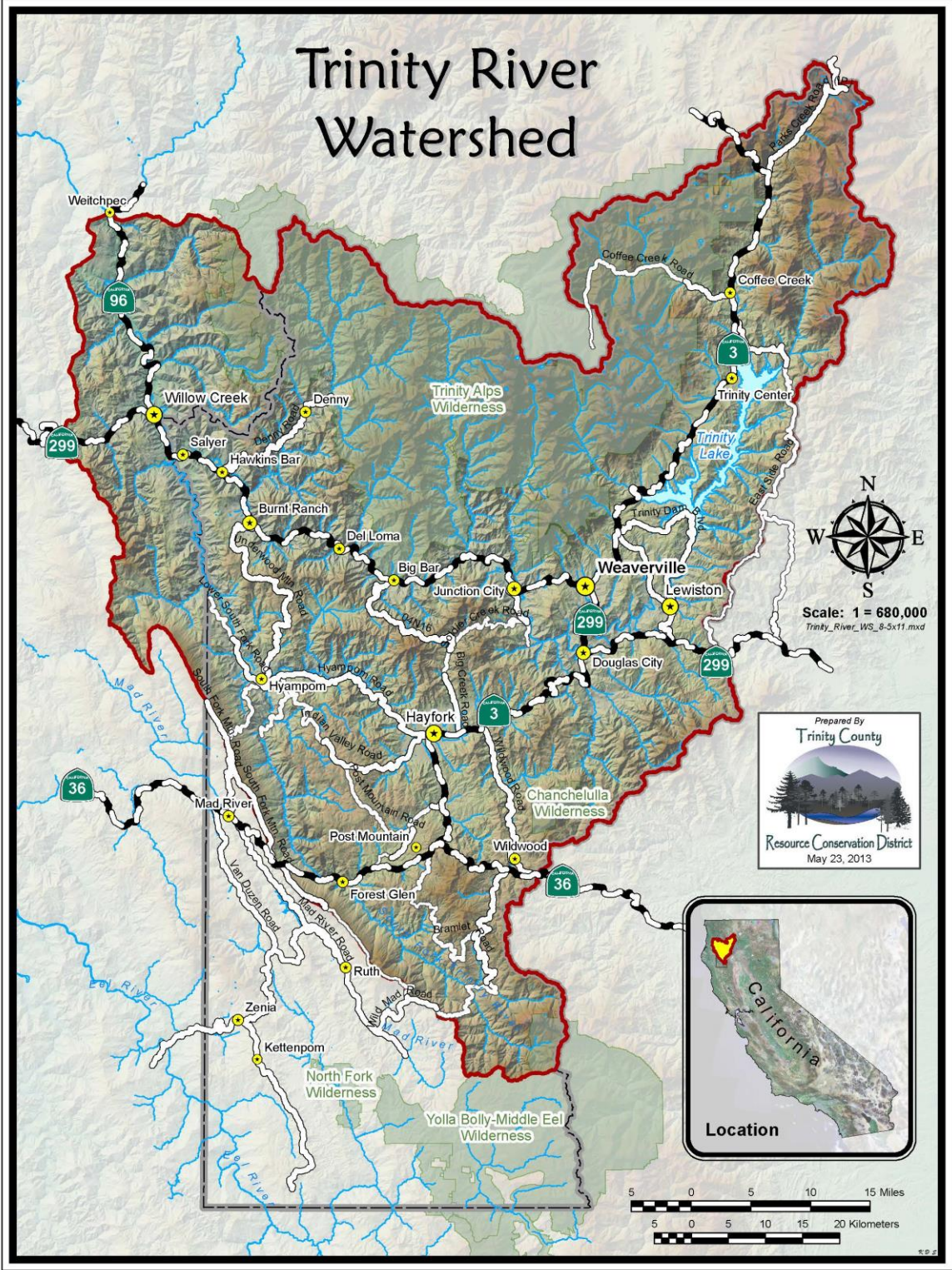
With the data all in one place, it may become obvious where pockets of restoration work could be greatly enhanced by additional work, creating a larger, landscape level impact on the fisheries. Or the analysis may reveal healthy pockets of habitat that should be considered for protection. An effort to look at the watershed as a whole and prioritize projects has never been undertaken due to funding restrictions. This is a major task the expanded TRWC would address.

Restoration work in the Trinity River Watershed began more than two decades ago, before the 2000 Record of Decision (ROD). However, the early 2000's was an active time for recognition of the needs of fisheries within the watershed. The effect of the past and present impacts in the watershed are recognized and multiple agencies have been working to enhance the watershed for fish habitat connectivity and sediment reduction. Federal, state, local and non-profit agencies have all been working on recovery efforts in the watershed. There is a strong need to document the work completed since 2000 and conduct a restoration gap analysis with GIS to point the way for future watershed projects.

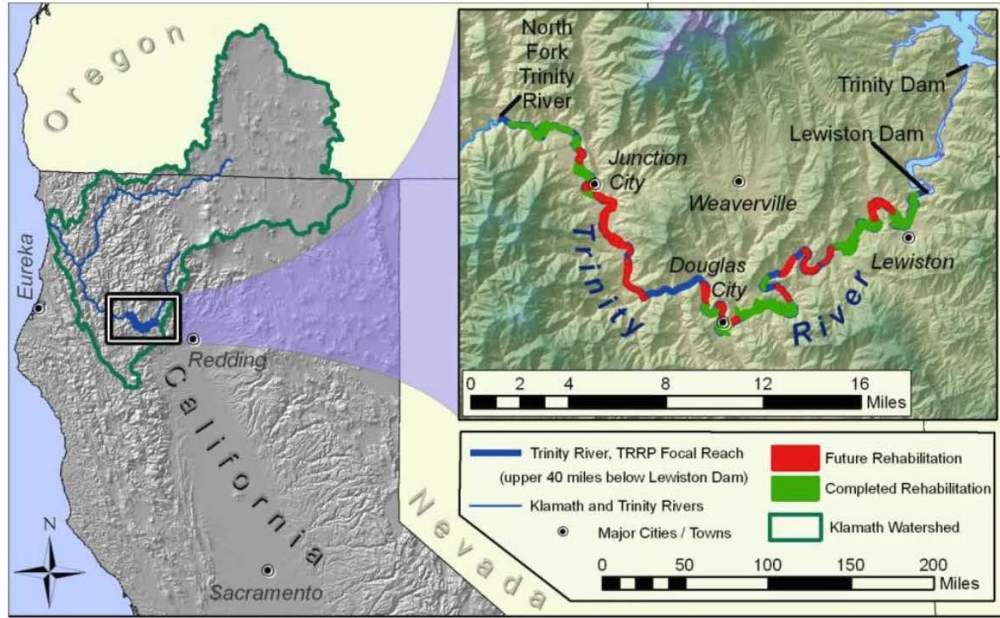
Conflicts over water within the watershed have been exacerbated by drought over the last three years. While the 2015/16 water year is shaping up to be "normal", scientists predict that it will take several years of normal precipitation to erase the impacts of the current drought. There are two major Community Service Districts (CSDs) that supply potable water, along with half a dozen smaller CSDs scattered throughout the watershed. Many residents in the watershed depend on surface and ground water for household needs. Conflicts with neighbors and marijuana growers over streams being de-watered and wells going dry have become routine. The expanded TRWC would like to address this issue while working on this project.

Identified problems in the Trinity River Watershed include:

- Sediment
- Road and land use related erosion, including impacts from marijuana plantations
- Conflicts over amount of available surface water and impacts of long term drought
- Water temperature
- Impaired anadromous fishery habitat and connectivity
- Concerns over habitat for endangered and species of concern
- Forest health and extreme wildfire risk
- Invasive species
- Lack of native vegetation in riparian zones



Geographic overview of the current focus of the Trinity River Watershed Council (approximately 40 river miles) between Lewiston Dam and the North Fork Trinity River



Technical Project Description

Description of Applicant:

The Trinity River Watershed Council started as a loose group of concerned citizens nearly 20 years ago and has evolved into a group of agency representatives and local stakeholders who meet on a quarterly basis to discuss upcoming restoration projects, funding opportunities and new advances in natural resource and fishery management.

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD/District), the applicant, has participated in all iterations of the Council since its inception. In fact, the TCRCD stepped forward as early as 2001 to bring stakeholders together in a watershed collaborative to bridge the gap between the end of the Trinity River Task Force (active in the 1990's) and the appointment of the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG) in 2001. The TAMWG is a federal advisory committee comprised of local representatives who provide guidance to the TRRP.

TCRCD has had many years of experience working in partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation's Trinity River Restoration Program, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Conservation and other state, local, tribal and federal agencies and private landowners. The District currently manages over \$2.5 million dollars in grant funding.

The existing Trinity River Watershed Council was formed in 2007 with a variety of federal, state and local participants. The focus of this group has primarily been the 40 miles of the Trinity River below the Lewiston Dam to the North Fork Trinity River as that is the geographic scope of the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). The TRRP addresses watershed restoration projects that benefit the Trinity River fishery in support of the 2000 Trinity River Restoration Record of Decision (ROD). Watershed restoration described in the ROD is for the expressed purpose of reducing the impact of land management activities on the Trinity River fishery, primarily by controlling fine sediment delivery to the Trinity River and portions of its tributaries used by anadromous fishes, and by maintaining fish passage into those tributary areas. Because of the TRRP focus, the existing Council is anadromous fish/aquatic habitat-centric, and not inclusive of watershed issues above the dams, nor does it consistently address all beneficial uses including other forms of wildlife, smaller tributary benefits, and drought relief. These topics are discussed, but due to lack of funding to develop project concepts, ideas do not move forward. There is a significant geographic portion of the watershed that remains to be addressed for restoration needs and other water quantity and quality issues to resolve beyond anadromous fisheries.

The TCRCD organizes the Council, hosts the meetings, sends out notices and agendas, keeps meeting notes and advocates for the Council. The Trinity County RCD receives some funding from the Trinity River Restoration Program to coordinate these meetings which have focused on work in the 40 miles of concern to the TRRP. This funding expires in 2017 (see budget narrative for details.) Through the TRRP funding agreement, the District is also tasked to look for additional funding to bring fisheries restoration work into the watershed beyond the TRRP focus. Currently the Council does not have funding to expand coordination and Council boundaries beyond the 40 miles of concern or anadromous fish concerns, work on the Council's organizational structure, prioritize

projects and analyze completed projects for gaps, or create a watershed plan. Funding from this WaterSMART opportunity will allow the TRWC to expand and look at the watershed from a landscape level, rather than be restricted by political boundaries. This will be accomplished by TCRCDD staff through the employment of a half-time watershed coordinator. The Council has no formal bylaws, structure or tax status, so is unable to employ a watershed coordinator. The TCRCDD has been the de facto legal entity representing the Council since its inception.

Currently, representatives from the following groups are invited to attend Council meetings:

- Trinity Public Utilities District (hydroelectric production)
- Sierra Pacific Industries (timber production)
- US Forest Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Trinity River Restoration Project
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Trinity County Board of Supervisors
- Hoopa Valley Tribe
- Weaverville Community Services District (potable water purveyors)
- Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program (non-profit environmental group)
- Trinity County Resource Conservation District (applicant)
- Watershed Research and Training Center (non-profit environmental and economic development group)
- Members of the public

With the expansion of the Council through this grant opportunity, the watershed coordinator will work to recruit more members of the economic and agricultural communities.

Eligibility of Applicant:

The TCRCDD, a non-regulatory, special District of the state of California, significantly affects the quality and quantity of water in the this watershed (with no base funding and funded solely by grants) through its programs, including education and outreach programs; on-the-ground work to reduce sediment through road upgrades and/or decommissions; native plant revegetation in riparian areas to reduce water temperatures and increase habitat; in-stream restoration work; and fuel reductions on the landscape to lower the possibility of stand-replacing wildfire, which can be devastating to both water quantity and quality.

The District is capable of promoting the sustainable use of water resources through our established network of agencies and stakeholders throughout the watershed with outreach and education. From 2011 to 2014 the District had funding from the California Department of Conservation for Watershed Coordination in the South Fork Trinity River Watershed. The last six months of this agreement was a specially funded drought relief extension to focus on the historic California drought and water conservation. During the extension, the District built contacts with suppliers of potable water in the watershed and created outreach programs using their billing programs. A water conservation workshop was also held which the Trinity River Watershed Council supported

and nearly all members attended with a table top. Additionally a Facebook page – Trinity County Drought – was created through the DOC grant and is still supported today by the District and the Watershed Research and Training Center, a partner in the DOC grant and member of the TRWC. This model can be used for future watershed coordination activities to promote the sustainable use of water resources.

The Trinity River Watershed, the District and all Watershed Council members are located in northwestern California.

The District is a participant in, and the driving force behind, the current TRWC, an existing watershed group. Please see complete description of applicant in previous section, as the District and TRWC are closely intertwined, and have been shown to meet the eligibility criteria.

Goals:

The District is seeking funding to perform Task B: further develop an existing watershed group – the Trinity River Watershed Council. Preliminary goals and objectives include:

Goal 1: To expand the existing Trinity River Watershed Council to enlarge its geographic focus to encompass the whole Trinity River Watershed, not just the 40 river miles covered by existing coordination funding.

Objective 1A: Enhance the participation of diverse stakeholders to form local solutions to address water management needs in the entire Trinity River Watershed and be as inclusive as possible of stakeholders in all geographic areas of the watershed.

Tasks: Establish geographic regions following regions created in other Trinity County planning documents; create and schedule convenient meetings for stakeholders in all areas; conduct outreach activities and create materials to expand the Council and reach stakeholders.

Objective 1B: Explore the development of by-laws for the Council.

Tasks: Have watershed coordinator research ideas and present to the Council. Council members in all regions must reach consensus on by-laws.

Goal 2: To develop project concepts that will benefit the health of the watershed through improved water quality and quantity, ecological resilience and conflict resolution efforts.

Objective 2A: Facilitate exploration of concepts related to known issues in the watershed as outlined on page 6, and be open to other issues not identified in this proposal.

Tasks: Watershed coordinator will work with stakeholders and community groups in all regions to review issues, organize and create lists through meetings, watershed tours and on-line forums.

Objective 2B: Project concepts need to make use of existing data available from multiple sources and agencies.

Tasks: Watershed coordinator will work with stakeholders to gather existing data, analyze and distribute to all stakeholders and agencies; analysis will be used by stakeholders to create project concepts.

Objective 2C: Incorporate the use of GIS to analyze completed restoration work, and use this information to support this goal.

Tasks: Watershed coordinator will work with stakeholders to gather existing data on completed restoration projects, analyze the data for gaps, and distribute to all stakeholders and agencies; GIS analysis and maps will be used by stakeholders to create project concepts.

Goal 3: To develop a watershed restoration plan that will be a living, dynamic document.

Objective 3A: Be as inclusive as possible of all existing plans, data and concepts.

Objective 3B: Develop benchmarks for reaching goals within the Watershed plan.

Tasks: Watershed coordinator will work with stakeholders to assure that all topics are covered; incorporate plan review and updates into meeting schedules.

Approach:

This project will benefit the watershed in many ways, primarily through creating a coordinated, holistic approach to watershed improvement. The consensus-based approach to planning through facilitated community groups will guide the documentation and prioritization of projects and lead to a more effective watershed restoration program. Education and outreach is critical to increasing understanding and support of these projects.

This proposal will be implemented by a watershed coordinator, a current employee of the District. Donna Rupp works as both a watershed coordinator and education and outreach specialist. She was the District's project coordinator for a previous watershed program grant through the California Department of Conservation and currently coordinates the TRWC on the 40 miles of concern in the Trinity River Restoration Program scope.

Many Trinity County planning documents parcel the county into five areas based on hydrography. The below map (page 13) is how the area is parceled in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). This project will use the same areas to expand the watershed council, with the exception of the "South County" parcel because it is in the Mad and Eel River watersheds.

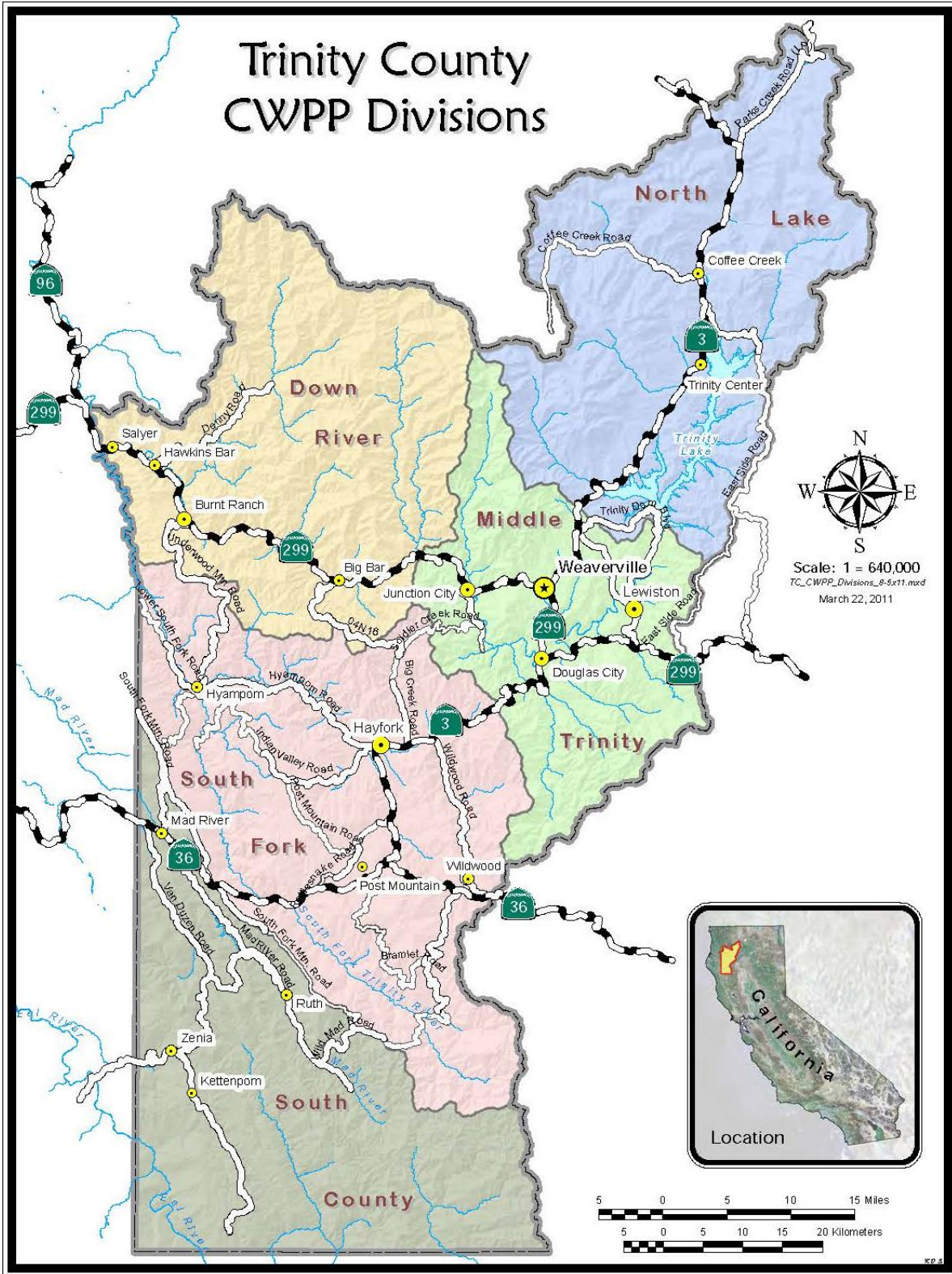
Through the work of the watershed coordinator, four meetings will be held in all four regions each year: North Lake, Middle Trinity, Down River, and South Fork; and two semi-annual meetings where all areas can get together in a central location. An outreach plan will be implemented to recruit new members and interested stakeholders. The outreach plan will include articles in newsletters, newspapers, on-line forums, and announcements to various community groups and at community gatherings. Releases will also be sent to both public radio stations that broadcast to the area.

Each region has varying areas of concern, but they also overlap in that they are concerned with the health of the environment and the economy. The watershed coordinator will gather information from the different geographic areas and consolidate it into one document.

The TRWC adopted a mission statement in February 2016, so it will not need to be created under this grant. The mission statement is:

To protect, enhance, restore and revitalize the watershed through collaborative efforts that leverage external resources, work toward common goals, educate and engage community stakeholders, address natural resource issues, and support healthy ecosystems for future generations.

Trinity County CWPP Divisions



Currently the Watershed Council relies on the established status quo of the District running the Council. Incorporating by-laws into the Council set up will be explored and researched, but the current Council members do not have a desire to form articles of incorporation. With the forming of a more extended Council, that may change and options will be explored with all geographic regions. The main concern is one of economics – funding has come and gone for the Watershed Council, but the District has always kept the Council going at some level despite funding challenges. The mission statement of the District is:

To assist people in protecting, managing, conserving, and restoring the natural resources of Trinity County through information, education, technical assistance, and project implementation programs.

To identify problems and needs within the watershed the watershed coordinator will continue to facilitate a collaborative meeting and extend it to the new regions in the watershed. The communities in the Watershed are all small, and people talk to each other. It is important to use existing networks of involved citizens and work to reach new stakeholders such as the agricultural and recreational factions. The marijuana growing community is starting to coalesce and may have some organizational meetings in 2016/17 where the coordinator could seek input and work with them on BMPs that have already been written for Mendocino County. Having buy-in from this portion of the community is important to making water conservation and sediment reduction projects effective. However, it is understood that federal funding cannot be used to implement projects for this group of stakeholders, developing project concepts with this sector of the farming community is as important to the health of the Trinity River Watershed as receiving input from cattle farmers in a watershed in Montana. The coordinator will enhance outreach and education efforts and spend time one-on-one with some members of the communities who are not able to attend meetings. There are annual community gatherings (BBQs, fundraisers, celebrations, etc.) where the watershed coordinator can set up a table and speak to people in the different areas to identify needs. People who attend these functions may not want to commit to attending regular meetings, but may have opinions to share.

Needs will also be identified through a gap analysis, using data gathered from agencies and stakeholders. The effect of the past and present restoration activities in the watershed are recognized and multiple agencies have been working to enhance the watershed for fish habitat connectivity and sediment reduction. Federal, state, local and non-profit agencies have all been working on recovery efforts in the watershed. There is a strong need to document the work completed since 2000 and conduct a restoration gap analysis to point the way for future sediment reduction, water quality, and habitat improvement and connectivity work.

Many sources of project data exist in silos within different agencies, but pulling it all together in one document and analyzing it on a whole watershed scale has been out of reach due to lack of funding. While completing this analysis, the watershed coordinator will continue to receive technical advice from the Watershed Council members regarding the best way to approach this gap analysis. Several members of the Watershed Council have expressed interest in different aspects of the analysis and in helping with this important project.

This project is intended to support and help coordinate on-going activities of numerous groups engaged in efforts to protect and restore the watershed. It will also help stakeholders improve the effectiveness of their joint and complementary data gathering and restoration efforts. Through a systematic approach to data and information gathering, along with coordinated meetings and public outreach, this project will ultimately produce a watershed restoration plan containing prioritized watershed management projects. All members of the extended watershed group will benefit from this plan as they can use it to source funding and as reference for proposed future projects.

This project has the potential to support every agency and organization doing restoration work in the watershed. Once complete, the watershed plan would be available on the TRRP online data portal (www.trrp.net), providing easy access to relevant data for future restoration work.

The plan of action is outlined in Appendix B with a two year timeline. A brief narrative of the timeline as it corresponds to the *Eligible Activities in Section III C* follows.

Further development of watershed group: By-laws will be researched by the watershed coordinator during the first month of the grant being awarded (Oct. 2016) A benchmark of February 2017 is set to have the by-laws on the agendas in all four regions. A benchmark of April 2017 is set to have the by-laws accepted or acted upon. A watershed coordinator does not need to be hired, because the existing coordinator who works at the TCRCD will expand her role with the expanded Watershed Council, including outreach. Outreach activities will begin immediately in October, with the benchmark of having an extensive outreach plan developed by the end of December.

Development of a Mission statement: as mentioned previously, the TRWC already has a mission statement in place.

Development of watershed management project concepts: The meetings held in each of the regions will focus on projects. There is a wealth of information available through existing plans and on-the-ground knowledge that will surface during the meetings. Expanding the watershed council to bring in more participants will help in developing a watershed wide plan. As stated earlier, the current council focuses on the Middle Trinity region. Over the first 18 months of the project, the regions will be working on developing projects and sorting through relevant data and existing plans with the help of the coordinator. A benchmark of March 2018 is set to have developed a draft project list for the expanded region. With the guidance of the District GIS manager, the watershed coordinator will create maps of completed restoration projects since 2000. A benchmark of November 2017 is set to have the GIS maps drafted. They will then be reviewed by the expanded council members, with a benchmark of having all comments and input returned to the watershed coordinator by February 2018. These actions will lead to the creation of project concepts.

Development of a watershed restoration plan: By April 2018, all comments and analysis will be completed on the GIS maps. A benchmark of May 2018 is set to have the first draft of the watershed plan ready for review by all stakeholders. A benchmark of July 2018 is set to have the second draft ready for review. Because this is the work season and many of the stakeholders will have on-the-ground projects in process, 6 weeks is allowed for comments back on the second draft. During this time outreach to the general public through an open house and a table at the County Fair will be held. A benchmark of mid-August 2018 is set to have all comments back to the watershed coordinator. During the last six weeks of the project the watershed plan and final report will be completed. This project is set to take two years, with a completion date of September 30, 2018.

Evaluation Criteria

A: Watershed Group Diversity and Geographic Scope (30 points)

Sub-criterion A1. Watershed Group Diversity

This project will increase the watershed group diversity by encouraging additional stakeholders to be involved in the process. This includes the Trinity Public Utilities District, the Community Services District, Trinity County, agricultural interests, state and local entities (see attached Letters of Support). More private landowners would be encouraged to take part in this group to enhance collaboration. Tribal and Federal entities are already part of the Trinity River Watershed Council, but would like to see more stakeholders be involved (see attached Letters of Support).

Currently, representatives from the following groups are invited to attend the meetings:

- Trinity Public Utilities District (hydroelectric production)
- Sierra Pacific Industries (timber production)
- US Forest Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Trinity River Restoration Project
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Trinity County Board of Supervisors
- Hoopa Valley Tribe
- Weaverville Community Services District (potable water purveyors)
- Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program (non-profit environmental group)
- Trinity County Resource Conservation District (applicant)
- Watershed Research and Training Center (non-profit environmental and economic development group)
- Members of the public

To encourage participation of a more diverse array of stakeholders across the watershed we will use newsletter articles, press releases (radio and print), web site information, Facebook, and tabling at public events. The outreach plan will include specific information on how new participants will be recruited. Recreational representatives such as owners of rafting and resort companies in the Down River region; and resort and boating interests in the North Lake region will be recruited to participate. Marijuana farmers will also be invited to participate. An effort will be made to reach across the County line to Humboldt County, as the western edge of the watershed is in Humboldt, although the population is very small. The Hoopa Tribe (at the very western edge of the watershed) already participates in the existing Watershed Council, although it will be beneficial to have meetings in the Down River region to engage more members.

Sub-criterion A.2 Geographic Scope

The geographic scope of this project is the entire Trinity River Watershed, which is just under 3,000 square miles, from the upper Trinity River at the northern tip of Trinity County to where it flows into the Klamath River at Weitchpec. The current geographic focus of the Trinity River Watershed Council is only the 40 river miles below Lewiston Dam to the North Fork of the Trinity River as this has been the area of restoration work for the TRRP. The current Trinity River Watershed Council is

focusing on only 572 square miles, or about 19% of the total. USGS HUC for the Trinity River Watershed is 18010211. Maps are on pages 7-8 of this document.

As outlined in the “Approach” section of this document, the geographic scope will be increased through outreach efforts to include new stakeholders in all four regions of the watershed. Several entities have already expressed an interest in being included in the process, with the ultimate goal of creating project concepts and a comprehensive watershed restoration plan. As stated in A1, diversifying the geographic scope is inherent in recruiting new council participants.

V.A.2. Evaluation Criterion B: Addressing Critical Watershed Needs

Sub-criterion B1. Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

This topic was addressed in some detail in the “Background” section, but is expanded upon here, with added descriptions and details including how the issues and needs have evolved over the last decade while the Council has been in existence.

Identified problems in the Trinity River Watershed include:

Sediment

A TMDL for sediment was prepared in 2001 by the EPA. Sedimentation levels in the entire Trinity River watershed was judged to exceed existing Water Quality Standards necessary to protect the beneficial uses of the basin, particularly the cold water fishery. Accelerated erosion from land use practices, and reduced flow down the Trinity River is included on California’s Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list as water quality limited due to sediment.

Post WWII timber harvest practices created a major network of dirt roads which were installed with undersized culverts, poor or no drainage design, and no concern for the highly erodible nature of the geology in the watershed. This led to mass-wasting events, most notably in the South Fork and Grass Valley Creek watersheds. While the effects of the mass wasting event in the South Fork are still making an impact half a century later, the Grass Valley Creek (GVC) project is a success story with unintended consequences.

Sediment reduction work has been implemented and funded in the South Fork Watershed for over 15 years. The TCRCD has a roads department that works in collaboration with the US Forest Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the TRRP on road maintenance and decommissioning to reduce sediment delivery to the South Fork. Other partners in the Watershed Council also work on this issue in the South Fork, and throughout the watershed, including the US Forest Service, the 5Cs, the Watershed Center, the Hoopa Valley Tribe and California DFW. Years of work on sediment reduction in the entire watershed have been completed and is still on-going, but there is no one consolidated source of all of the projects that have been completed to date. And there is no analysis of where gaps may lie that, once identified and restored, will help with the ecological resilience of the watershed. Sediment reduction represents an on-going issue within the watershed.

The decomposed granitic (DG) soils in Grass Valley Creek watershed were the first addressed even before the TMDL was prepared by the EPA, as the DG was covering important spawning habitat in the main stem Trinity below the confluence with GVC. After nearly a decade of work, including the installation of a retention dam (now controversial) and settling ponds on GVC above its confluence with the mainstem, the sediment from this source is under control. The settling ponds had been

dredged for several years after installation. Once dredging stopped about seven years ago, Pacific lamprey migrated to the creek above the ponds, and the ponds are now a nursery site for ammocoetes. Ammocoetes, the larval stage of Pacific lamprey, live in silt/sands substrates and filter feed for 3-7 years before maturing to the juvenile stage and migrating to the ocean. These fish are an important cultural resource for both the Hoopa Valley and Yurok Tribes. A study of the Pacific lamprey in the settling ponds is currently (2016-2017) underway through a grant from the TRRP.

Road and land use related erosion, including impacts from marijuana plantations

Trinity County is only one of three counties in the state without a grading ordinance. When the Watershed Council first started meeting nearly a decade ago, the concern was over people putting in roads that did not meet BMPS, consequently adding to the sediment load to waterways in nearly every corner of the watershed. Now the marijuana growers have added to the problem by some estimates up to 10x what was seen 10 years ago.

Conflicts over amount of available surface water and impacts of long term drought

Conflicts over water within the watershed have been exacerbated by drought over the last three years. While the 2015/16 water year is shaping up to be “normal”, scientists predict that it will take several years of normal precipitation to erase the impacts of the current drought. There are two major Community Service Districts that supply potable water, along with half a dozen smaller CSDs scattered throughout the watershed. Many residents in the watershed depend on surface and ground water for household needs. Conflicts with neighbors and marijuana growers over streams being de-watered and wells going dry have become routine. Some conflicts have resulted in violence.

Water temperature

Water temperature ties into both quantity of surface water and lack of native vegetation in riparian zones. Temperature data from local sources is reported to the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station.

Water temperatures in the mainstem Trinity River are controlled through restoration releases from the Lewiston dam, as the water is released from the lower level of the dam where cool water settles. As part of the Record of Decision, availability of cold water for anadromous fish is one issue that the TRRP had to address. However, the rest of the watershed, including major tributaries, has no such guidance. Water temperatures in the North Lake region, which includes the headwaters, tend to have less fluctuation as water is released throughout the summer from snow packs in the Trinity Alps wilderness area. Tributaries in the other geographic regions suffer from high temperatures during the summer, especially during drought years.

Impaired anadromous fishery habitat and connectivity

This issue continues to be addressed in the mainstem and tributaries below the dams. There are volumes of literature and plans that address this issue. The ROD determined that juvenile habitat and refugia was a limiting factor for the mainstem fishery, and the TRRP has been building in-stream projects since 2005 to address this limiting factor.

Tributaries of the mainstem have suffered from the lack of high flows to flush out deltas, creating some naturally formed fish barriers. Other tributaries suffer from mining legacy impacts which include removal of all spawning gravels and scouring to bedrock, disconnection from flood plains and lack of channel complexity. Old culverts throughout the watershed create fish passage issues.

Concerns over habitat for endangered and species of concern

The existing Watershed Council has been predominantly fish-centric. Extending the Council's geographic area without a restriction to focus on anadromous fisheries will allow the Council to consider all species in the watershed in the restoration plan and while prioritizing projects. The USFS and the Trinity Collaborative have maps of known northern spotted owl nesting areas. The Hoopa Valley Tribe is currently working on a Pacific fisher study with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Data on other species is available from several agencies, but it has not yet been incorporated into any type of watershed wide plan.

Forest health and extreme wildfire risk

Stand-replacing wildfire is an ever-present threat to the health of this watershed. Trinity County is proactive in addressing this threat through two planning documents: the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. In addition, the Trinity County Fire Safe Council meets monthly. Watershed projects that cross reference fire safe plans will be examined during the course of this project by the expanded TRWC. See Appendix A, for a review of wildfire in Trinity County from the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

The ecological resilience of this watershed comingles with the fire resilience of the watershed. This is a fire adapted ecosystem where fire has been suppressed for 100 years. In the last few years a few agencies have been using prescription fires to re-introduce fire to the landscape in a safe and controllable manner. The watershed restoration plan needs to include and recognize fire's natural role in the watershed.

Invasive species

Currently the only invasive species in the watershed are plants. Active partners in the current Watershed Council who work on noxious weed control include the USFS, TCRCD, and Watershed Center. Funding comes from USFS, CalTrans, BLM and various other sources. Trinity County has a volunteer weed management council, which enforces a "no chemical treatment" rule in the County. GIS layers exist for areas that have been mechanically treated for noxious weed removal, but they have not been compiled into one, watershed wide database.

Lack of native vegetation in riparian zones

Impacts from legacy mining continue decades after the cease of commercial mining with native vegetation in riparian zones sparse in many areas of the watershed. Some areas around current restoration sites have been revegetated over the years, but lack of systematic monitoring has created a void of knowledge.

Sub-criterion B2. Watershed Group Contributions that Address Watershed Needs or Issues

Sediment

The existing Watershed Council has been addressing sediment issues for years. The new, expanded Council will be able to incorporate this knowledge of addressing sediment issues into planning for project concepts for the entire watershed.

The TCRCD has been instrumental in the planning and implementation of restoration work in Grass Valley Creek and is the fiscal sponsor for the lamprey study in the GVC settling ponds. The results of this study could change management practices and the Watershed Council is a place where all concerned parties can come together and discuss possibilities for projects relating to the lamprey.

Road and land use related erosion, including impacts from marijuana plantations

The expanded Watershed Council will address this issue through outreach and inclusion of the stakeholders, with the goal of gaining acceptance of established BMPs by all parties. While the Council does not want to become involved in setting policy (grading ordinance) inclusion of Board of Supervisor representatives in the planning process should offer indirect input to the policy. Members of the existing Watershed Council have drafted a grading ordinance for the County, but it has stalled due to political reasons. There is hope that it will eventually be adopted.

Conflicts over amount of available surface water and impacts of long term drought

This issue will be addressed through water conservation education and outreach at least one drought workshop and on-going electronic media. By bringing stakeholders together from all regions of the watershed, the expanded Council be able to create project concepts and a watershed restoration plan that addresses this issue. Working with CSDs throughout the watershed, including one-on-one meetings as necessary, the watershed coordinator will be able to gather more information on water usage and issues than is currently available. The existing Watershed Council held a drought workshop in March 2014. Individual members of the Council have been working with various groups and individual private property owners to conserve surface water through grants that have already been awarded. Due to the length of this grant, the results of these current water conservation projects will be able to be included in the Watershed Restoration Plan and evaluated for effectiveness for future projects.

Water temperature

The Watershed Council will explore the possibility of using USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station NorWeST stream temperature model (<http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/AWAE/projects/NorWeST.html>). The model was run across the entire North Coast region in 2015 and they will be re-running it this fall using a more complete calibration dataset. The model output is a spatially continuous map predicting average August stream temperature for every kilometer in the entire stream network. This information will be incorporated into the Watershed Restoration Plan and used to inform decisions on project concepts.

Impaired anadromous fishery habitat and connectivity

As mentioned earlier, a great deal of literature exists on this issue and all members of the existing Council have contributed to restoration work on this issue. The expanded Watershed Council will address this issue by working to compile the data and outcomes of the restoration work that has been completed from 2000 until 2015. Through a grant from the California Department of Conservation for watershed coordination on the South Fork, a document (*Spring Chinook in the South Fork Trinity River: Recommended Management Actions and the Status of their Implementation*) was written with the collaboration of many of the agencies who participate in the existing Council. The knowledge in this document and the experience of the process it took to create it will help guide project concepts for anadromous fish in the watershed. Working from this information, the gap analysis will examine the completed work for logical project concepts to incorporate into the Watershed Restoration Plan.

Concerns over habitat for endangered and species of concern

The existing Watershed Council has been predominantly fish-centric. The work that has been done relating to coho and South Fork spring run chinook will continue. This project will allow the

expanded Council the time to gather data on species of concern (beyond fish) and incorporate that knowledge into the project concepts.

Forest health and extreme wildfire risk

The communities within this watershed are tight knit and all are concerned with wildfire. Many members of the existing Watershed Council also participate in the Trinity County Fire Safe Council and/or work on, and support, re-introducing wildfire into the landscape. While the existing Watershed Council itself has not made accomplishments on this issue, many of the individual members have. By expanding the Watershed Council beyond fish related issues and incorporating these issues into a Watershed Restoration Plan, prior work by individual members will contribute to a holistic approach to project concepts for the future.

Invasive species

GIS layers exist for areas that have been mechanically treated for noxious weed removal, but they have not been compiled into one, watershed wide database. This project will address that need. By creating project concepts from the GIS analysis, the watershed coordinator and members of the expanded council will be able to get a clearer picture of what has been done and what can be done in the future.

Lack of native vegetation in riparian zones

Part of the GIS analysis will include a researching images from Google earth for riparian vegetation, with some ground truthing, as time allows. Also the expanded Council will include new members with knowledge of existing watershed conditions. While this anecdotal knowledge is not the same as following a scientific monitoring plan, it is still helpful for informing decisions on project concepts.

The Trinity River Watershed Council will enhance collaboration between existing stakeholders in addressing these issues by providing a forum where the difference between the geographic regions are acknowledged, while recognizing that all parts of the watershed face the same issues. Priorities will differ within the entire watershed, but stakeholders will know that the Council is working to address all issues. With this knowledge stakeholders will be more likely to engage in the process and feel ownership of the final watershed restoration plan.

V.A.3. Evaluation Criterion C: Implementation and Results (30 Points)

Sub-criterion No. C1—Understanding of and Ability to Meet Program Requirements

Please see page 15 and Appendix B for the schedule of work with estimated dates and benchmarks.

Cost share will be received from the TRRP during the first year of this project (shown in budget and discussed in budget narrative). The District currently manages several agreements with the Bureau of Reclamation (as well as other federal and state agencies) and has competent and experienced staff on hand to process this agreement and funding. The District will celebrate its 60th year of service next year and has successfully completed millions of dollars' worth of projects in the watershed.

Difficulties anticipated in performing or accomplishing the work would possibly include difficulty getting people to come to meetings and be involved in the process as this watershed is very large and sparsely populated. On-line surveys and conferencing calls will be used to help with participation.

As mentioned previously in this document, both the District and the watershed coordinator have experience in performing this type of collaborative effort. The existing Watershed Council consists of individuals who work together on many projects in the watershed outside of the scope of this project. Because it is a rural area with low population density, the stakeholders are accustomed to this collaborative process.

Sub-criterion No. C2—Building on Relevant Federal, State, or Regional Planning Efforts

The current members of the Watershed Council rely on existing federal and state plans to conduct restoration work in the watershed. There has been extensive planning in the Trinity River Watershed. Both the Trinity River and the South Fork Trinity River have sediment Total Maximum Daily Load's set by the EPA. The Trinity River Mainstem Fishery Restoration Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Trinity EIS/EIR), was completed in 2000 and still helps drive work in the watershed. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) created a Coho recovery strategy in 2004 based on the species being listed as threatened in the S. Oregon - N. California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit (SONCC ESU) under both the federal Endangered Species Act and the California Endangered Species Act.

When addressing water conservation and drought in the proposed watershed restoration plan, the expanded Council will incorporate information from the Draft 2015 Trinity County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). The LHMP is a dynamic document with annual reviews scheduled by the Trinity County Board of Supervisors. It is the intent of the Council to develop project concepts for drought contingency plans that can be incorporated into the LHMP.

The current Trinity County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is currently being updated. It is the intent of the Council to develop project concepts for watershed health plans that can be incorporated into the CWPP.

Existing plans are integral to creating a watershed restoration plan for the entire watershed. There are many available plans and studies in the Watershed. Only a partial list is included here, as the extended Council members will contribute to the planning process.

Trinity River Total Maximum Daily Load for Sediment (EPA, 2001)
Trinity River Record of Decision (USDI, 2000)
Trinity River Mainstem Fishery Restoration Environmental Impact Statement (US FWS 1999)
Gravel Quality Monitoring in the Mainstem Trinity River (GMA 2001a)
Trinity River Sediment Source Analysis (GMA 2001b);
Trinity River Flow Evaluation Final Report (US FWS and HVT 1999);
Watershed Condition Assessment, Beta-test Results of Northern Province (De la Fuente et al, 2000)
Direct Inventory of Roads and Treatments for Trinity County Maintained Roads (5C, 2002)
Fish Passage Inventory of County Roads (Ross Taylor and Associates, 2002)
Upper Trinity River Watershed Assessment Report and Management Action Plan, (TCRCD, 2006)
South Fork Trinity River TMDL for Sediment, (EPA, 1998)
Trinity County Weed Management Cooperative Strategic Plan, (2002)
Trinity County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, (TCFSC, 2005 and updated 2010)
South Fork Trinity River Water Quality Monitoring Project Report, (GMA, 2003)

V.A.4. Evaluation Criterion D: Building Resilience to Drought (10 points).

Drought is addressed in the Draft Trinity County Hazard Mitigation Plan as a “critical” planning issue with “high” importance. The following content is sourced mainly from that plan:

Due to the dispersed nature of the population, many Trinity County residents rely on ground and surface water for domestic use. Without access to municipal water supplies, these residents must find other sources for their daily survival needs. Lack of safe drinking water can lead to illness and unsanitary conditions. Drought conditions can also lead to agricultural, environmental and economic losses throughout the County.

Drought can intensify the effects of wildfire due to both drier fuel loads and lower availability of water for suppression. Wildfire, aggravated by extreme drought, can cause property damage that threatens structural stability and interruption of essential facilities and services. Wildlife is also impacted by drought, leaving animals more prone to disease and more likely to move into communities in search of water. Endangered salmonids are also impacted when streams and river go sub-surface or heat up to dangerous levels. (During the wildfire season of 2015, almost 186,000 acres were burned in Trinity County, according to the USFS.)

Drought severity ratings by the U.S. Drought Monitor (<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home>) indicate that Trinity County has experienced some form of drought in all but two of the last eight years. They track drought on a weekly basis, using the following ranking system:

- D0 – Abnormally Dry
- D1 – Drought Moderate
- D2 – Drought Severe
- D3 – Drought Extreme
- D4 – Drought Exceptional

The 2008-2009 drought went into the D3, Extreme Drought ranking for a few weeks, but remained consistently in the D0-D2 rankings. From 2010 through 2011 the County was relatively free of drought, with a few seasonal weeks showing up as Abnormally Dry. In 2013 the rankings again moved into drought territory, covering the first three categories from Abnormally Dry to Severe Drought. The County experienced Extreme Drought (D3) and Exceptional Drought (D4) ranking throughout 2014 and 2015. As of the last Trinity County Board of Supervisors meeting (April 2016), the County is still in a declared state of disaster for drought.

Trinity County is especially vulnerable to continuing drought due to the unauthorized use of surface water by marijuana growers. While marijuana is the largest cash crop in the County, the majority of “growers” do not follow standard Best Management Practices for water conservation.

During the summers of 2014 and 2015, many residents in the County experienced dry wells and loss of surface water that hadn’t been recorded in over 30 years. Existing business developments have suffered during the 2014-15 drought, with several tourist-dependent businesses closing due to the slowdown in boating and fishing tourism. Only one boat ramp on Trinity Lake (barely) reached the water in 2015. Campgrounds were also closed by the US Forest Service due to lack of water, which turned away tourist dollars from the County. Long-term climate change and the potential for less rain and reduced snow pack in the future will contribute to extended droughts in Trinity County.

□ Please describe how the watershed group's activities will help build resilience to drought. This could include analysis of potential drought impacts in developing the watershed management plan, or consideration of projects to build drought resilience in the development of project concepts.

Building resilience to drought will be included in all aspects of this project. It will be considered throughout the project concept drafting phase and the creation of the Watershed Restoration Plan. It will be included in the prioritization process for project concepts. As outlined in this document, it is a major issue within the watershed. In section B2 of this proposal this is addressed:

Conflicts over amount of available surface water and impacts of long term drought

This issue will be addressed through water conservation education and outreach at least one drought workshop and on-going electronic media. By bringing stakeholders together from all regions of the watershed, the expanded Council be able to create project concepts and a watershed restoration plan that addresses this issue. Working with CSDs throughout the watershed, including one-on-one meetings as necessary, the watershed coordinator will be able to gather more information on water usage and issues than is currently available. The existing Watershed Council held a drought workshop in March 2014. Individual members of the Council have been working with various groups and individual private property owners to conserve surface water through grants that have already been awarded. Due to the length of this grant, the results of these current water conservation projects will be able to be included in the Watershed Restoration Plan and evaluated for effectiveness for future projects.

See Appendix B attachment for Schedule of Work

applicable local government, local fire department, and State agency responsible for forest management, in consultation with interested parties and the Federal land management agencies managing land in the vicinity of the at-risk community.

This plan was collaboratively developed. Significant efforts were made throughout the planning process to collaborate with local, state, and federal land and fire management agencies. Leadership and guidance was provided by the Trinity County Resource Conservation District and Watershed Research and Training Center. CAL FIRE, USFS, Trinity County Volunteer Fire departments, and BLM managers were represented and provided presentations at the community meetings. Officials from both the Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forests were engaged in the collaboration. In addition, special efforts were made to gain experience and insight from professional foresters, both active and retired. Meetings were designed and conducted to maximize community input into the planning process.

Prioritized Fuel Reduction

B) The plan identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment on Federal and non-Federal land that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure.

This plan identifies areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and prioritizes them using a ranking system. This plan also recommends the types and methods of treatment to reduce the risk of wildfire to communities and resources within the planning area.

New Policies

California Public Resources Code 4291

The California state legislature enacted California Public Resources Code 4291 (PRC 4291) in January 2005 to improve fire safety and to help prevent catastrophic fires. Under this law, property owners or those who control a property in mountainous areas, forest-covered lands or any land that is covered with flammable material must create at minimum a 100-foot defensible space (or to the property line) around their homes and other structures. The 100-foot defensible space includes a 30-foot clean zone (or to property line) and a 70-foot reduced fuel zone (or to property line). Creating the defensible space involves thinning and breaking up the continuity of ladder fuels and large areas filled with contiguous shrubs that can readily transmit fire.

II. Wildfire in Trinity County

Wildfire in California and Trinity County

In much of the Western United States, including California, fire is a natural disturbance regime that functions to cycle nutrients and renew ecosystems. Fire's integral role in maintaining ecosystem health, long a minority perspective, has gained ground in the past decade and influences current land management and public policy. This is in contrast to attitudes and understandings of the early 20th century when fire exclusion to "protect" forest and other resource values dominated the approach to managing fire on public lands and in private industrial forests.

In many California forests, the results of fire suppression and past practices such as logging, planting mono-cultures of economically valuable trees and failure to adequately manage such plantations, have resulted in unnaturally high accretion of fuels and increasingly unpredictable wildfires. Wildfires are now often of a scale and intensity beyond the range of historic variability (Agee, 1993; Skinner, et.al. 1996; Skinner, Taylor and Agee. 2006). The regional and landscape scale impacts of these fires include changes in vegetation patterns, loss of remaining old growth forest in reserves, adverse impacts to air quality and its associated effects on public health, economic losses and danger to human life. Trinity County has been no exception. According to CalFire and their Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) 105 wildfires occurred between 1999 and 2009 with approximately 433,835 acres burned. The 2008 fire season alone resulted in 265,000 acres affected, including about 94,000 acres within the WUI, around 17 weeks of severe smoke impacts, and 10 lives lost.

Increasing Costs of Catastrophic Wildfires

The high costs of catastrophic wildfires are particularly evident in the wildland urban interface (WUI). The October, 1991 Oakland-Berkeley Hills fire burned only 1,500 acres but killed 25 people and damaged or destroyed almost 3,000 structures with an estimated value of more than \$1.5 billion (Plevel, 1997). Closer to home, the 1999 Big Bar Complex fire in Humboldt and Trinity Counties burned 125,000 acres of National Forest, Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation and private lands in 91 days. During that time air quality was so poor that the people living in the town of Hoopa had to be evacuated to the coast. Suppression costs were estimated at \$110 million (Bryant, 2000). The estimated costs of the 2008 Firestorm in Trinity County are over \$150,000,000 for fire suppression (Jaegel, 2009).

Again, fire, most frequently ignited by lightning in Trinity County, is a natural phenomenon of ecological renewal in this landscape. However, where fires encounter unnaturally high fuels loading in landscapes that have already lost a large proportion of fire resistant old growth forest and resilient vegetative mosaics, impacts on forests and watersheds can extend beyond the natural range of historic variability and begin to threaten ecosystem functions. One issue of concern with such intensive large scale fires is progressively increasing fuel loading caused by continued stem mortality after a fire. This situation occurred in many areas burned in the 2008 fires, where past fires contributed fuel to the conflagration. Additionally, soils denuded of protective vegetation cover erode into fish bearing streams and further threaten already endangered salmon and steelhead trout runs and degrade community water supplies.

Influencing Wildfire with Pre-Fire Treatments

Fuels, weather, and topography influence fire behavior. Since people cannot control climate, and topography, reducing fuel loading through pre-fire treatments is the most promising area in which people may influence wildland fire behavior (Agee, 1993; Agee et al. 2000).

A range of methods for fuels reduction have been developed including systematic slash disposal after logging, thinning overly dense stands from below, construction of shaded fuel breaks and prescribed fire. While there have been cases, such as the 1999 Lowden Fire, in which human error led to misapplications of these tools, all of these methods have been applied repeatedly with success in Trinity County. Further, per acre costs for treatments are increasingly quantifiable, making advanced planning more feasible, as evidenced by the focused efforts of the Trinity

County RAC to dedicate \$1,275,517 since 2001 on fuels reduction projects on USFS lands in Trinity County.

Still, pre-fire treatments are expensive and a relatively small percentage of the landscape can and will be treated each year. These up front costs function as insurance payments with many of the associated questions. What type of insurance do we need – where shall we apply it? Which methods shall we apply and how intensively? How much are we willing to pay for insurance? Who will pay? Prior to the completion of the original CWPP most fuels reduction treatments in the Trinity area were opportunistic e.g. a shaded fuel break constructed on USFS managed lands in conjunction with a timber sale, or a 10-acre, trial, small diameter thinning from below followed by an understory burn. While a small area treated is thus made ready to meet a wildfire and much was learned from the implementation of these early projects, the overall effect is a random scattering of resources across the forested landscape. The original CWPP was an attempt to coordinate treatments at a landscape scale to ensure that one fuel break would be linked to the next and that the most problematic areas were treated first. Resources for pre-fire treatments continue to be scarce and it is important to use them as effectively as possible and to focus efforts on protecting those values of greatest importance to each community. Fires do not stop at property boundaries; coordinated efforts must involve all who have an interest in local land management including federal, state and local government agencies, private land owners and the general public. While industrial forest landowners and government agencies have worked on fire management planning to varying degrees within their own jurisdictions, the CWPP was the first effort to provide a comprehensive coordinated view of the entire Trinity County landscape; it was a systematic effort to capture local citizens' knowledge and recommendations. This Update builds on the success of the earlier planning effort, the decade-long implementation of strategic fuels reduction projects and adds the WUI dimension to setting priorities.

The Trinity County Fire Safe Council

In mid 1998, the County Board of Supervisors' Natural Resources Advisory Council appointed a sub-committee to address the issue of fire. This initiated the Trinity County Fire Safe Council (FSC) that has met on average monthly since. The FSC includes representatives from local Volunteer Fire Departments (VFD), Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD), the Watershed Research and Training Center (WRTC), the United States Forest Service (USFS), United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), Safe Alternatives for the Environment (SAFE), Trinity County and others who have all signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to cooperate on fire management planning (Appendix 1). This MOU has been renewed twice.

The Trinity County Fire Safe Council, a model of collaborative community participation promoted by Cal Fire, benefited from several ongoing efforts in the formative years of the Fire Safe Council involving cross agency and community participation and capacity building. A Hayfork Fire Plan was developed in 1995 and 1996 in a joint effort by the WRTC, TCRCD, USFS, CDF and local residents. The coordination was funded by USFS PSW. That process led to a proposed plan to develop fuel breaks around the community of Hayfork and coordinated fuels reduction and fuel break construction efforts began with private landowners in two Hayfork area neighborhoods. CDF helped raise funds for that initial implementation which was then

carried further by TCRCDC in other demonstration projects and community-specific plans, including the East Branch Plan (Lancaster, 2000), East Fork Plan (Baldwin 2000) and Down River Plan (Baldwin 2005), Grass Valley Fire Management Plan (Baldwin 2003).

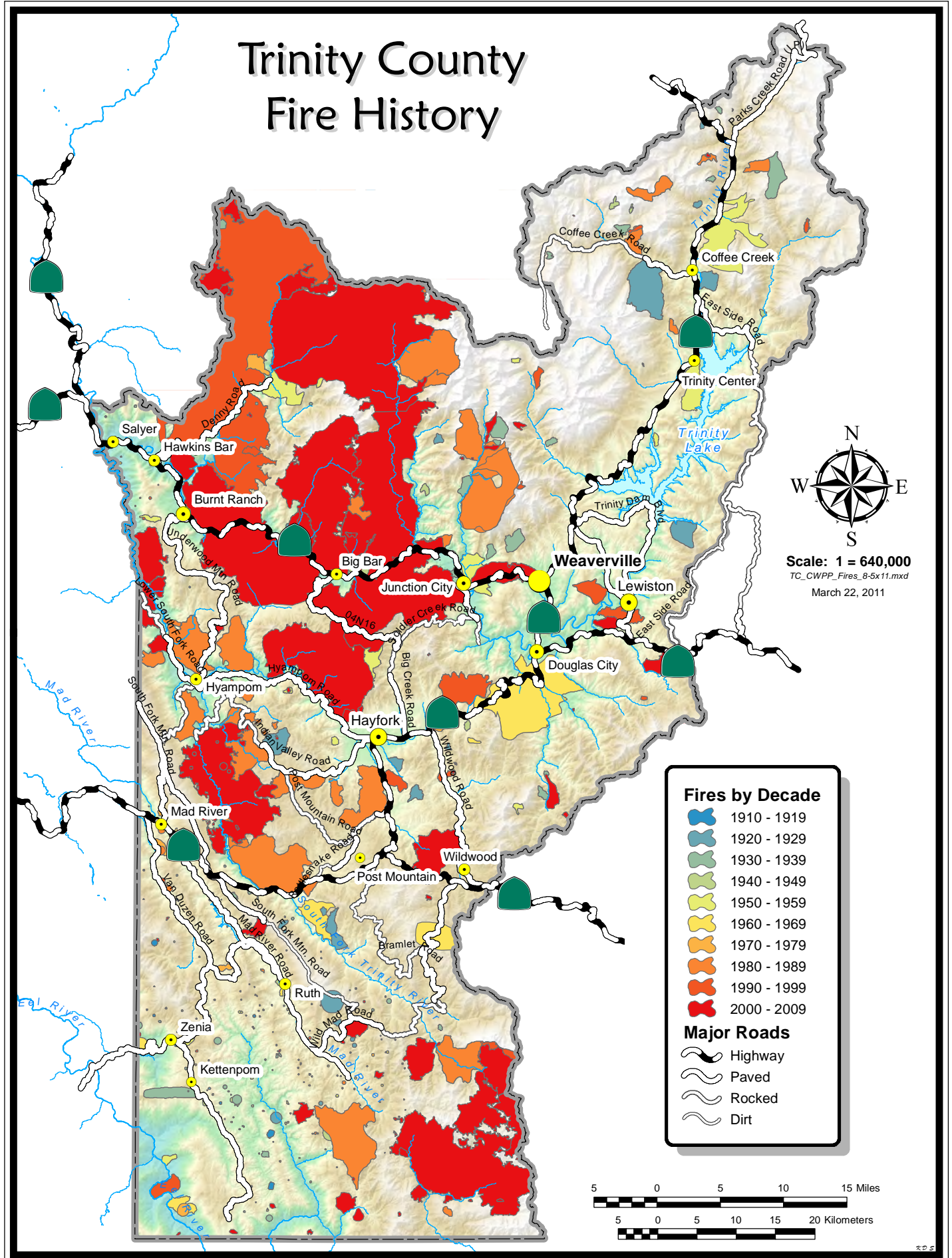
Other projects include WRTC and the USFS working to construct some of the identified fuel breaks on USFS managed land and pioneered efforts to make thinning from below for fuels reduction pay for itself through utilization of small diameter wood in manufactured wood products (Braxton-Little, 1998; Danks, 2000). In response to the increased projects and needs from the Firesafe Council, the WRTC and TCRCDC have well-developed, in-house GIS capabilities, and provide most of the GIS support to local agencies and organizations in Trinity County.

Combined, the above mentioned efforts, along with others, served to develop the local organizational capacity and set precedents for working with private landowners and local residents to identify localized problems and reduce fuels hazards around structures and on private lands; for implementing fuels reduction projects on public lands using private non-profit resources; and for using GIS to address issues of community interest.

However, the initial pre-fire treatment projects were not spatially coordinated with respect to their location in the landscape, and therefore their ability to slow the spread of catastrophic fire was limited. The FSC felt that a new cooperative effort could allow FSC to carry out a strategic landscape analysis process to identify local residents' and agency and landowner priorities for pre-fire treatments that would allow coordination of existing efforts and more targeted future efforts. Such a coordinated series of recommendations could provide a basis for seeking funding support for carrying out more fuels reduction work and have the joint outcomes of protecting key values from catastrophic fire, while allowing for reintroduction of low intensity fire, and providing an ongoing source of employment doing the fuels reduction work.

In 1998 the WRTC and the TCRCDC worked together to find funding support for this idea. They were able to raise funds from the USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station and the California Water Resources Control Board. Fire management planning is an ongoing effort. Initial recommendations were developed between 1999 -2001 and were used as the basis of the Trinity County CWPP (2005) derived from guidance in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (2003) HFRA. The first steps envisioned by the Fire Safe Council, and funded through the initial grants, were to carry out demonstration fuels reduction projects on public and private lands in Trinity County concurrently with the county-wide, coordinated, fire management planning process.

Trinity County Fire History



October 2016-2018 Schedule for TRWC Expansion

Appendix B

Week	October 2016	November	December	January 2017	February	March	April	May
Week 1	1. Prep press releases for 4 regions 2. Make lists of contacts 3. Middle Trinity WC meeting 10-4; write and distribute notes after meeting	Begin gathering data from stakeholders	1. Middle Trinity WC Meeting - bring info on by-laws 2. Continue Contacts in other regions.	Continue outreach to recruit new members	Continue outreach to recruit new members	Benchmark - Begin draft GIS maps of completed watershed projects.	Benchmark - Have agreement on by-laws (if group wants to include them; and what they might be.)	Tables at community events throughout the summer and into the fall.
Week 2	Press releases in papers. Begin research on By-Laws	Continue gathering data from stakeholders	Continue outreach for new participants through print and electronic media; and word of mouth.	Continue outreach to recruit new members		Work on GIS Maps	Drought Workshops	Outreach
Week 3	Community Contacts	Continue gathering data from stakeholders	Benchmark - Outreach Plan completed	Benchmark - Have all four regions set up for initial meeting	Benchmark -All four regions have established their meeting schedules for the year, with by-laws on their agendas	Meetings held with regions and notes distributed; data gathered; projects outlined based on needs of regions.	Meetings held with regions and notes distributed; data gathered; projects outlined based on needs of regions	Meetings held with regions and notes distributed; data gathered; projects outlined based on needs of regions.
Week 4	Benchmark - have at least two regions set up for initial meeting.	Holiday Week	Holiday week	Continue outreach to recruit new members		Work on GIS Maps & gather data from existing plans.	Work on GIS Maps & gather data from existing plans.	Work on GIS Maps & gather data from existing plans.
	Jun-17	July	August	September	October	November	December 2017	January 2018
Week 1	Tables at community events throughout the summer and into the fall.	Tables at community events throughout the summer and into the fall.	Table at Trinity County Fair	Tables at community events throughout the summer and into the fall.		Benchmark - All four regions have had at least three meetings in 2017(preferably 4); and one all regions meeting has been completed.	Outreach	Benchmark -All four regions have established their meeting schedule for the year.
Week 2	Outreach	Outreach	Outreach	Outreach	Outreach & work on GIS Maps	Work on GIS Maps		Outreach
Week 3	Meetings held with regions and notes distributed; data gathered; projects outlined based on needs of regions.	Meetings held with regions and notes distributed; data gathered; projects outlined based on needs of regions.	Meetings held with regions and notes distributed; data gathered; projects outlined based on needs of regions.	Meetings held with regions and notes distributed; data gathered; projects outlined based on needs of regions.	Meetings held with regions and notes distributed; data gathered; projects outlined based on needs of regions.	Benchmark - GIS maps of completed restoration projects drafted.		Meetings held with regions and notes distributed; data gathered; projects outlined based on needs of regions.
Week 4	Work on GIS Maps & gather data from existing plans.	Work on GIS Maps & gather data from existing plans.	Work on GIS Maps & gather data from existing plans.	Benchmark - Have general community input from meetings and events completed and ready to	Work on GIS maps			
	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September 2018
Week 1	Benchmark - All four regions have provided input on GIS maps and analysis begins based on input.	Work on Watershed Plan	Work on Watershed Plan	Benchmark: First draft of Watershed plan to submit to stakeholders and groups. Give them 1 month to review.	Benchmark: 2nd all region Meeting.	Benchmark: Second draft of Watershed plan to submit to stakeholders and groups. Give them 6 weeks to review.	Table at Trinity County Fair for input on draft	Work on Watershed Plan
Week 2	Outreach	Outreach	Benchmark - Analysis of GIS maps completed with input from all regions.			Work on Watershed Plan	Benchmark - all comments returned on draft.	1. Work on Final Report & Watershed Plan
Week 3	Meetings held with regions and notes distributed; data gathered; projects outlined based on needs of regions.	Benchmark: All regions have developed draft project list.	Meetings held with regions and notes distributed; data gathered; projects outlined based on needs of regions.		Begin edits and final draft of Watershed Plan.	Work on Watershed Plan	Work on Watershed Plan	1. Work on Final Report & Watershed Plan
Week 4			Meetings held with regions and notes distributed; data gathered; projects outlined based on needs of regions.			Work on Watershed Plan	Work on Watershed Plan	Benchmark: Complete and submit final report & watershed plan.



Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program (5C)

P.O. Box 2571
Weaverville, CA 96093-2571
(530) 623-3967 Ext. 111 FAX (530) 623-3979
email: mlancaster@5counties.org

May 3, 2016

Shiloe Braxton
District Manager
P.O. Box 1450
Trinity County Resource Conservation District
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Braxton:

The 5 Counties Salmonid Conservation Program would like to express its support for the Trinity County Resource Conservation District's proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program for the expansion of the Trinity River Watershed Council. The TCRCD has significant experience with providing watershed planning and coordination and working collaboratively with landowners, land managers, and other agencies.

We have worked closely with the Trinity County Resource Conservation District for many years on watershed planning, coordination and restoration, and worked in partnership with them on a wide variety of sediment reduction and some fish passage projects. I believe funding the expansion of the Trinity River Watershed Council to include the entire river and its tributaries would continue and enhance the momentum of restoration efforts in this watershed.

This project will contribute significantly toward meeting established watershed goals expressed in the Trinity County Strategic Fire Management Plan by reducing the risk of catastrophic fire, the Upper Trinity Watershed Assessment Report (2005), the Trinity County Hazard Mitigation Plan (2015) by addressing drought and water availability issues, and the Trinity River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load and South Fork Trinity River Total Maximum Daily Load by reducing sediment delivery to the Trinity River. This project will promote local community and landowner involvement and foster collaboration among multiple stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Mark Lancaster
Director



**Hoopa Valley Tribal Council
Natural Resources Division
Fisheries Department**
Post Office Box 417 • Hoopa, California 95546
(530) 625-4267 • FAX (530) 625-4995



May 3, 2016

Shiloe Braxton
District Manager
Trinity County Resource Conservation District
PO Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093

Re: Letter of Support for Trinity County Resource Conservation District WaterSmart Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

The Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries Department supports the Trinity County Resource Conservation District and collaborators WatersSmart grant proposal. This effort will enhance the proponents abilities to take a more holistic approach to basin wide watershed management which will benefit fish and wildlife resources for the tribe and other communities. The project proponents have extensive experience working with local landowners to implement watershed restoration projects in the basin. We believe an expanded watershed planning effort will help fill important gaps in underserved yet important watersheds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean Ledwin".

Sean Ledwin
Habitat Division Lead
Hoopa Tribal Fisheries



PACIFIC LAMPREY



STEELHEAD



GREEN STURGEON



Vision. Passion. Community.

**Trinity Lake
Revitalization Alliance, Inc.**
Trinity Center, California

May 2, 2016

Shiloe Braxton
District Manager
P.O. Box 1450
Trinity County Resource Conservation District
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Braxton:

The Trinity Lake Revitalization Alliance, Inc., a 503 (c) non-profit organization, would like to express our support for the Trinity County Resource Conservation District's proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program for the expansion of the Trinity River Watershed Council.

Our communities are located above the dams in the upper Trinity River watershed. We welcome the opportunity to participate in watershed planning with the TCRCD for all beneficial uses of our water. Our organization is concerned with the economic revitalization in the north Trinity Lake area, and we recognize the importance of a healthy watershed to keep our reservoir clean and full.

The TCRCD has significant experience with providing watershed planning and coordination and working collaboratively with landowners, land managers, and other agencies.

This project will contribute significantly towards reviewing and prioritizing established watershed goals expressed in the Upper Trinity River Watershed Assessment Report (2006), which have not been re-examined in 10 years due to a lack of funding. This project will promote local community and landowner involvement and foster collaboration among multiple stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kelli Gant, president
Trinity Lake Revitalization Alliance, Inc.

CC: Northwest California's Mountains and Rivers
Jeff Morris



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

1313 S Main Street
PO Box 970
Weaverville CA 96093
Tel: 530.623.3991

May 2, 2016

Shiloe Braxton
District Manager
P.O. Box 1450
Trinity County Resource Conservation District
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Braxton:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, Weaverville Field Office, supports the Trinity County Resource Conservation District's proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program for the expansion of the Trinity River Watershed Council. The TCRCDC has significant experience providing watershed planning and coordination as well as working collaboratively with landowners, land managers, and other agencies.

The NRCS has worked with the Trinity County RCD for many years. We agree that funding the expansion of the existing Trinity River Watershed Council to include the entire river and its tributaries enhances the momentum of restoration efforts in this watershed, on both public and private lands.

This project will contribute significantly toward meeting established watershed goals expressed in the Trinity County Strategic Fire Management Plan by reducing the risk of catastrophic fire, the Upper Trinity Watershed Assessment Report (2005), the Trinity County Hazard Mitigation Plan (2015) by addressing drought and water availability issues, and the Trinity River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load and South Fork Trinity River Total Maximum Daily Load by reducing sediment delivery to the Trinity River. This project will promote local community and landowner involvement and foster collaboration among multiple stakeholders.

The NRCS extends our support for this worthwhile project and will continue to work with the TCRCDC in improving overall watershed conditions for the Trinity River.

Best Regards,

Heidi Harris
District Conservationist
USDA-NRCS
Weaverville Field Office



TRINITY COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

P.O. BOX 1613, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093-1613
PHONE (530) 623-1217 FAX (530) 623-8365

April 27, 2016

Shiloe Braxton, District Manager
Trinity County Resource Conservation District
P.O. Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Braxton:

The Trinity County Board of Supervisors would like to express their support for the Trinity County Resource Conservation District's (TCRCD) proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program for the expansion of the Trinity River Watershed Council. The TCRCD has significant experience with providing watershed planning and coordination and working collaboratively with landowners, land managers, and other agencies.

Trinity County has worked with the Trinity County Resource Conservation District for many years on watershed planning and coordination. We agree that funding the expansion of the existing Trinity River Watershed Council to include the entire river and its tributaries would continue to enhance the momentum of restoration efforts in this watershed.

This project will contribute significantly toward meeting established watershed goals expressed in the Trinity County Strategic Fire Management Plan by reducing the risk of catastrophic fire, the Upper Trinity Watershed Assessment Report (2005) and the Trinity County Hazard Mitigation Plan (2015) by addressing drought and water availability issues, and the Trinity River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load and South Fork Trinity River Total Maximum Daily Load by reducing sediment delivery to the Trinity River. This project will promote local community and landowner involvement and foster collaboration among multiple stakeholders.

We would like to extend our support for this worthwhile project and will continue to work with the TCRCD in improving overall watershed conditions for the Trinity River.

Sincerely,

L. Karl Fisher, Chairman
Trinity County Board of Supervisors

KEITH GROVES
DISTRICT 1

JUDY MORRIS
DISTRICT 2

KARL FISHER
DISTRICT 3

BILL BURTON
DISTRICT 4

JOHN FENLEY
DISTRICT 5

*TRINITY CENTER COMMUNITY
SERVICES DISTRICT*

P.O. Box 177
Trinity Center, California 96091

May 3, 2016

Shiloe Braxton
District Manager
P.O. Box 1450
Trinity County Resource Conservation District
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Braxton:

The Trinity Center Community Services District would like to express our support for the Trinity County Resource Conservation District's proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program for the expansion of the Trinity River Watershed Council.

Our community is located above the dams in the upper Trinity River watershed and we welcome the opportunity to participate in watershed planning with the TCRCD for all beneficial uses of our water. The TCRCD has significant experience with providing watershed planning and coordination and working collaboratively with landowners, land managers, and other agencies.

The Trinity Center CSD has worked with and supported the Trinity County Resource Conservation District for years on watershed health and a wide variety of fuels reduction projects. We believe funding the expansion of the Trinity River Watershed Council to include the entire river and its tributaries would continue to enhance the momentum of restoration efforts in this watershed.

This project will contribute significantly towards reviewing and prioritizing established watershed goals expressed in the Upper Trinity River Watershed Assessment Report (2006), which have not been re-examined in 10 years due to a lack of funding. This project will promote local community and landowner involvement and foster collaboration among multiple stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Mike McHugh Board Chair
Trinity Center Community Services District



Trinity River Restoration Program

P.O. Box 1300, 1313 South Main Street, Weaverville, California 96093
Telephone: 530-623-1800, Fax: 530-623-5944

APR 27 2016

Shiloe Braxton
District Manager
P.O. Box 1450
Trinity County Resource Conservation District
Weaverville, CA 96093

The Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) would like to provide its support for the Trinity County Resource Conservation District's proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program to expand the existing Trinity River Watershed Council (TRWC). The Trinity County Resource Conservation District is a member of the TRWC and is applying on behalf of the TRWC in order to expand the existing watershed council. The Trinity County Resource Conservation District has significant experience working collaboratively with landowners, land managers, and other agencies on projects that provide benefits to the health of the Trinity River and entire watershed.

The TRRP has worked with the Trinity County Resource Conservation District for many years on watershed planning, coordination, and funding of watershed restoration projects. The expansion of the existing Trinity River Watershed Council will promote sustainable use of water resources in the watershed, recognizing that a healthy watershed is the foundation for a healthy community. Expansion of the TRWC will enhance restoration efforts in the watershed by providing coordination across the entire Trinity River Basin.

The proposed project would provide for a watershed coordinator, expanded outreach activities throughout the entire watershed, development of new, review of completed, and re-examination of past watershed project concepts through a gap analysis using GIS and review and consolidation of currently decentralized data, and development of a watershed restoration plan. These proposal components would be highly beneficial for the entire watershed.

The TRRP would like to provide our strong support for this excellent project proposal that will result in valuable conservation results for the Trinity River and watershed. We will continue our committed partnership with the Trinity County Resource Conservation District working collaboratively to improve watershed conditions for the mainstem Trinity River.

Sincerely,

Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
Acting Executive Director



The Watershed Research and Training Center

PO Box 356 • Clinic Avenue • Hayfork, Ca. 96041 • (530) 628-4206
Fax (530) 628-5100 • email: wrtc@hayfork.net • www.thewatershedcenter.com

May 2, 2016

Shiloe Braxton
District Manager
P.O. Box 1450
Trinity County Resource Conservation District
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Braxton:

The Watershed Research and Training Center would like to express its support for the Trinity County Resource Conservation District's proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program for the expansion of the Trinity River Watershed Council. The TRCWD has significant experience with providing watershed planning and coordination and working collaboratively with landowners, land managers, and other agencies.

The Watershed Center has worked closely with the Trinity County Resource Conservation District for many years on watershed planning, coordination and restoration, and worked in partnership with them on a wide variety of fuels reduction and sediment reduction projects. I believe funding the expansion of the Trinity River Watershed Council to include the entire river and its tributaries would continue and enhance the momentum of restoration efforts in this watershed.

This project will contribute significantly toward meeting established watershed goals expressed in the Trinity County Strategic Fire Management Plan by reducing the risk of catastrophic fire, the Upper Trinity Watershed Assessment Report (2005), the Trinity County Hazard Mitigation Plan (2015) by addressing drought and water availability issues, and the Trinity River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load and South Fork Trinity River Total Maximum Daily Load by reducing sediment delivery to the Trinity River. This project will promote local community and landowner involvement and foster collaboration among multiple stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Nick Goulette
Executive Director
Watershed Research and Training Center

TRWC Expansion by Trinity County RCD (Task B)

Budget Item Description	Computation		Quantity Type (Hours/days)	Total Cost
	\$/Unit	Quantity		
Salaries and Wages				
Year 1 (Assume October, 1 2016 - September 30, 2017)				
Employee 1				
Watershed Coordinator Donna Rupp October 2016 - August 14, 2017	\$ 24.33	983.1 per hour		\$ 23,918.82
Step increase for D. Rupp effective August 15, 2017 - Sept 30, 2017	\$ 25.31	50 per hour		\$ 1,265.50
				\$ 25,184.32
Employee 2				
GIS Manager October 2016 - February 2017	\$ 35.06	20 per hour		\$ 701.20
Step increase for GIS Manager February 2017 - Sept 30, 2017	\$ 36.11	20 per hour		\$ 722.20
				\$ 1,423.40
Year 1 Subtotal				\$ 26,607.72
Year 2 (Assume October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018)				
Employee 1				
Watershed Coordinator Donna Rupp October 2017-August 14, 2018	\$ 25.31	958.7 per hour		\$ 24,264.70
Step increase for D. Rupp effective August 15, 2018 - September 30, 2018	\$ 26.32	40 per hour		\$ 1,052.80
				\$ 25,317.50
Employee 2				
GIS Manager October 2017 - February 2018	\$ 36.11	15 per hour		\$ 541.65
Step increase for GIS Manager February 2018 - Sept 30, 2018	\$ 37.00	20 per hour		\$ 740.00
				\$ 1,281.65
Year 2 Subtotal				\$ 26,599.15
TOTAL Salaries and Wages 2 years				\$ 53,206.87
Fringe Benefits				
57% of Salaries and Wages				
Year 1 subtotal	\$ 26,607.72	0.57 % of wages		\$ 15,166.40
Year 2 subtotal	\$ 26,599.15	0.57 % of wages		\$ 15,161.51
TOTAL Fringe Benefits 2 years				\$ 30,327.92
Travel				
Year 1 (Assume October, 1 2016 - September 30, 2017)				
Mileage for year 1 - includes mileage for Coordinator's trips to all watershed regions: North Lake - RT miles 38; Middle Trinity- 16 miles RT; Down River- RT 60 miles; South Fork - RT 48 miles; 4 trips per year to each region				
	0.54	651.9 miles		\$ 352.03
Year 2 (Assume October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018)				
Mileage for year 2 - includes mileage for Coordinator's trips to all watershed regions: North Lake - RT miles 38; Middle Trinity- 16 miles RT; Down River- RT 60 miles; South Fork - RT 48 miles; 4 trips per year to each region				
	0.56	652.65 miles		\$ 365.48
TOTAL Travel 2 years				\$ 717.51
Materials and Supplies				
Year 1 (Assume Oct. 1, 2016 - Sept. 30, 2017)				
Misc. office supplies - printer ink, pencils, thumb drives, etc.	\$ 125.00	1 per year		\$ 125.00
Year 2 (Assume Oct. 1, 2017 - Sept. 30, 2018)				
Misc. office supplies - printer ink, pencils, thumb drives, etc.	\$ 125.00	1 per year		\$ 125.00
TOTAL Materials 2 years				\$ 250.00
Subtotal Direct Costs Year 1				\$ 42,251.15
Subtotal Indirect Costs Year 1 - 18.34%				\$ 7,748.85
Subtotal Year 1				\$ 50,000.00
Subtotal Direct Costs Year 2				\$ 42,251.14
Subtotal Indirect Costs Year 2 - 18.34%				\$ 7,748.85
Subtotal Year 2				\$ 49,999.99
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS				\$ 84,502.30
TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS				\$ 15,497.70
TOTAL Project Costs				\$ 100,000.00

Trinity River Watershed Council Project Budget Narrative

Describes any funding that is being requested or has been received from other Federal partners.

Note: Other sources of Federal funding must be accounted for.

Summary of Federal and non-federal funding sources

There are no non-federal funding sources for this project.

Federal funds have been obtained from the Bureau of Reclamation through the Trinity River Restoration Program. This funding is for coordinating four meetings per year in the watershed area below Lewiston Dam to the North Fork of the Trinity River (40 river miles) – the current geographic scope of the Council. The TRRP agreement ends on August 31, 2017, 11 months after this WaterSMART proposal would become effective if awarded. Based on that time line and the narrative for the TRRP budget, the coordinator salary in the TRRP agreement is \$9055 in wages + \$4980.25 fringe benefits over the full 24 months of the TRRP agreement. We are only looking at 11 months of the TRRP agreement overlapping with this WaterSMART proposal, which equals approximately 45% of the total for coordinator salary and fringe benefits. That is how the \$6438.11 was derived.

This grant request is for \$100,000 for a two year period for the TCRCD and its partners to increase the extent of the TRWC (Task B) as outlined in the Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria.

Table 1 – Summary of Federal and non-federal funding sources

TRWC Expansion, Task B	
Funding Sources	Funding Amounts
Other Federal Entities	
1. Trinity River Restoration Program/BoR - coordinator salary for existing watershed region meeting organization October 2016 - August 31, 2017.	\$ 4,074.75
Benefits for above at 55%	\$ 2,363.36
Other Federal Subtotal	\$ 6,438.11
Requested Reclamation Funding	\$ 100,000.00
Total Project Funding	\$ 106,438.11

See attached Budget Proposal pdf for detail on requested Reclamation Funding.

Budget Narrative

Salaries and Wages

Indicate program manager and other key personnel by name and title. Other personnel may be indicated by title alone. For all positions, indicate salaries and wages, estimated hours or percent of time, and rate of compensation proposed. The labor rates should identify the direct labor rate separate from the fringe rate or fringe cost for each category. All labor estimates, including any proposed subcontractors, shall be allocated to specific tasks as outlined in the recipient's technical project description. Labor rates and proposed hours shall be displayed for each task.

All detailed labor and fringe benefit rates are shown in the attached pdf of the proposed budget.

Narrative:

Year 1

Year 1 Salary, Watershed Coordinator (Program Manager), Donna Rupp

As the Program Manager, Donna will be coordinating with all regions of the watershed and the driving force behind completing this project. In the first year, 1033 hours of Donna's time have been allocated to this project.

It is estimated that the 1033 hours allocated to this project will be used as follows:

Task	Hours	
Creating the outreach plan	40	
Making community contacts	200	
Writing press releases	40	
Engaging new stakeholders through electronic media and attending community events	200	
Coordinating and attending regional meetings, with follow up notes and action items	100	
Researching by-laws and getting a collaborative agreement from all council members	80	
Gathering data from existing plans and agencies, including data sets that can be included in the GIS gap analysis	313	
Reporting and grant management	60	
TOTAL year 1	1033	\$25,184.32

Salary GIS Manager Year 1

The GIS manager is allotted 40 hours in the first year to help with the more technical points of data clean up and integration. **Total salary for year 1 = \$1423.40.**

Total salaries year 1 = \$26,607.72

Year 2

Salary, Watershed Coordinator (Program Manager), Donna Rupp

As the Program Manager, Donna will be coordinating with all regions of the watershed and the driving force behind completing this project. In the second year, 999 hours of Donna's time have been allocated to this project.

It is estimated that the 999 hours allocated to this project will be used as follows:

Task	Hours	
Maintaining community contacts	40	
Writing press releases	40	
Attending community events	40	
Coordinating and attending regional meetings, with follow up notes and action items	100	
Researching files and data for watershed restoration plan	130	
Continue gathering data from existing plans and agencies, including data sets that can be included in the GIS gap analysis	80	
Create GIS maps and analysis and draft iterations	259	
Write watershed restoration plan; including draft iterations	210	
Reporting and grant management (including final report)	100	
TOTAL year 2	999	\$25,317.50

Salary GIS Manager Year 2

The GIS manager is allotted 35 hours in the second year to help with the more technical points of data clean up, integration and map creation. **Total salary for year 2 = \$1281.65.**

Total salaries year 2 = \$26,599.15

Total salaries, both years = \$53,206.87

Fringe Benefits

Indicate rates/amounts, what costs are included in this category, and the basis of the rate computations. Indicate whether these rates are used for application purposes only or whether they are fixed or provisional rates for billing purposes. Federally approved rate agreements are acceptable for compliance with this item.

The fringe benefit rate indicated in the budget proposal is 57%. This rate is based on current expenses for application purposes and may change slightly once the agreement is in place, based on any changes in the cost of fringe benefits to the TCRCD.

A breakdown of the 57% benefit rate: workers comp (8%), medical insurance (11.5%), dental insurance (6.5%), retirement (5%), unemployment (6.2%), vacation (6%), holiday (3%), safety (3%), Medicare (1.6%), and social security (6.2%).

Year 1 total = \$15,166.40

Year 2 total = \$15,161.51

Total fringe benefits, both years = \$30,327.92
--

Travel

Include the purpose of the trip(s), destination, number of persons traveling, length of stay, and all travel costs including airfare (basis for rate used), per diem, lodging, and miscellaneous travel expenses. For local travel, include mileage and rate of compensation.

Travel will only be local driving to meetings with no overnight stays, per diem, etc.

Mileage for year 1 - includes mileage for Coordinator's trips to all watershed regions: North Lake - RT miles 38; Middle Trinity- 16 miles RT; Down River- RT 60 miles; South Fork - RT 48 miles; 4 trips per year to each region, including community events for outreach. The rate assumes that the current rate of .54 per mile will continue into the next (federal) fiscal year. It is assumed that this rate will be adjusted to align with the federal rate.

Mileage for year 2 - includes mileage for Coordinator's trips to all watershed regions: North Lake - RT miles 38; Middle Trinity- 16 miles RT; Down River- RT 60 miles; South Fork - RT 48 miles; 4 trips per year to each region, including community events for outreach. The rate for year 2 assumes a 2 cent increase in the federal mileage reimbursement rate. The actual rate will be used once agreement is awarded.

Materials and Supplies

Itemize supplies by major category, unit price, quantity, and purpose, such as whether the items are needed for office use, research, or construction. Identify how these costs were estimated (i.e., quotes, past experience, engineering estimates or other methodology).

Meeting supplies and materials \$125 per year. This is an estimate based on past experience where new white board markers, large sketch pads, easel stands, signs, etc. are needed for community outreach meetings. While the outreach plan will be completed after the agreement is awarded, we can assume that will be at least 10 meetings per year, which is only a cost of \$12.50 per meeting on average.

Other

Any other expenses not included in the above categories shall be listed in this category, along with a description of the item and what it will be used for.

NA

Indirect Costs

Show the proposed rate, cost base, and proposed amount for allowable indirect costs based on the applicable OMB circular cost principles

An attached letter of cost rate included. TCRCO has a federally-approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement of 18.34%. It covers applicant overhead expenses (rent, communications, utilities, fiscal management, office management, general liability insurance, some grant management and computer support, as well as some office supplies and services [paper, copying, mailing]).

Total Cost

Indicate total amount of costs associated with proposed activities, including the Federal and non-Federal cost share amounts

As shown in the summary on page 1 of this narrative, the total cost of the project is \$106,438.11, with WaterSMART funding of \$100,000.



United States Department of the Interior

INTERIOR BUSINESS CENTER
Indirect Cost Services
2180 Harvard Street, Suite 430
Sacramento, CA 95815



March 7, 2016

Ms. Shiloe Braxton, District Manager
Trinity County Resource Conservation District
P.O. Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093-1450

Dear Ms. Braxton:

Enclosed are two copies of the Indirect Cost Negotiation Agreement offered by the Interior Business Center (IBC). If you agree with the contents, **please sign and return two copies** of the agreement to IBC to complete the acceptance process. IBC will then sign and return one of the signed original agreements to you.

As a recipient of federal funds, the regulations require annual indirect cost rates. Indirect cost rate proposals are due within six (6) months after the close of your fiscal year end and are processed on a first-in, first-out basis.

Common fiscal year end dates and proposal due dates are listed below:

Fiscal Year End Date	Proposal Due Date
September 30 th	March 31 st
December 31 st	June 30 th
June 30 th	December 31 st

Please visit our website for information and updates on filing indirect cost proposals. If you have any questions concerning the negotiation agreement or require additional information, please contact our office for assistance.

Sincerely,


Deborah A. Moberly
Office Chief

Enclosure: Negotiation Agreement

J:\States & Local Gov\Local Gov't & Water Districts\Trinity County Resource Conservation District (Tcrw738)\FY 14F 16P\Tcrw-Na.14F&16P.docx

Phone: (916) 566-7111
Fax: (916) 566-7110

Email: ICS@ibc.doi.gov
Website: <https://www.doi.gov/ibc/services/finance/Indirect-Cost-Services>

**State and Local Governments
Indirect Cost Negotiation Agreement**

EIN: 68-0191522

Organization:

Trinity County Resource
Conservation District
P.O. Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093-1450

Date:

Report No(s) .:

Filing Ref.:
Last Negotiation Agreement
dated September 15, 2014

The indirect cost rates contained herein are for use on grants, contracts, and other agreements with the Federal Government to which 2 CFR Part 200 applies for fiscal years beginning on or after December 26, 2014 subject to the limitations in Section II.A. of this agreement. Applicable OMB Circulars and the regulations at 2 CFR 225 will continue to apply to federal funds awarded prior to December 26, 2014. The rates were negotiated by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Interior Business Center, and the subject organization in accordance with the authority contained in applicable regulations.

Section I: Rates

Type	Effective Period		Rate*	Locations	Applicable To
	From	To			
Final	07/01/13	06/30/14	18.34%	All	All Programs
Provisional	07/01/15	06/30/16	18.34%	All	All Programs

***Base:** Total direct costs and subcontracts, less capital expenditures and passthrough funds.

Treatment of fringe benefits: Fringe benefits applicable to direct salaries and wages are treated as direct costs; fringe benefits applicable to indirect salaries and wages are treated as indirect costs.

Section II: General

Page 1 of 3

A. Limitations: Use of the rate(s) contained in this agreement is subject to any applicable statutory limitations. Acceptance of the rate(s) agreed to herein is predicated upon these conditions: (1) no costs other than those incurred by the subject organization were included in its indirect cost rate proposal, (2) all such costs are the legal obligations of the grantee/contractor, (3) similar types of costs have been accorded consistent treatment, and (4) the same costs that have been treated as indirect costs have not been claimed as direct costs (for example, supplies can be charged directly to a program or activity as long as these costs are not part of the supply costs included in the indirect cost pool for central administration).

B. Audit: All costs (direct and indirect, federal and non-federal) are subject to audit. Adjustments to amounts resulting from audit of the cost allocation plan or indirect cost rate proposal upon which the negotiation of this agreement was based will be compensated for in a subsequent negotiation.

C. Changes: The rate(s) contained in this agreement are based on the organizational structure and the accounting system in effect at the time the proposal was submitted. Changes in organizational structure, or changes in the method of accounting for costs which affect the amount of reimbursement resulting from use of the rate(s) in this agreement, require the prior approval of the responsible negotiation agency. Failure to obtain such approval may result in subsequent audit disallowance.

D. Rate Type:

1. **Fixed Carryforward Rate:** A fixed carryforward rate is based on an estimate of the costs that will be incurred during the period for which the rate applies. When the actual costs for such periods have been determined, an adjustment will be made to the rate for future periods, if necessary, to compensate for the difference between the costs used to establish the fixed rate and the actual costs.

2. **Provisional/Final Rates:** Within six (6) months after year end, a final indirect cost rate proposal must be submitted based on actual costs. Billings and charges to contracts and grants must be adjusted if the final rate varies from the provisional rate. If the final rate is greater than the provisional rate and there are no funds available to cover the additional indirect costs, the organization may not recover all indirect costs. Conversely, if the final rate is less than the provisional rate, the organization will be required to pay back the difference to the funding agency.

3. **Predetermined Rate:** A predetermined rate is an indirect cost rate applicable to a specified current or future period, usually the organization's fiscal year. The rate is based on an estimate of the costs to be incurred during the period. A predetermined rate is not subject to adjustment. (Because of legal constraints, predetermined rates are not permitted for Federal contracts; they may, however, be used for grants or cooperative agreements.)

4. **Rate Extension:** Only final and predetermined rates may be eligible for consideration of rate extensions. Requests for rate extensions of a current rate will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If an extension is granted, the non-Federal entity may not request a rate review until the extension period ends. In the last year of a rate extension period, the non-Federal entity must submit a new rate proposal for the next fiscal period.

E. Agency Notification: Copies of this document may be provided to other federal offices as a means of notifying them of the agreement contained herein.

F. Record Keeping: Organizations must maintain accounting records that demonstrate that each type of cost has been treated consistently either as a direct cost or an indirect cost. Records pertaining to the costs of program administration, such as salaries, travel, and related costs, should be kept on an annual basis.

G. Reimbursement Ceilings: Grantee/contractor program agreements providing for ceilings on indirect cost rates or reimbursement amounts are subject to the ceilings stipulated in the contract or grant agreements. If the ceiling rate is higher than the negotiated rates in Section I of this agreement, the negotiated rates will be used to determine the maximum allowable indirect cost.

H. Use of Other Rates: If any federal programs are reimbursing indirect costs to this grantee/contractor by a measure other than the approved rate(s) in this agreement, the grantee/contractor should credit such costs to the affected programs, and the approved rate(s) should be used to identify the maximum amount of indirect cost allocable to these programs.

I. Central Service Costs: If the proposed central service cost allocation plan for the same period has not been approved by that time, the indirect cost proposal may be prepared including an amount for central services that is based on the latest federally-approved central service cost allocation plan. The difference between these central service amounts and the amounts ultimately approved will be compensated for by an adjustment in a subsequent period.

J. Other:

1. The purpose of an indirect cost rate is to facilitate the allocation and billing of indirect costs. Approval of the indirect cost rate does not mean that an organization can recover more than the actual costs of a particular program or activity.

2. Programs received or initiated by the organization subsequent to the negotiation of this agreement are subject to the approved indirect cost rate(s) if the programs receive administrative support from the indirect cost pool. It should be noted that this could result in an adjustment to a future rate.

3. Indirect cost proposals must be developed (and, when required, submitted) within six (6) months after the close of the governmental unit's fiscal year, unless an exception is approved by the cognizant agency for indirect costs.

Section III: Acceptance

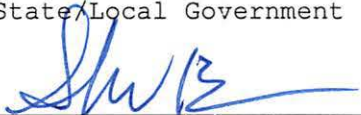
Listed below are the signatures of acceptance for this agreement:

By the State & Local Government:

By the Cognizant Federal Government Agency:

Trinity County Resource
Conservation District
State/Local Government

U.S. Department of the Interior
Agency


_____/s/

_____/s/

Mr. SHILOE BRAXTON
Name (Type or Print)

Deborah A. Moberly
Name

DISTRICT MANAGER
Title

Office Chief
Office of Indirect Cost Services
Title

MARCH 10, 2016
Date

U.S. Department of the Interior
Interior Business Center
Agency

Date
Negotiated by Stacy Frost
Telephone (916) 566-7002

Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 016-01

May 3, 2016

Members of
Trinity River Watershed Council

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF A PROPOSAL TO THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AND DESIGNATING A REPRESENTATIVE TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT, AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO, FOR THE WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program.

Whereas, the attending members of the Trinity River Watershed Council, an ad hoc group consisting of federal, state, local and non-profit entities, authorize the Trinity County Resource Conservation District to submit a proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation to expand the existing Watershed Council ; and

Whereas, the attending members of the Trinity River Watershed Council authorizes the Trinity County Resource Conservation District's District Manager, or designee, to sign the Agreement, and any amendments thereto; and

Whereas, the attending members of the Trinity River Watershed Council accepts that the Trinity County Resource Conservation District will work with Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a cooperative agreement.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the attending members of the Trinity River Watershed Council hereby adopts Resolution #016-1 on May 3, 2016.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution #016-01 was duly and regularly adopted by the attending members of the Trinity River Watershed Council at the meeting thereof held on the 3rd day of May, 2016,

Ayes: 14
Noes: 0
Abstained: 0

Attest:



Tracy McFadin, Note Taker

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Trinity River Watershed Council

Meeting Date: May 3, 2016

TCRCD Conference Room

Name	Affiliation
David Schmege	Forest Service
Josh Smith	WRTC (watershed center)
Andy Hill	CDFW
Tracy McFadin	TCRCD
Tina Lynsky	USFS
Stephanie Riess	USFS
Samantha Chilcok	
Kyle DeJulio	YTFP (Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program)
Nick Davids	YTFP
Donna Rupp	TCRCD
Sean Ledwin	HVT (phone) (Hoopy Valley Tribe)
Eli Asarian	Riverbend Sciences
Sandra Perez	SC Program
Cynthia Terwater	TCRCD

TRINITY RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

Mission Statement

To protect, enhance, restore and revitalize the watershed through collaborative efforts that leverage external resources, work toward common goals, educate and engage community stakeholders, address natural resource issues, and support healthy ecosystems for future generations.

AGENDA

Tuesday May 3, 2016

TCRCD Conference Room, 10:00 – 11:30 am

Invited: Tina Lynsky, Bill Brock, Eric Wiseman, David Schmerge and Phil Fishella (USFS), Heidi Harris (NRCS), Tom Walz (SPI), Sean Ledwin and James Lee (Hoopa/TRRP), Mark Lancaster and Sandra Perez (5Cs), Joshua Smith (WRTC), Tim Hayden and Kyle DeJulio (Yurok Tribe), Shiloe Braxton, Donna Rupp, Zack Blanchard, Cynthia Tarwater and Tracy McFadin (TCRCD), Kenneth Baldwin (RPF), Michele Fortner (Water Board), Andy Hill (CDFW), Susan Erwin (USFS), Wes Scribner (Water District), Cindy Buxton, Samantha Chilcote, Brian Hill and Eli Asarian (Stakeholders).

1. Introductions
2. Outline of three CEs (postponed at last meeting). USFS staff - See page 2 for details.
3. Grant funding updates.
4. Request for TRWC resolution to support TCRCD grant application to expand watershed council and conduct gap analysis.
5. Update on NorWeST stream temperature model (<http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/AWAE/projects/NorWeST.html>). Eli
6. Updates from member agencies: Quick outline of watershed work/updates/news.
 - 5Cs
 - Watershed Center
 - USFS
 - NRCS
 - CDFW
 - TCRCD
 - TRRP
7. Other
8. Next Meeting: Tuesday Oct. 4 10 am TCRCD conference room.

The three categories – Categories 18, 19 and 20– allow the Forest Service to efficiently document the environmental review process for certain types of restoration projects.

The three categories are:

Category 18 – restores the flow of waters in natural channels and floodplains by removing, replacing or modifying water control structures.

Category 19 – restores lands and habitat to pre-disturbance conditions by removing debris and sediment conditions following natural or human-caused events.

Category 20 – restores to natural conditions lands occupied by roads and trails that are not National Forest system roads or trails.

More information can be found in the following locations:

- The final rule as published in the Federal Register can be found at:
http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/nepa/restorationCE/includes/130912_FR_CE_FinalRule.pdf
- A summary of the final rule and additional links including examples of implemented projects that have activities within the categories of actions:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/nepa/restorationCE/index.html>
- Frequently Asked Questions:

http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/nepa/restorationCE/includes/Restoration_CE_QAs.pdf