



## **REQUEST FOR LETTER OF INTEREST FOR THE NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP Tribal and County Forest Advisors**

### **BACKGROUND**

The [North Coast Resource Partnership](#) (NCRP) is an innovative, stakeholder-driven collaboration among local governments, Tribes, watershed groups, and other interested partners focused on integrated resource planning and local project implementation in California’s North Coast region. Since 2005, the NCRP has successfully integrated federal, state, regional and local priorities and utilized a multi-benefit approach to identify and seek funding for the highest priority projects throughout the region. The focus of the NCRP includes forest and watershed health, salmonid recovery, water quality and supply, intra-regional cooperation, energy independence, climate change mitigation and adaptation, public health and economic vitality, with a specific emphasis on projects that benefit economically disadvantaged communities. The partnership is led by a Policy Review Panel comprised of elected officials from Tribes and counties, relies on scientific and technical review from staff and a Technical Peer Review Committee, and is informed by a broad and diverse stakeholder community. For more information about the NCRP please see the [NCRP website](#).

The NCRP oversees the development and regular updates of various planning documents, including the [North Coast Resource Partnership Plan](#) and other plans related to its mission. The NCRP planning framework supports regional planning while recognizing that “one size does not fit all” – relying upon and respecting local autonomy, jurisdictions, and planning processes.

The NCRP, is issuing this Request for Letters of Interest for identifying interested and qualified representatives from groups and Tribes to assist in the development of a Regional Priority Plan for the North Coast region. The plan will include a comprehensive and integrated set of strategies, actions and projects to support forest, watershed and community health and long-term resilience to wildfire. Stipends will be provided to cover expenses.

## **REQUEST FOR LETTER OF INTEREST: TRIBAL AND COUNTY FOREST ADVISORS**

The NCRP was awarded \$4.25 million in funding from the California Natural Resources Agency and Department of Conservation for planning and the identification and implementation of local and regional projects to improve forest health and increase fire resiliency. Funded by Cap-and-Trade revenues through California Climate Investments, the [Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program \(RFFC\)](#) aims to help communities prioritize, develop, and implement projects strengthen fire resiliency, increase carbon sequestration, and facilitate greenhouse gas reductions. The program is one element of the state's efforts to improve forest health, protect communities from wildfire risk and implement the [California Forest Carbon Plan](#) and [Executive Order B-52-18](#). The goal of the forestry block grant awarded to the NCRP is to develop a North Coast Regional Priority Plan (RPP) that will include a comprehensive and integrated set of strategies, actions and projects to support forest and community health and long-term resilience to wildfire. Please see the [NCRP Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Block Grant Work Plan](#) and the [NCRP Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Planning webpage](#) for more information.

The NCRP seeks letters of interest from qualified representatives from groups and Tribes in the region, to provide technical review and input on regional and sub-regional priority project planning. In addition, Forestry Advisors will inform and review the development of a process for the allocation of technical support for project development and permitting. The NCRP is seeking Forestry Advisors with knowledge and experience in one or more of the following areas:

1. In depth knowledge of forest health and forest ecosystems in the North Coast region, including their role in carbon sequestration, climate adaptation, maintaining biological diversity and culturally-significant natural and historic values, human health and safety, sustaining local economies, and water quality and supply. Demonstration of experience in this field.
2. In depth knowledge of wildfire risks, hazards, and ignition sources as well as an understanding of fuel loading, fire behavior characteristics, and fire management and wildfire response.
3. Experience working with California Tribes, a deep understanding of Tribal practices, and the ability to work with a variety of North Coast Tribes
4. Understanding and experience with Traditional management of wild lands and cultural burns, includes the practical application of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in relationship to restoring and protecting fire resilient landscapes and cultural use areas.
5. Knowledge and demonstrated experience in identifying shared values and priorities among diverse partnerships using processes that balance wildfire risks and hazards with community, economic, cultural, and natural values and assets.

6. Knowledge and demonstrated experience in the identification, prioritization, and design of forest management techniques to establish healthy and resilient forests and achieve other benefits; using methods such as prescribed fire, cultural burning, forest thinning and sustainable timber harvest, grazing, and habitat restoration.
7. Knowledge of and work experience in the landscape and human communities of the North Coast region.
8. Knowledge of and work experience in forest economics, policy, permitting, code enforcement and regulation
9. Knowledge of biomass utilization techniques and emerging industry trends
10. Knowledge of and demonstrated experience with forest thinning, prescribed fire, and biomass processing workforce development and crew training, including the associated maintenance of existing and acquisition of new equipment and infrastructure.

### Letter of Interest Components

The letter of interest should include contact information

1. Contact Information
2. Brief Statement of Qualifications
3. Brief description of knowledge and work experience in one or more of the topics listed above.

### SELECTION PROCESS

The NCRP will appoint a total of 13 Tribal and County Forest Advisors. Seven Forest Advisors will be appointed from each of the 7 partner counties by NCRP Policy Review Panel representatives from those counties. Six Tribal representatives will be selected by the North Coast Tribes according to the "Tribal Representation Process" as defined in the NCRP [Memorandum of Mutual Understandings](#).

### LETTER OF INTEREST SUBMITTAL

Potential Tribal Forest Advisors should email their Letter of Interest to NCRP Tribal Coordinator, Sherri Norris at [sherri@cieaweb.org](mailto:sherri@cieaweb.org). All other Letters of Interest should be emailed to Katherine Gledhill at [kgledhill@westcoastwatershed.com](mailto:kgledhill@westcoastwatershed.com). The deadline for submission is 5:00 p.m. on March 13, 2020. Staff will forward Letters of Interest to the NCRP Policy Review Panel county and Tribal representatives for their review and consideration. Forestry Advisor appointments will be made in the Spring of 2020.

## **STIPENDS**

Stipends, not to exceed \$5,000, will be provided to Forest Advisors commensurate to the workload associated with the project guidance they provide.

## **CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION**

If you have questions or need more information please contact:

- Katherine Gledhill, NCRP Staff, (707) 795-1235, [kgledhill@westcoastwatershed.com](mailto:kgledhill@westcoastwatershed.com)
- Sherri Norris, NCRP Tribal Coordinator, (510) 848-2043, [sherri@cieaweb.org](mailto:sherri@cieaweb.org)