

**EXHIBIT A**  
**Work Plan, Schedule and Budget**  
**For Fiscal Years 2019-2020 through 2021-2022**

**PROJECT NAME: Fire School Pilot Program at Lake Sonoma & Dry Creek**

**SUBGRANTEE NAME: Dry Creek Rancheria Vegetation Management and Demonstration Project**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

This demonstration project was selected to help the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) realize the goals of the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) Program. Under the RFFC Program, the NCRP will develop a North Coast Regional Priority Plan (RPP). The RPP will include a comprehensive and integrated set of strategies, actions and projects to support forest and community health and long-term resilience to wildfire. The purpose of the demonstration projects selected by the NCRP is to model processes and on-the-ground projects designed to test concepts, methods, and innovative techniques to identify effective management practices for fuel load reduction and forest health that can be quantified and scaled up in the region and elsewhere. Data, performance measures, and project outcomes/lessons learned from this demonstration project will be documented and integrated into the RPP to ensure adaptive learning and information sharing throughout the region.

The Dry Creek Rancheria (DCR) proposes to use approximately 80 acres located in the Alexander Valley as a demonstration of post-wildfire fuel reduction and re-vegetation using native plants and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). Half of the demonstration property (40 acres) was burned in the 2019 Kincade Fire providing a data driven opportunity to monitor the response of burned versus untreated wildlands and to demonstrate TEK, native plant restoration and fuel treatments, while also reducing the probability and intensity of future fires. Twenty acres of the 40 burned in the Kincade Fire will be managed with TEK and revegetation; the other 20 will be treated with a typical post-fire fuels reduction prescription. Data will be collected on the unburned and untreated control plot for comparison. An educational program will be developed to showcase the techniques implemented.

DCR will develop a plan for treatment of invasive species, fuel reduction, and restoration/revegetation actions using TEK based techniques and native plant species. Fuel management activities include the removal of invasive plants from 10 acres of the Dry Creek Rancheria using a variety of techniques. These plants will be replaced with more fire resilient and culturally significant species from the Tribe's nursery, which is maintained by Tribal Elders. DCR will continue to collect and cultivate seed from on-site or near-site native plants and will incorporate the tribal community in collection and planting to build community leadership and participation.

Both water quality and vegetation-related data will be collected as part of a comprehensive monitoring plan that will enable comparison of post-burn and unburned area responses to treatment over time.

Interpretive and descriptive signs will be developed for permanent display onsite to support education of the community, and tribal youth in particular. In addition, existing educational programs for K-12 students on local ecology, TEK, and restoration will be expanded and modified. Community and/or school field trips will be led to support increased understanding of these topics.

## **Task 8.1 Project Management**

General project management, including compliance with subgrantee requirements, project planning and oversight, necessary meetings, as well as invoicing and reporting.

### Task 8.1.A Demonstration Project Detailed Work Plan and Budget Development

Work with the NCRP staff team to develop a detailed work plan and budget based on the successful project concept proposal. This will include at least one strategic planning meeting with NCRP staff and may involve additional meetings with NCRP staff and consultants as well as other demonstration project sponsors.

#### **Deliverable:**

- Detailed work plan and budget

### Task 8.1.B Sub-grantee Agreement Execution and Management

Execute a sub-grantee agreement with COUNTY for work to be completed on this project. Manage the sub-grantee agreement including compliance with grant requirements, and preparation and submission of supporting grant documents.

#### **Deliverables:**

- Fully Executed Sub-Grantee Agreement

### Task 8.1.C Invoicing

Compile invoices including relevant supporting documentation. Submit invoices to COUNTY according to the Subgrantee schedule presented in Table 3 below for review and inclusion in the master invoice packet.

#### **Deliverables:**

- Invoices, provided in a format approved by, and including backup documentation as specified by COUNTY

### Task 8.1.D Progress Reporting

Prepare progress reports detailing work completed during reporting period. Submit reports to COUNTY according to the Subgrantee schedule presented in Table 3 below for review and inclusion in the master progress report

#### **Deliverables:**

- Quarterly Project Progress Reports, using the format required by COUNTY

### Task 8.1.E Environmental Compliance Documentation and Permitting

All permitting and environmental documentation required to implement fuels reduction and vegetation planting has been completed under the Bureau of Indian Affairs Categorical Exclusions and USFWS Consultation as part of the 2019 Kincadee Fire Burned Area Emergency Response Plan. The Environmental Compliance Checklist will be completed and updated—and additional documentation will be provided—as necessary.

#### **Deliverables:**

- Environmental Compliance Checklist, using the form provided by COUNTY
- Copy of applicable environmental documentation
- Copy of all required permits

**Task 8.1.F Labor Compliance Program**

Take all measures necessary to ensure compliance with applicable California Labor Code requirements, including, preparation and implementation of a labor compliance program or including any payments to the Department of Industrial Relations under Labor Code Section 1771.3.

**Deliverables:**

- Proof of labor compliance as applicable, upon request

**Task 8.1.G Contractor Acquisition and Management**

As applicable and based on subgrantee purchasing policies, secure contractors and award contracts. The California Conservation Corps (CCC), fire ecology consultants, engineering consultant, and tribal elders named in this agreement be directly subcontracted by Dry Creek Rancheria in accordance with Dry Creek Rancheria's contracting guidelines, which does not require a competitive bid process for these contracts types. The role of each of these subcontractors is described below. The need for additional subcontractors will be evaluated once site-specific needs have been assessed; these may include hazard tree removal and/or equipment operators.

Spatial Informatics Group (SIG) will be subcontracted to assist with revegetation planning, fire behavior analysis, and educational components of the demonstration project.

FlowWest will be subcontracted to assist with project management and hydrology related components of the project.

Fire Poppy will be subcontracted to assist with analysis of existing and post-fire conditions, vegetation management planning, integration of TEK prescriptions, and providing input on educational components, including field tours.

An agreement will be developed with CCC to conduct vegetation management and revegetation. These tasks may include: removal of non-native vegetation, planting, thinning, erosion control, and documentation of vegetation management activities.

TEK Tribal Advisor: Sherrie Smith will be contracted with the Tribe as an independent consultant advising on TEK means and methods.

**Deliverables:**

- Documentation of subcontractor insurance, upon request

**Task 8.2 Integration with NCRP Regional Priority Planning Process**

This task will ensure that the project is well integrated into the RPP and NCRP planning processes for information sharing to other parts of the region. This will include at least one kickoff planning meeting with NCRP staff and subsequent meetings as needed to ensure integration of the demonstration project results.

**Task 8.2.A Project Reporting**

Develop a section for inclusion in the RPP that describes the project, outcomes and project applicability to the North Coast region. The section will also identify future management objectives and funding opportunities that can be leveraged to continue educational programs. Provide outline, annotated outline and drafts to NCRP staff for review and input. NCRP staff may wish to interview Dry Creek Rancheria staff about the project to gather additional information for the RPP.

The results of the project will be presented to the NCRP. In addition, the project team will present results at conferences related to fire management, flood management, and restoration. Abstracts will be submitted to the annual conferences and programs of organizations such as the California Society of American Foresters, California Society for Ecological Restoration, Floodplain Management Association, Salmonid Restoration Federation, and Forest Vegetation Management Conference.

**Deliverables:**

- Applicable data collected during the project

- Outline, draft and final report summarizing the work completed and lessons learned from the demonstration project to be integrated into the RPP.

### Task 8.2.B Vegetation and Water Quality Monitoring

Develop a monitoring protocol that can be easily implemented by locally trained staff, conducting regular visual inspections of the property, developing permanent photo points to quantify vegetation cover, species, and fuel loadings over time.

Collect data over the entire Dry Creek Rancheria ownership (80 acres) using GPS and photographs to map condition and treatment locations for invasive species, fuel reduction, and restoration/revegetation. In total, data will be collected on three plot-types: twenty acres of the 40 burned in the Kincade Fire will be managed with TEK and revegetation; the other 20 will be treated with a typical post-fire fuels reduction prescription. The remaining 40 unburned acres will be used as a control plot for comparison. A drone will also be used to collect imagery at the start and end of the project to facilitate comparison of vegetation in treated and untreated plots. FlowWest will provide the drone and pilot for this task. Aggregated field data will be presented in online maps and in GIS compatible formats for distribution to the project team and NCRP.

Develop and install monitoring equipment at DCR to monitor stream flow, water quality, and sediment. Monitoring equipment may include pressure transducers to monitor stage and temperature of streamflow, sediment capture devices to measure sediment delivery, and water quality samples for processing at a lab. Monitoring equipment will be installed to quantify runoff and sediment delivery associated with the different management prescriptions and burned and unburned portions of the demonstration project. Given the limited budget of this project, monitoring will attempt to capture general trends in the Rancheria Creek watershed. Report data using the EPA Exchange Network water quality app currently in development for visualization and analysis of hydrology and water quality monitoring.

#### **Deliverables:**

- Monitoring Plan and protocol
- GIS data, metadata, data dictionary and final maps
- Integration of the data into EPA Exchange Network

### **Task 8.3 Project Activities**

Develop and execute a plan for treatment of invasive species, fuel reduction, and restoration/revegetation actions using TEK based techniques and native plant species. Coordinate with project partners and contractors, as needed. Develop signage and educational materials to educate the community and tribal youth in particular on the management activities, ecological objectives, and tribal values applied as part of the project.

When planning for activities described below, COVID guidelines will need to be considered. Remote virtual meetings may be an alternative to holding them in person.

#### Task 8.3.A Vegetation Removal

Treat hazardous fuels on approximately 20 acres of the Dry Creek Rancheria using CCC crews.

Reduce non-native species on approximately 10 acres of the 20 acres above.

Use a combination of hand thinning, pruning, chipping, moving, and burning to reduce accumulated live and dead fuels. Reduce basal re-sprouts on trees in burned areas to encourage vigor of remaining re-sprouts. Keep and promote oaks as much as possible and leave burned trees standing to allow time for re-sprouting. Utilize propane torch as needed to support invasive species management efforts.

#### **Deliverables:**

- Maps, photos, and documentation of approximately 20 acres of fuels treatment and 10 acres of non-native vegetation removal

**Task 8.3.B Native Plant Propagation and Revegetation**

Re-establish native plant species on approximately 20 acres of land previously burned with high severity.

Use culturally significant plants from the Tribe's Nursery that DCR has been collecting and cultivating for ongoing restoration projects. Leverage TEK from DCR Tribal Elders who maintain the Dry Creek Rancheria Native Plant Nursery to determine suitable species for revegetation. Continue to collect seed from on-site or near-site native bunchgrasses, herbaceous species, and high-value trees seasonally. Take cuttings from select shrub and rhizomatous native species for propagation in the fall. Sow grass and forb seed as appropriate. In the fall, propagate other seed and cuttings for later planting to meet revegetation and TEK-relevant species promotion and utilization goals. Incorporate tribal community in collection, direct seeding, propagation, and planting to build community leadership and participation.

**Deliverables:**

- Maps, photos, and documentation of approximately 20 acres of revegetation
- Photos of native plant propagation, as allowable

**Task 8.3.C Public Outreach and Education**

Design and produce two interpretive signs for permanent onsite display. Interpretive signs will cover ecology, management activities, and tribal values as well as the botanical identity and associated TEK of plants nearby.

Build upon an educational program developed for K-12 students called Learning Landscapes produced by Plumas Unified School District and Feather River Land Trust. SIG will modify the material and program for the North Coast Region and DCR. Online educational materials will be developed for a range of lessons on local ecology, TEK, and restoration efforts.

The Project Team will lead up to 2 educational fieldtrips for up to 100 students (up to 50 each), residents, and community members. These trips will help community members and others better understand the role of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) in post-fire recovery and ecosystem restoration. The NCRP may arrange with DCR to document the project via video or other mechanism to illustrate key elements of the RPP.

**Deliverables:**

- Draft signage for NCRP review and photos of posted signage
- Sign-in sheet or participant list, and photos of educational fieldtrips
- Copy of educational materials shared or developed

**Task 8.4 Project Closeout**

Compile a Project Closeout Packet including, but not limited to California Climate Investments (CCI) reporting metrics; a summary of contributions to NCRP goals and objectives; a section for the RPP that describes the project, outcomes and project applicability to the North Coast region; photographic documentation; final project location map, as applicable; and an RFFC Program feedback survey. Submit the packet to COUNTY according to the schedule presented in Table 3 below.

**Deliverables:**

- Project Closeout Packet, using the format required by COUNTY