

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

PROJECT NAME: Siskiyou County Fuel Reduction, Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Soil Health Amendment Demonstration Project

SUBGRANTEE NAME: Scott River Watershed Council

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.

This project will test the economic feasibility of creating biochar on a large scale as a way to address healthy forest management, reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) and smoke, and sequester carbon in soil. Specifically, it will demonstrate the creation of biochar using innovative large scale and efficient carbonator technology on private forested land in the Scott Valley. The demonstration will utilize biomass produced by a CCI-funded fuels reduction project being performed on over 80 acres around the City of Etna that would otherwise be burned. Instead, value-added biochar will be provided to local agricultural producers as a soil amendment.

Data will be collected and analyzed to evaluate feasibility, quality, scale, and market demand. This data will be shared as part of a demonstration workshop introducing the local public to the potential applicability and benefits of biochar.

If shown to be economically feasible, having a carbonator available in the Scott Valley will provide rural jobs and allow a greater portion of those revenues and resources to stay local. The new technology has the potential to be a powerful tool to reduce GHGs lost to burning either from wildfire or pile and burning treatments. By creating biochar, this carbon is sequestered in the soil, thereby increasing soil health and reducing farm inputs. This project will also enhance public safety by creating safe on-site combustion that can efficiently manage large volumes of biomass without the escape risk that comes with open piling and burning. It also protects vulnerable populations that are sensitive to smoke inhalation by major reductions in noxious particulate matter, making fuel reduction safer for the community. The lessons learned will be shared widely within the region to help bring awareness to the potential benefits of carbonator use.

Task 12.1 Project Management

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

Task 12.1.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 12.1.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 12.1.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 12.1.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 12.1.E Environmental Compliance Documentation and Permitting

Work with Humboldt County as lead agency to complete CEQA exemption documentation. As applicable, obtain or confirm acquisition of all necessary federal, state, and local permits including a 12-hour burn permit from Siskiyou County Air Pollution Control District. Complete and update, as necessary, the Environmental Compliance Checklist.

Deliverables:

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

Task 12.1.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 12.1.G Contractor Acquisition and Management

As applicable and based on subgrantee purchasing policies, secure contractors and award contracts.

Quartz Valley Indian Reservation will be subcontracted to assist with consultation in biochar demonstration to ensure culturally appropriate processes and provide local expertise and experience.

Jefferson Resource Company will be subcontracted to assist with coordination of the feedstock supply.

Falk Forestry will be subcontracted to provide guidance on requirements needed for operation of a carbonator and to operate a carbonator for a one-week demonstration using feedstocks typical of fuel reduction in the region. Falk Forestry will truck the materials generated to agriculture producers.

Sonoma Ecology Center will be subcontracted to assist with the demonstration day, highlight other types of biochar creation and discuss end-user application.

Deliverables:

- Sole source justification, if required by purchasing policy
- Documentation of subcontractor insurance, upon request

Task 12.2 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 12.2.A Project Reporting

Develop a section for inclusion in the RPP that describes the project, outcomes and project applicability to the North Coast region. Provide outline, annotated outline and drafts to NCRP staff for review and input. NCRP staff may wish to interview Scott River Watershed Council staff about the project to gather additional information for the RPP.

Evaluate economic feasibility and market demand in the Scott Valley based on lessons learned from carbonator demonstration, taking into consideration quality, scale, efficiencies, and potential local feedstocks.

Collect data and compile a cost-benefit analysis of the total cost of producing raw final product, water use and reclamation potential, conversion percentage of feedstock to biochar, and biochar quality analysis. Work with Sonoma Ecology Center to develop performance metrics with review by NCRP staff.

Create a quantitative analysis of scaling this project to meet potential demand in the Scott Valley and surrounding communities.

Deliverables:

- Applicable data, documents, and reports on lessons learned to be integrated into the RPP: review outline, draft and final
- Performance metrics and outcomes
- Economic viability report

Task 12.3 Project Activities

Test the economic feasibility of creating biochar on a large scale to address healthy forest management, reduce GHGs and smoke, and sequester carbon through demonstration of carbonator technology. Use biomass generated from a local fuels reduction project to produce value-added biochar for agricultural use. Educate the community on the potential benefits, costs, and applications of biochar through a demonstration workshop.

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

Task 12.3.A Carbonator Operation

Operate a carbonator to create 36-50 tons of biochar over a one-week period using biomass generated from the creation of an 80-acre shaded fuel break designed to protect the City of Etna and its municipal water supply as feedstock. Consult with Falk Forestry on appropriate landings needed and other requirements relevant to operation of the carbonator. Coordinate the distribution of biochar to local agricultural producers as it is produced in the one-week period.

Deliverables:

- Maps, documentation, and photos of implementation
- List of agricultural producers who received biochar

Task 12.3.B Public Outreach and Education

Survey agricultural producers about interest in biochar to inform an assessment of market demand.

Provide landowners with information on best management practices for handling, using, and documenting effects of biochar.

Collaborate with the Sonoma Ecology Center's Sonoma Biochar Initiative to develop a public workshop to demonstrate various, small-scale biochar production methods. Advertise the workshop to partners, stakeholders, and the general public across the region. Provide workshop date and details to NCRP for inclusion in outreach and NCRP calendar. The NCRP may arrange with SRWC to document the project via video or other mechanism to illustrate key elements of the RPP. Alternatively, or in addition, SRWC may coordinate with Tigercat, the manufacturer of the carbonator, to develop a video of carbonator operation that may be shared with or produced jointly with NCRP.

Deliverables:

- Interest survey circulated to agricultural producers and summary of feedback received
- Workshop advertisement and other outreach materials shared or developed
- Agenda, meeting materials, and sign-in sheet or participant list from at least one (1) workshop

Task 12.4 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