



**NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP (NCRP)
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (LC) & TECHNICAL PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE (TPRC) MEETING
MEETING MATERIALS**

Date/Time: Friday, April 26, 2024; 9 am – 3:00 pm

Location: Weaverville Veterans Memorial Hall, 51 Memorial Dr, Weaverville CA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following items correspond to the NCRP Quarterly Meeting agenda for April 26, 2024 per agenda order and item number. The items below include background information for agenda items that require additional explanation and, in some cases, include recommendations for action. The meeting agenda and other meeting materials can be found on the NCRP website at <https://northcoastresourcepartnership.org/north-coast-resource-partnership-quarterly-meetings/>

VII TRIBAL NATIONS 101

The NCRP Leadership Council requested an overview of Tribal governments, the diversity of Tribes in the North Coast region, Tribal governance structures, and the NCRP’s structure of Tribal leadership, technical guidance and Tribal engagement.

VIII KLAMATH DAM REMOVAL UPDATE

[Los Angeles Times Article – Klamath Dam Removal](#) and [CBS Video](#) (featuring NCRP Co-Chair Leaf Hillman)

Siskiyou County Webpage on Klamath Dam Decommissioning Project:

<https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/naturalresources/page/klamath-dam-decommissioning-project>

IX ILLEGAL CANNABIS AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE

The NCRP Illegal Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee was formed by the NCRP Leadership Council in July 2023. The committee is comprised of Leadership Council members Councilmember Downey, Supervisor Criss, Supervisor Carpenter-Harris and Supervisor Gogan. NCRP staff team members participating and supporting this ad hoc committee include Sherri Norris, Javier Silva, Katherine Gledhill and Karen Gaffney. The NCRP Ad Hoc committee

and NCRP staff have held three meetings, with a focus on the development of a draft NCRP Regional Illegal Cannabis Strategy that will outline issues, opportunities, strategies, policy and funding recommendations to address the environmental and community impacts of cannabis, education and outreach activities, as well as capacity enhancements for Tribes and counties to address these impacts.

Appendix A includes a draft outline of the NCRP Regional Illegal Cannabis Strategy with committee and staff comments included for Leadership Council, TPRC and partner review. Next steps include further development of this draft document, ad hoc committee and staff team consideration of additional consulting support to develop the draft strategy, as well as potential partner workshops to gather input and recommendations. The NCRP Illegal Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee and staff expect to bring a draft of the strategy for Leadership Council consideration during the October 2024 NCRP meeting.

X NCRP CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT INVESTMENTS

The NCRP has a long-term focus on enhancing capacity for economically challenged and historically underrepresented entities in the North Coast region, including Tribes, counties, NGOs, RCDs, watershed groups, local agencies, landowner and agricultural organizations and many others. NCRP capacity investments are intended to ensure equitable opportunities for all partners in the region to develop and implement projects and initiatives that achieve the NCRP mission to enhance the quality of life for North Coast communities and ecosystems.

In July 2023, the NCRP Leadership Council directed NCRP staff to integrate all NCRP planning, project implementation, and reporting to address NCRP goals, objectives and strategies in a seamless and comprehensive manner, functionally linking, aligning and strengthening NCRP priorities with a variety of funder objectives and resources. Previous NCRP Leadership Council approved planning efforts that address capacity include the [Vision for North Coast Resilience](#) (funded by the California Department of Conservation Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program), the DWR funded Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement program and report, as well as the [Strategy for Enhancing Long Term Capacity in Tribal and Rural Fire Agencies in the North Coast Region](#), funded by the Humboldt Area Foundation and the Wild Rivers Community Foundation.

With RFFC funding, the NCRP staff team and the RFFC Ad Hoc committee are working on a draft NCRP Regional Capacity Enhancement Strategy for programs and partners that will be included for consideration by the Leadership Council during the October 2024 meeting. An outline has been completed and approved by the committee and the Leadership Council. The NCRP staff team is recommending that an important next step is to conduct a regional capacity assessment, building on the lessons learned during the above-listed initiatives (HAF/WRCF, DACTI and RFFC Vision Plan development). A draft of this regional assessment is included as Appendix B. The NCRP staff team will work with the RFFC Ad Hoc to apply lessons learned and refinements from ongoing program evaluation to the upcoming SWRCB grant for a water and wastewater technical assistance program in the North Coast region.

NCRP has had a strong focus on technical assistance over the last several years, providing TA in two main ways: a) RFP driven TA – small investments of \$5,000-15,000 to support local project sponsors in developing projects by matching them with consultants in the NCRP approved consultant pool; and b) assessment-driven technical assistance in response to a formal NCRP assessment of capacity needs, followed by the customized sub-grant

awards of funding to the entity. Both approaches have value, and help the NCRP to understand the capacity needs in the region, respond to them as effectively as possible, build and prioritize the project pipeline, and to gather information about funding leverage and other benefits from these investments.

Based on funding availability and funder priorities, NCRP Technical Assistance includes both assessment-based and solicitation-based local project sponsor driven approaches to ensure that technical assistance is made available based on economic challenge and capacity need, as well as project development needs that – when addressed by the NCRP TA program – can support the effective achievement of the NCRP mission, goals and objectives and achieve beneficial impact in the region.

High Level Program Summary & Accomplishments

Following is a high-level summary of the impacts and accomplishments provided by the RFP-driven and assessment-driven capacity investments to date, including information supported by funding from the RFFC, HAF/WRCF and DACTI programs.

- 92 TA projects (69 funded by the DOC’s RFFC program and 23 funded by the DWR, DACTI program)
- Program expenditures: \$1,407,965 in TA funding has been awarded (RFFC, HAF/WRCF & DACTI)
- Program leveraging: \$38,395,000 in grant funding received by project sponsors as a result of TA support (\$7,726,198.00 in NCRP Implementation funding from DWR, and \$30,669,720 from other sources)

RFP/Solicitation-based Technical Assistance (Local Project Sponsor Driven)

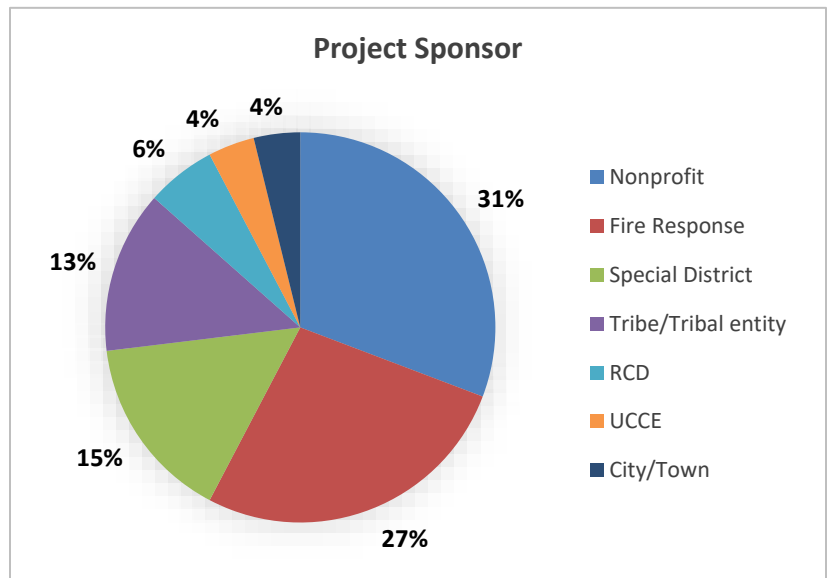
NCRP maintains an ongoing solicitation for concept proposals from eligible entities throughout the North Coast region that align with the Goals and Objectives of the NCRP and the source funding. NCRP contracts with a technical regional expert to provide one-on-one technical assistance and capacity building for the selected technical assistance projects. The typical value of technical assistance provided is in the range of \$5,000 to \$15,000 per entity.

Project Sponsor Characteristics

52 different entities served:

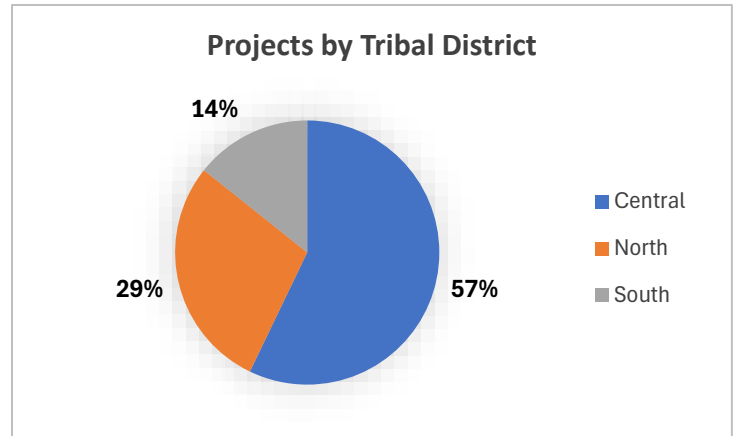
- 16 Nonprofits
- 14 Fire response entities (non-Tribal) (FSCs, FPDs, VFDs, etc.)
- 7 Tribes or Tribal entities
- 3 RCDs
- 8 Special Districts
- 2 UCCE
- 2 City/Town

Note: 11 Tribal projects pending, (approx. \$15,000 each)



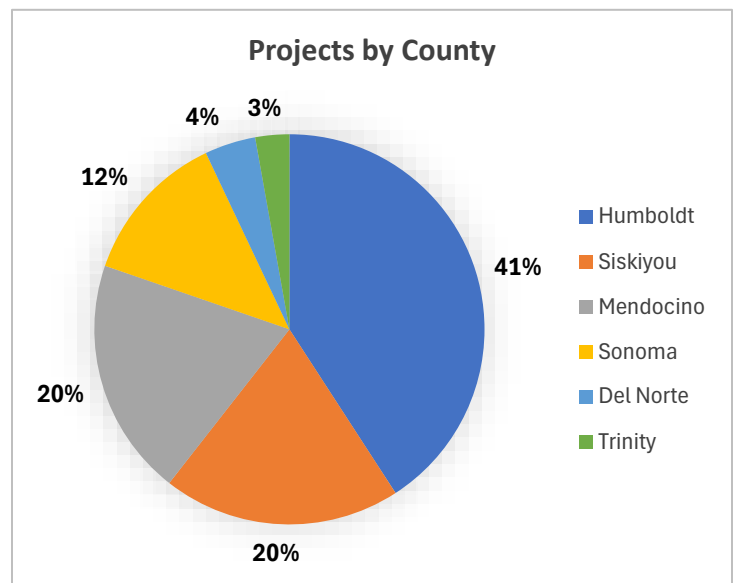
7 Tribe/Tribal Entity Project Sponsors

- 4 Tribal Central District
- 2 Tribal North District
- 1 Tribal South District



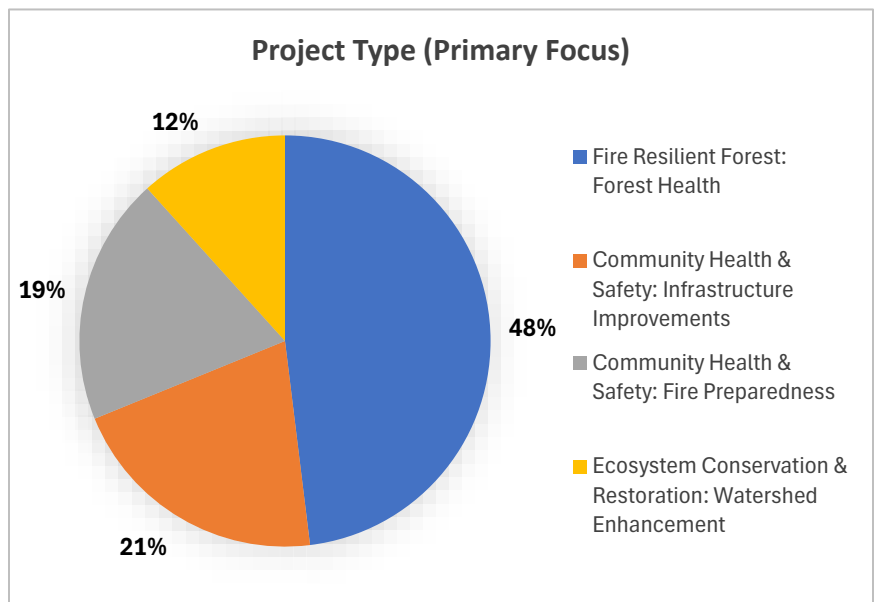
70 Non-Tribal Project Sponsors

- 26 Humboldt County
- 12 Siskiyou County
- 12 Mendocino County
- 9 Sonoma County
- 2 Trinity County
- 1 Del Norte County



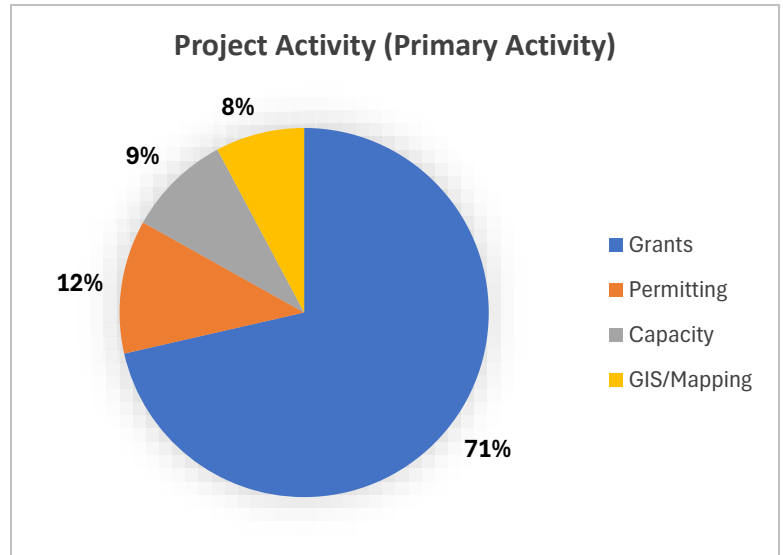
Project Type (primary focus)

- 37 Fire Resilient Forests: Forest Health
- 16 Community Health & Safety – Infrastructure Improvements
- 15 Community Health & Safety - Fire preparedness
- 9 Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration: Watershed Enhancement



Project Activity (primary activity)

- 55 Grant applications (including preliminary project design/planning)
- 9 CEQA/Permitting
- 7 Organizational capacity
- 6 GIS/Mapping



TA Provider Characteristics

- 28 different TA providers contracted to provide services
- 26/28 (93%) of contractors located within the North Coast region

Refinements to the Solicitation-based TA Program - January 2023-present

- Developed a regular rolling proposal process with quarterly proposal review/awards.
- All proposals are now submitted via the NCRP Project Tracker.
- Proposal review – the original intention was for proposals to be reviewed by the full staff team. Due to challenges with staff scheduling, during 2023 proposals were reviewed by WCW only. As of January 2024, proposals are being reviewed by WCW + CIEA.
- Tribal consultation language added to Work Orders: Per the NCRP Memorandum of Mutual Understandings, the NCRP recognizes Tribal sovereignty and the need for meaningful Tribal coordination, engagement, and (where required) consultation by all NCRP partners that collaborate with the NCRP.
- Upon project completion, the project entry is updated, and project metrics added to NCRP Project Tracker.
- Project sponsors may receive TA proposal support by NCRP Tribal Engagement staff, by including them as Project Representatives in the Project Tracker application
- List of Consultant Resources compiled, and link publicly available on NCRP website
 - Includes consultants who responded to 2022 and 2023 RFPs as well as those who submit SOQs in response to website posting.
 - Project sponsors can choose any consultant from the List. NCRP does not make specific project sponsor recommendations and honors project sponsor requests if the consultant is available.
 - If a preferred provider is not currently on the list, Project sponsors can request that a preferred provider submit a SOQ and be added to the list.
 - All listed consultants sign NCRP MOMU.
 - Listing includes the SOQ submitted by the consultant, which includes references, representative projects, etc.
 - Consultants required to submit final report detailing what was accomplished and leveraged with TA.
 - Project sponsors asked to submit a final report detailing what was accomplished and leveraged with TA and offering feedback on consultant and NCRP TA program.
 - For project sponsors submitting a new proposal for additional TA for an existing or ongoing project, the first TA contract must be completed, and all deliverables and final report submitted, before a

new TA proposal can be considered for further funding. Project sponsors need to justify the request for additional TA in the Technical Assistance Application Supplemental Information Form.

- The same entity cannot be both the project sponsor and the TA provider on the same project (i.e. TA cannot pay an entity's staff to do the work – TA is intended to bring in outside assistance/expertise not available on staff).
- Project Kickoff meetings – prior to work beginning, NCRP staff meet with project sponsor and consultant to review Work Order and ensure alignment on tasks & deliverables.
- Projects with a data development/mapping/spatial assessment component: NCRP long term consultant Tukman Geospatial will review Work Orders to share existing NCRP data resources and avoid replication.

Suggested Future Solicitation-based TA Program Refinements

- Consider a time limit from award to contracting – awards forfeited if no progress toward contracting is made within 6 months.
- Consider allowing only one proposal per project sponsor per round (meaning the same project sponsor cannot have proposals considered for two different projects in the same round).
- Consider whether a project sponsor can apply for an award for a new project while they have an existing award in progress – current policy does not prohibit this, and it is common for sub-regional entities like RCDs to act as the project sponsor for more than one project at a time.
- Consider a policy that prohibits different project sponsors from applying for funding for the same project during the same round.
- Improved mechanism for learning of and reporting on grant funds leveraged after project reporting is complete – annual survey of project sponsors?
- Do a better job of publicly sharing the story of what TA is accomplishing/leveraging – story maps, interviews, web pages, etc. (beyond the monthly and quarterly reporting to funders & LC)
- Develop stronger project criteria requiring projects on private lands demonstrate public benefits/benefits to DACs.

Assessment-based Technical Assistance and Capacity Enhancement

NCRP provides a programmatic and proactive approach to technical assistance and support based on results of regional needs assessments. The program may include a wide array of technical assistance, trainings, and capacity enhancement support activities based on the needs identified by the assessments and prioritized by the funder. Currently, an expanded and comprehensive assessment-based program is being developed, the North Coast Capacity Enhancement Strategy.

DACTI Needs Assessment

NCRP conducted disadvantaged community needs assessments in 2014 and again in 2018/2019 to provide a snapshot of the capacity needs of water and wastewater treatment providers in the North Coast. Surveys were distributed to all known service providers in economically disadvantaged or Tribal communities. By the end of 2019, 127 survey responses representing 115 systems had been collected from a variety of service provider types, representing a 55% response rate. Of the 35 Tribes in the North Coast, 18 responded to the survey, representing a 51% response rate. Additionally, in-depth interviews were conducted with Tribes and in specific watersheds to drill down and investigate the on-the-ground experience of key professionals in disadvantaged communities. Key experts from organizations including water providers, for-profit recreation organizations, municipal departments, and community centers were sought for their professional experience as well as their connection to economically disadvantaged communities and Tribes. The [North Coast Resource Partnership Disadvantaged Community & Tribal Water & Wastewater Service Providers Needs Assessment Summary](#)

(September 2020) describes the key findings of these surveys. The results obtained from the survey and interviews, along with information from the Department of Water Resources and State Water Board needs assessments, informed the technical and funding assistance program activities.

DACTI Assessment-based TA

The North Coast Needs Assessment identified technical assistance as the most critical need for Tribal and small community water systems. Identified technical assistance needs included:

- Assistance with developing plans and securing funding to replace or upgrade infrastructure.
- Assistance with general water and wastewater system infrastructure maintenance and repair.
- Support to comply with state standards (especially drinking water standards).
- Assistance with identifying funding opportunities and preparing grant applications.
- Support to develop and maintain maps of water and wastewater systems.

The North Coast Needs Assessment identified grant writing as the most important topic for regional workshops and trainings. To support project sponsors during the Proposition 1 and Drought Relief Implementation Project funding, in-person workshops were held throughout the North Coast, as well as topical webinars to increase accessibility. The workshops were focused on project sponsor needs and covered a variety of topics including eligibility, application preparation and submission, review criteria, application tips, and project-specific technical assistance. All workshops contained a question-and-answer session and opportunities for Tribe-to-Tribe support.

Non-Tribal DACTI TA Recipients

- Briceland CSC
- City of Dorris
- City of Montague
- City of Willits
- Covelo CSD
- Newell County Water District
- Treasure Creek Woods MWC
- Weaverville Sanitary District
- Jed Smith HA
- Gasquet CSD
- Shasta View Heights HOA
- Alderpoint County Water
- Hopland PUD
- Valley Ford Water Association

DACTI Tribal TA. The NCRP Tribal Technical Assistance program was robust, providing everything from tank inspections to compliance monitoring and system mapping. In addition to identifying needs through the survey and interviews, the Tribal circuit rider team met onsite at multiple Tribal locations to discuss site-specific needs and develop work plans and budgets. DACTI Tribal TA recipients:

- Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria
- Elk Valley Tribe
- Manchester Band of Pomo
- Nor Rel Muk
- Resighini
- Round Valley Indian Tribes
- Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo
- Yokayo Tribe
- Yurok Tribe

Tribal Circuit Rider Program. To ensure effectiveness, provision of technical assistance needed to be provided in a variety of forms to Tribal and underserved communities including a “circuit rider” element facilitating a Peer-to-Peer technical service model that delivers consistent and focused support while achieving equitable representation across the region including, but not limited to, the following:

- Preliminary planning and engineering to upgrade and enhance deteriorating infrastructure.
- Assessments of pollution, public health, and water supply threats.
- Preliminary project design and feasibility analysis.

- Development of funding strategies through grants, loans, and/or rate recovery.
- Circuit-rider programs to provide on-site assessments.
- Provision of templates and procedures to improve system operations and/or funding requests.
- Preparation of applications for funding.
- Permitting and environmental review.

In addition to identifying needs through the survey and interviews, the Tribal circuit rider team met onsite at several Tribal locations to discuss site-specific needs and develop work plans and budgets. Tribal assistance consisted of creation of a Technical Assistance Plan which identified gaps in existing Prop 1 funding, development of a Tribal technical selection process, a list of Tribal technical providers, a Tribal Engagement Plan, and direct assistance. Tribal Communities receiving support through the Circuit Rider Program:

- Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria
- Cahto Indian Tribe
- Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- Dry Creek Rancheria
- Guidiville
- Hopland Band of Pomo Indians
- Karuk Tribe
- Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of Stewarts Point Rancheria
- Potter Valley Tribe
- Quartz Valley Indian Tribe
- Redwood Valley Little River Band of Pomo Indians
- Trinidad Rancheria
- Wiyot Tribe
- Yokayo Tribe
- Yurok Tribe

Tribal Pilot Projects. Early in the process, the NCRP Tribal Representatives selected three Tribal communities to serve as pilots for technical assistance: Round Valley Indian Tribes, Resighini Tribe, and the Yokayo Tribe. These Tribes received a wide range of assistance including regulatory compliance, permitting, water services security, establishment of Utility Boards, water storage tank inspections, onsite water operator trainings, system mapping and water meter replacements.

TRIBAL PILOT PROJECTS	
Tribes	Issues the Pilot Project Addressed
Resighini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drought contingency plan. • Guidance and review of proposal for Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief funding. • Storage tank assessment (scheduled this inspection twice, however the contractor could not access the location.)
Round Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water storage tank assessment and inspection on 4 tanks. • GIS mapping of system and Tribal land. • Bundled Small Communities Drought Relief proposal to DWR to address Well meter replacement, Well rehab & private well assessment, and Water storage capacity increase.
Yokayo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents to support Tribal Homeowners Association. • Draft Tribal Utility Board Bylaws. • Water storage tank assessment and inspection. • Well inspection and concrete surface seal to prevent storm runoff. • Leak detection and water main repair. • GIS mapping of system and Tribal land. • Cross-connection assessment. • Secured safety of storage tank (locking faucets, bibs) and • Bundled Small Communities Drought Relief proposal to DWR for security fencing

Humboldt Area Foundation/Wild Rivers Community Foundation (HAF/WRCF) Needs Assessment and Capacity Enhancement

(Link to full report: [A Strategy for Enhancing Long Term Capacity in Tribal and Rural Fire Agencies in the North Coast Region](#))

In November 2021, HAF/WRCF provided a grant to NCRP for the Fire Response Capacity Project. The objectives for this grant were to support strengthening the long-term sustainability of fire response programs of area Tribes and very rural fire departments and protection districts. The first phase of the project consisted of an assessment of regional Tribal and rural fire department needs. The second phase of the project consisted of the provision of direct capacity assistance, in the form of direct assistance for equipment and training and development of detailed Capacity Enhancement Plans for the Tribal fire response entities in the HAF region who has participated in the assessment. This project is a pilot effort in NCRP's larger Regional Capacity Enhancement Strategy and allows NCRP to evaluate this effort in a subset of Tribal areas and counties in the NCRP region and refine it prior to expansion to the remainder of the NCRP region. Project outcomes include a greater understanding of regional capacity needs and increased capacity in this subset of community fire protection entities. Goals for capacity enhancement include supporting greater financial stability and sustainability, strengthening organizational structure (which may include recruitment and retention, management systems, certifications, or other operational improvements), strengthening the regional fire response system by addressing key vulnerabilities, and establishing or further enhancing partnerships among entities in the region. These outcomes and goals reflect the objectives, principles, and intentions of both HAF/WRCF and NCRP, which include enhancing capacity in DACs and underrepresented communities to ensure that they can achieve community wildfire resilience.

NCRP Staff team and consultants performed a detailed needs assessment of Tribal communities, small rural fire departments, and fire protection districts in the region with a focus on those in the HAF/WRCF region (Humboldt, Trinity, and Del Norte counties) during mid 2022 through early 2023. For this assessment, 123 community fire response and resilience entities serving small rural and/or Tribal communities across the North Coast region were identified. Of these, **70 were contacted** and **32 entities were subsequently interviewed** between July 2022 and April 2023. **Seven of the interviewees (22%) were Tribes or Tribally chartered departments**, others included Tribal communities as part of their service areas and/or partnered with Tribes. The NCRP Tribal Engagement Team and other NCRP staff and consultants participated in the interviews with Tribes and Tribal entities.

Fire Response Entities Interviewed

- American Red Cross: Trinity, Del Norte, Humboldt Counties
- Siskiyou PBA (Siskiyou County)
- Seiad Valley Fire Department (Siskiyou County)
- Hornbrook FPD (Siskiyou County)
- Del Norte County Fire Safe Council (Del Norte County)
- Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation (Tribal North District)
- Yurok Fire Department (Tribal North District)
- Pit River Tribe (Tribal North District)
- Coffee Creek VFD (Trinity County)
- Hayfork VFD (Trinity County)
- Salyer VFD (Trinity County)
- Southern Trinity VFD (Trinity County)
- Post Mountain VFD (Trinity County)
- Trinity Center VFD (Trinity County)
- Trinity County OES (Trinity County)
- Tsnungwe Tribe (Tribal Central District)
- Hoopa Fire Department (Tribal Central District)
- Hoopa Fire & Rescue (Tribal Central District)
- Willow Creek VFD (Humboldt County)
- Briceland VFD (Humboldt County)

- Orleans VFD (Humboldt County)
- Orick CSD (Humboldt County)
- Lower Trinity PBA (Humboldt County)
- Southern Humboldt Fire Chief’s Association (Humboldt County)
- Round Valley Indian Tribes (Tribal Central District)
- Mendocino County Fire Safe Council (Mendocino County)
- Leggett Valley Fire Department (Mendocino County)
- Whale Gulch VFC (Mendocino County)
- Mendocino Fire Chief’s Association (Mendocino County)
- Bell Springs VFD (Mendocino County)
- Timber Cove FPD (Sonoma County)
- Northern Sonoma Coast FPD (Sonoma County)

HAF Implementation Pilot Projects

In addition to funding the regional assessments, HAF/WRCF provided NCRP with \$300,000 to implement capacity support for a subset of the interviewees. This funding was designed to test the approach for providing enhanced capacity support throughout the region. With RFFC funding to administer the program, NCRP devoted 100% of this funding to the recipients. The NCRP staff team – with guidance from HAF and the RFFC Ad Hoc - allocate 100% of this funding to the eligible (i.e., in the HAF/WRCF region) Tribal entities that had participated in the interviews. For the five pilot projects, recipients were invited to choose how they would prefer to receive the \$60,000 of support allocated to them, with equipment support capped at \$15,000 and training support capped at \$20,000. All recipients chose to receive planning support, in different amounts, as shown below.

HAF/WRCF Sub-grantee Allocations - Direct Support & Planning Support

Sub-grantee	Direct Support via contract with Humboldt County	Planning Support via NCRP Technical Consultants	Total Support
Tolowa De-ni’ Nation	\$15,000 equipment \$10,000 training	\$35,000	\$60,000
Yurok Fire Department	\$15,000 equipment \$20,000 training	\$25,000	\$60,000
Tsungwe Tribe	n/a	\$60,000	\$60,000
Hoopa Fire Department	\$15,000 equipment \$20,000 training	\$25,000	\$60,000
Hoopa Fire & Rescue	\$15,000 equipment \$20,000 training	\$25,000	\$60,000
Totals	\$130,000	\$170,000	\$300,000

NCRP STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

- NCRP staff team to continue to work collaboratively on detailed work planning and budgeting for Round Two of the RFFC funding award, with guidance and decisions as needed from the NCRP Executive Committee and RFFC Ad Hoc.*
- NCRP staff team to continue to work collaboratively with guidance from the RFFC Ad Hoc to deploy the regional capacity assessment between now and October 1, 2024, with CIEA leading the Tribal assessment and WCW leading non-Tribal assessments – both using the same assessment tool and*

reporting on the same information. This assessment will inform the continued development of the NCRP Capacity Enhancement Strategy.

- c) NCRP staff team to continue to work collaboratively to identify opportunities for enhancement to capacity investment processes and actions in the interim period prior to the adoption of the NCRP Regional Capacity Enhancement Strategy. Request guidance and decisions from the NCRP Executive Committee and RFFC Ad Hoc as needed.
- d) Share the results from the regional capacity assessment at the October 2024 NCRP, Leadership Council to provide guidance and direction on priorities from this regional capacity assessment.
- e) Work with the RFFC Ad Hoc and Executive Committee to prioritize strategies and priorities based on the assessment results and continue to refine the Regional Capacity Enhancement Strategy.

XI CONSENT ITEMS: SLATE OF NCRP STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

A. NCRP HANDBOOK – UPDATE & APPROVAL

The [NCRP Policies and Procedures Handbook](#) (Handbook) documents the direction, guidance and decisions of the NCRP Leadership Council since its inception in 2005. The Handbook includes information on the various roles of NCRP bodies (eg, Leadership Council, Technical Peer Review Committee, ad hoc committees), as well as the roles of the NCRP staff team (currently comprised of representatives from Humboldt County, Sonoma Water, California Indian Environmental Alliance, and West Coast Watershed). The Handbook serves to:

- Document NCRP mission, goals, objectives and principles, as well as detailed information about how the NCRP works in a manner that is transparent to all partners and the general public;
- Demonstrate to funding partners that NCRP has fair, equitable and objective criteria and transparent processes for prioritizing its activities and allocating partner funding;
- Provide helpful background information to new Leadership Council, Technical Peer Review Committee and staff team members during the orientation and onboarding process;
- Support the NCRP Staff team in carrying out the direction of the NCRP Leadership Council in an efficient and effective manner

The NCRP Handbook is an adaptive document, and has been revised multiple times over the life of the NCRP, based on lessons learned and new information. The NCRP Executive Committee and TPRC Co-Chairs have committed to more regular strategy meetings with the NCRP Staff Team to address key challenges and opportunities, and these meetings will serve as an opportunity to make proposed updates to the NCRP Handbook for consideration by the full NCRP Leadership Council during quarterly meetings. In addition to the updates proposed below, the NCRP Executive Committee and TPRC Co-chairs will be meeting with NCRP staff during the summer of 2024 to evaluate and recommend updates to the NCRP Handbook.

A. 1. PROPOSED NEAR TERM UPDATES

NCRP STAFF RECOMMENDATION: To enable on-going and real-time updates to the Handbook, for informational elements that change often, but do not need to receive formal approval by the LC during

quarterly meetings; staff recommends making the following sections and appendices into hyperlinked webpages that can be changed as needed:

1. [Funding Awards](#)
2. [Leadership Council, TPRC and Ad Hoc members](#)
3. [NCRP Leadership Council Decision Making Records](#) (formerly Handbook Appendix A)
4. [Website Links](#) (formerly Handbook Appendix B)
5. [NCRP Projects](#) (formerly Handbook Appendix D)
6. [MOMU Signatories List](#) (formerly Handbook Appendix E)
7. [Tribal Representation Process & North Coast Tribes List](#) (formerly Handbook Appendix F)

A. 2. NCRP GRANTS AND CONTRACTS ADMIN ALLOCATION

During 2006-2018, 5% of each grant award was allocated to the County of Humboldt for the costs of grant administration. During the April 2018 NCRP meeting the Leadership Council authorized an allocation of up to 6% for grant administration for the Proposition 1 implementation project grant funding.

NCRP STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Allocate up to 6% to cover County of Humboldt costs for grant administration/project management for all NCRP grants or contracts.

A. 3. NCRP PROJECT BUDGET UNDER-RUNS AND FUNDING REALLOCATION PROCESS

A TPRC Ad Hoc Committee was formed in December 2023, to reallocate funding under the NCRP Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief Grant which was presented to and approved by the LC during the January Quarterly Meeting. The LC also directed the TPRC Ad Hoc to debrief the reallocation process and make recommendations for process and policy improvements to be reviewed by the LC during the April Quarterly Meeting. The TPRC Ad Hoc committee met on March 12 and April 16 and developed edits to the NCRP budget reallocation policy found in the Meeting Materials *Appendix C*. **New language in orange** and removed language indicated by ~~strikeouts~~.

TPRC AD HOC RECOMMENDATION: Approve the Updated NCRP Budget Re-allocation Policy outlined in Appendix C.

A. 4. NCRP PROJECT REVIEW & SELECTION PROCESS GUIDELINES

The NCRP has regularly refined its project identification, evaluation, prioritization and selection process to ensure a credible, fair and transparent approach to project development and implementation. Building on the Adaptive Planning and Prioritization Process outlined in the NCRP's Vision for North Coast Resilience, as well lessons learned from past NCRP project development and implementation efforts, the NCRP staff team is proposing various updates to the NCRP Project Review & Selection Process Guidelines.

NCRP STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approve the updated NCRP Project Review & Selection Process Guidelines outlined in Appendix D.

A. 5. NCRP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE POLICY

The NCRP has multiple initiatives focused on enhancing capacity in the North Coast region, as described in detail in agenda item X, above. The NCRP staff team expects to bring a comprehensive draft NCRP Regional Capacity Enhancement Strategy to the Leadership Council for consideration in October 2024. In the interim, NCRP staff are recommending policy and protocol updates that will apply to current activities,

with the assumption that these policies, and protocols will be considered for inclusion in the comprehensive NCRP Regional Capacity Enhancement Strategy.

NCRP STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approve the NCRP Technical Assistance Policy outlined in Appendix E, and evaluate its application and effectiveness for consideration as part of the NCRP Regional Capacity Enhancement Strategy that will be considered by the NCRP Leadership Council in October, 2024.

B. LEADERSHIP COUNCIL & STAFF VISITS TO SACRAMENTO

NCRP Leadership Council members, TPRC co-chairs, and staff have historically visited with elected officials and agency representatives in Sacramento to share NCRP accomplishments, priorities and requests. This practice was on hold during COVID and it has been suggested that NCRP resume this practice.

NCRP STAFF RECOMMENDATION: NCRP staff set up visits to Sacramento, work with the Executive Committee on timing to ensure their attendance if desired, poll the full Leadership Council and TPRC Co-Chairs to determine interest in participating, and coordinate visits accordingly.

C. RECORDING MEETINGS AND SHARING VIA WEBSITE

NCRP has received several requests from agency and other partners to record its meetings and post them on the website.

NCRP STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Beginning with the next NCRP meeting, record the NCRP quarterly meeting and place the recording on the NCRP website.

D. GRANTS & FUNDING

NCRP STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Authorize NCRP staff team to move forward on grant applications, grant agreement execution, and detailed work planning for the following grants, and authorize the NCRP Executive Committee (with TPRC Co-Chair consultation) to make decisions on criteria for project evaluation and selection.

1. OPR Climate Grant (awarded, detailed work planning with NCRP staff team pending)
2. SCC lidar grant (awarded, detailed work planning with NCRP staff team pending)
3. SWRCB (awarded, detailed work planning with NCRP staff team pending)
4. Application Due in July 2024: NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (\$25 million for implementation; staff team to develop grant application)
5. Rolling Application: SB 1 Regional Sea Level Rise Planning – CA Ocean Protection Council
6. NASA tree mortality partnership with SSU (no direct funding to NCRP: input, advising, updates to Leadership Council)

XII 2024 QUARTERLY MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS (IN PERSON)

- July 19, 2024 (Yreka) – Executive Committee proposes cancelling and replacing with Executive Committee meetings focused on NCRP Handbook
- October 18, 2024 (Del Norte)
- January 2025 in Sonoma County

XIII UPDATES

A. REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR & PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Overview: The County of Humboldt acts as the Regional Applicant and Regional Manager of grant funds on behalf of the NCRP. The Humboldt Regional Administrator Team (Admin Team) continues to collaborate with funders, NCRP consultants, and local project sponsors (LPS) to ensure quality grant deliverables and timely reimbursement payments. Members of the Admin Team are available to discuss suggestions or concerns regarding their work on behalf of the NCRP; see contact list below.

ACTIVE IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

Grant Name	Grant Award Amount	Grant Award Spent/Invoiced	Funding Agency	Timeline	
				Grant Agreement	Completion
Prop 1 Round 1	\$14,084,537	\$10,049,533	DWR	April 2020	June 2025
Urban/Multi-benefit Drought Relief: Implementation	\$7,907,271	\$2,686,418	DWR	March 2022	April 2026
Urban/Multi-benefit Drought Relief: Planning	\$685,485	\$342,743	DWR	June 2022	Aug 2025
Prop 1 Round 2	\$7,115,463	\$2,441,342	DWR	Nov 2023	March 2028
Regional Forest Health Pilot	\$10,000,000	\$0.00	CAL FIRE	Dec 2023	March 2029

Proposition 1 Round 1: The LPS are gearing up for the construction season, after being demobilized for the winter season. Nine of the twenty projects have completed construction activities. Four LPS have closed out their grants, and five LPS are working on Project Completion Reports to close out their grants. Out of the eleven remaining projects, ten have begun construction activities. An amendment to the grant agreement was recently approved, reallocating \$ 15,239.82 of cost savings from the City of Ferndale’s completed California Street Sewer Replacement Project to the Blue Lake Rancheria’s Water Storage Project to help cover increased construction costs. The Admin Team continues to provide grant agreement administration support and coordinate with the LPS and DWR to secure approval for construction activities, invoice payments, and advance payment accountability reporting.

Proposition 1 Round 2: The Admin Team is actively working to finalize the Sub-grant agreements with six LPS. An advanced payment request was approved by DWR on March 19, 2024 for 6 LPS totaling \$1,817,090.50. The first reimbursement invoice has been submitted to DWR and the LPS are moving forward to begin the projects. Two LPS have submitted the materials required to secure approval for construction and one project has already completed construction and is working on the Project Completion Report to close out the grant. The Admin Team is providing orientations to the LPS and is actively providing grant agreement administration support.

Urban & Multibenefit Drought Relief Grants: The LPS continue to make progress on the planning and implementation projects included in the two associated grant agreements. Nine out of the fifteen LPS that received implementation funding have completed CEQA and designs for their projects and have been cleared to commence construction activities. All nine of these LPS subsequently initiated construction activities. Two LPS have completed the construction implementation, one has closed out and one is working on the Project Completion Report to close out their grant. At the January 19, 2024, NCRP Quarterly meeting, the Leadership Council approved the reallocation of funds from one project that was in need of scaling back the scope of work. Approximately \$1 million of the grant funds were reallocated to five LPS in need of additional funds to offset increased project costs. The Admin Team worked with the LPS to submit a grant agreement amendment request to DWR, which is currently under review. Once a grant agreement amendment is approved by DWR and fully executed, the associated subgrantee agreements will be amended accordingly. The Admin Team continues to provide grant agreement administration support and coordinate with all LPS and DWR to secure approval for construction activities, invoice payments, and advance payment accountability reporting.

Regional Forest Health Pilot: CAL FIRE awarded the NCRP a \$10 million grant to implement the Regional Forest Health Pilot and a grant agreement was executed in December of 2023. This program was developed in collaboration with the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force (Task Force) and designed to be one of the implementing engines, furthering the goals of the California Department of Conservation’s (DOC) Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) Program (see more about the associated RFFC planning grant below). The NCRP Regional Forest Health Pilot will be a testbed intended to result in a regional, landscape scale portfolio of projects that implement the goals of the CAL FIRE Forest Health Program. It will be used to evaluate opportunities to connect CAL FIRE’s Forest Health program with the priorities outlined in the NCRP’s [Regional Priority Plan](#) funded by the RFFC Program. In collaboration with NCRP, CAL FIRE, and Task Force staff, the Admin Team developed a detailed scope of work and budget and executed a grant agreement for these funds in late December 2023. The Admin Team has reviewed and incorporated CAL FIRE Forest Health Regional Grant Pilot guidelines into subgrantee agreement templates and assisted with the development of associated NCRP project solicitation materials. With these tasks completed, the Admin Team is ready to begin administering subgrantee agreements for implementation projects as soon as a NCRP project solicitation process results in a suite of eligible subprojects. The Team is also assisting with the development of a request for qualifications/proposals to secure consultant services to assist with meeting the environmental compliance requirements of this program.

ACTIVE PLANNING GRANTS

Grant Name	Grant Award Amount	Funding Agency	Timeline	
			Grant Agreement	Completion
Regional Forest and Fire Capacity - Round 1	\$4,037,500	Natural Resources Agency/Department of Conservation	May 2019	March 2025
Regional Forest and Fire Capacity - Round 2	\$13,560,000	Department of Conservation	November 2021	December 2027

Fire Response Capacity Project	\$400,000	Humboldt Area Foundation & Wild Rivers Community Foundation	November 2021	Nov 2023 (with ongoing elements)
Woody Feedstock Aggregation Pilot Project	\$700,000	Governor's Office of Planning and Research	February 2022	March 2025
Actionable Lidar-Based Data for Wildfire Prevention Planning, Response, and Rehabilitation on California's North Coast	\$123,656	National Aeronautics and Space Administration	Oct 2022	Oct 2024
Riparian Corridor Regional Work Plan	\$45,000	Resources Legacy Fund	August 2022	Dec 2024

Tribal Engagement & Economic Opportunity for Disadvantaged Communities or “DACTI”: This project is complete. The Admin Team is working on the last details of the Final Report and once that is submitted and approved by the Department of Water Resources, the retention payment will be released.

Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) Program Block Grants: The Admin Team continues to work toward the goals of the RFFC Program in close coordination with WCW and CIEA, with County staff providing grant agreement administration and project management support. The California Department of Conservation (DOC) and the Natural Resources Agency (NRA) continue to provide program guidance as the RFFC Program unfolds.

The Admin Team continues to administer the two associated RFFC grant agreements, manage consultant professional services agreements, and complete tasks related to other funds leveraged through the RFFC program. This program aims to support the rapid increase of wildfire, forest, and community resiliency projects through refining and implementing NCRP’s [Regional Priority Plan](#), supporting the enhanced capacity of regional partners, and developing a substantial suite of priority projects ready for implementation. A one-year term extension request was approved for the Round 1 RFFC Grant Agreement. The extension will allow the Admin Team to ensure that all project objectives are achieved.

Fire Response Capacity Project: This grant was awarded by the Humboldt Area Foundation and Wild Rivers Community Foundation to support a pilot project intended to strengthen the long-term sustainability of Tribal and very rural fire response programs, through capacity building. All funds under the award have been received and allocated to support project objectives through October 2024. A phase one Final Report was delivered in November 2023 – “A Strategy for Enhancing Long Term Capacity in Tribal and Rural fire Agencies in the North Coast Region”. The second phase of the project includes direct capacity assistance, in the form of direct grants for equipment and training and technical assistance for the development of detailed Capacity Enhancement Plans and some grant writing support. Subgrantee agreements were fully executed with the Hoopa Valley Tribe for the Hoopa Fire Department and Hoopa Fire and Rescue; the Yurok Tribe for the Yurok Fire Department; and the Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation to support their fire program. The Admin Team is now administering those agreements and providing support to the subgrantees as needed.

Woody Feedstock Aggregation Pilot Project: The County of Humboldt, on behalf of the NCRP, was selected as one of five public agencies to lead pilot projects to develop and provide regional strategies to improve feedstock supply chain logistics in order to produce community fire resilience benefits. The Admin Team has been working closely with other core NCRP Staff as well as partners with the Trinity County Watershed Research and Training

Center. Three subgrantee agreements were drafted and executed with local project sponsors to support the Mendocino Reciprocity Cooperative, Dinsmore, and Sonoma County Woody Feedstock pilot projects. The Admin Team is now administering those agreements and providing support to the subgrantees as needed.

Riparian Corridor Regional Work Plan: This funding, provided by the Resources Legacy Fund, is supporting the development of a detailed scope of work to share with funders for the creation of an aquatic ecosystem and working lands conservation plan for the North Coast Region. Progress on this project hinges on completing the USGS Lidar data acquisition process described below.

Actionable Lidar-Based Data for Wildfire Prevention Planning, Response, and Rehabilitation on California’s North Coast: The “Filling the gaps in lidar data for Northern California” project is supporting the acquisition and processing of lidar data by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) provided funding to support the “Actionable Lidar-Based Data for Wildfire Prevention Planning, Response, and Rehabilitation on California’s North Coast Project”. The Project will process the lidar data collected by the USGS to create a unified point cloud and derived products to support wildfire planning, response, and recovery for the North Coast Region. The Admin Team continues to administer the grant agreement with NASA as well as the associated professional services agreement with the implementing consultant team. Progress on this project hinges on completing the USGS Lidar data acquisition process described above.

ADMIN TEAM CONTACTS		
Name	Contact Information	NCRP Admin Role
Hank Seemann, Deputy Director	hseemann@co.humboldt.ca.us	Program Oversight
Cybelle Immitt, Natural Resources Planning Manager	cimmitt@co.humboldt.ca.us	Regional Administration Team Management and Program Oversight
Denise Monday, Senior Environmental Analyst	dmonday@co.humboldt.ca.us	Lead Admin for IRWM Prop. 1 and Urban & Multi-benefit Drought Relief
Julia Cavalli, Senior Environmental Analyst	jcavalli1@co.humboldt.ca.us	Lead Admin for DACTI and RFFC planning grants and associated demo projects (including leveraged multi-benefit grant agreements)
Lauren Rowan, Environmental Analyst	lrowan@co.humboldt.ca.us	Lead Admin for Prop. 84 Final Round and admin support for Prop 1 and NCRP planning grants

B. CAL FIRE FOREST HEALTH PILOT UPDATE

CAL FIRE has awarded the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) a Forest Health Grant in the amount of \$10 million. The grant is a pilot or test bed intended to result in a regional, landscape scale portfolio of projects that implement the goals of the CAL FIRE Forest Health Program, as well as evaluate opportunities to connect CAL FIRE’s Forest Health program with the priorities outlined in the [Vision for North Coast Resilience](#) funded by the California Department of Conservation’s Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) Program. Additionally, the Pilot is intended to evaluate opportunities for NCRP to partner with CAL FIRE to prioritize and implement an array of forest health projects in the North Coast Region using the regional grant model as a way to achieve the goals of California’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, including

its ambitious Million Acre Strategy for Wildfire and Forest Resilience. For this Pilot, NCRP is identifying and prioritizing projects in the CAL FIRE Forest Health Categories listed below:

- Forest fuels reduction
- Cultural fire
- Prescribed fire
- Pest management
- Reforestation
- Biomass utilization

The NCRP Technical Assistance solicitation for CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Projects was first announced in September of 2023 and proposals will be made available through June 1, 2024. Project development technical assistance is provided via contracts with TA providers.

The NCRP developed a [NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Regional Assessment](#) to prioritize forest health project areas, per CAL FIRE Forest Health categories. This regional assessment and its corresponding maps are intended to act as a screening tool to support the objective filtering and stratifying of the landscape through the lens of CAL FIRE Forest Health priorities in the North Coast Region, as well as provide background information for the development of projects by partners in the Region. These assessments and story map were reviewed by the NCRP RFFC Ad Hoc committee, CAL FIRE, CA Department of Conservation, the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force. An online workshop was held on February 22, 2024 with the assessment developers Tukman Geospatial, NCRP and partners to review and discuss parameters for the assessment (for more information, please see a [recording of the workshop](#)). Questions and feedback were provided and responses will be posted to the NCRP website soon.

A draft version of the NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Implementation Project Review & Selection Process Guidelines and draft application materials were first reviewed by the RFFC Ad Hoc Committee and TPRC Co-chairs during the December 20, 2023 Ad Hoc meeting and by the Leadership Council during the January 2024 Quarterly meeting. Multiple rounds of review have occurred with the staff team and CAL FIRE. The RFFC Ad Hoc Committee and TPRC Co-chairs reviewed a final version during the RFFC Ad Hoc meeting on April 8. The solicitation is expected to be announced on April 24th.

C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, LEADERSHIP COUNCIL DIRECTION AND STAFF ACTION

- Letter of support for Jacoby Land Trust, March 2024



APPENDIX A

NCRP REGIONAL ILLEGAL CANNABIS STRATEGY OUTLINE



Working Draft

North Coast Resource Partnership Cannabis Strategy

Intent/Applications of this document:

- a) Develop alignment and consensus with NCRP Leadership Council on NCRP strategies, policies, protocols and actions related to illegal cannabis in the North Coast
- b) Support input and refinement of this draft from NCRP TPRC, staff team, technical experts, and other partners in the North Coast region
- c) Share priorities with funders to create support for priority NCRP investments in this focus area
- d) Provide clear direction to NCRP staff in pursuing funding and allocating resources to this focus area
- e) Adaptively update this document as new information is available or new decisions are made by the Leadership Council

Draft Outline

- 1) Purpose of this Document
- 2) NCRP Background and Overview
- 3) North Coast Region
- 4) NCRP Vision for North Coast Resilience: Strategy Areas re:
- 5) Cannabis in the North Coast
 - a) Legal Cannabis
 - i) History
 - ii) current state
 - (1) challenges with enforcement (especially economically challenged Tribes and counties)
 - iii) potential future state
 - iv) Impacts of legal cannabis
 - b) Illegal Cannabis
 - i) History
 - ii) Current state
 - iii) Impacts
 - (1) Water quality
 - (2) Water quantity
 - (3) Cultural and historical Sites
 - (4) Biodiversity, habitat and ecosystem impacts
 - (5) Landscape modification and erosion
 - (6) Wildfire impacts
 - (7) Community health and safety
 - (8) Economic impacts
- 6) NCRP Focus Areas
 - a) Illegal (and legal) Cannabis Environmental, Cultural & Community Impacts (main focus)

Commented [KG1]: NCRP is not opposed to legal cannabis, it is the impacts associated with it: water quality impacts, chemicals, human community impacts like trafficking, etc. Boom and bust cycle is not helpful for local communities. NCRP needs to strongly make the distinction between legal and illegal, and that NCRP strategy is mostly focused on illegal.

Commented [KG2]: Which counties currently have legal vs illegal; what are the implications of this – ie, Siskiyou county that does not have legal grows, cannot access Prop 64 funds, yet illegal grows are very prominent and out in the open

Commented [KG3]: List same impacts for both – water quality, cultural sites – same for both (except maybe not safety as the same for both)

Commented [KG4]: Need to acknowledge sensitivity of mapping out cultural sites (and laws related to this).NCRP needs to recognize community cultures and historic cultures – Supervisor Carpenter-Harris “not all things that are legal are just”. Needs to be values driven; Javier: concern re: cultural sensitivities related to legal grows – permitting process in Mendocino County allows permittee to address cultural resources. Sherri: NCRP could include advocacy and an element in the Cannabis strategy document. Perhaps CIEA can convene tribal representatives to discuss this more broadly and to determine how to represent this in the strategy document.

Commented [KG5]: Siskiyou county example: Subdivisions in rural counties that are deeply impacted and do not have the funds to clean up, thereby having a major economic impact of cleanup. Javier: tribes are facing significant economic impacts related to cleanup as well as environmental impacts described above. Due to boom and bust nature of the industry, lots of illegal growers do not have the financial capacity to remediate. Dilemma – how to ensure that if public funding is going to support remediation, then there needs to be XX years of monitoring to ensure that illegal grow impacts do not take place again (eg, no gift of public funds). Carpenter- Harris: FSC – impacts on wildfire resilience of illegal cannabis. Counties are also financially impacted by need to deal with environmental cleanup. How does NCRP want to characterize this or address it? In Siskiyou county, the reduced fine to the current property owner translates to the new property owner who has to maintain the property free of illegal cultivation and impacts from illegal cannabis. Siskiyou charges per day per violation: \$5K, in Humboldt it is \$10K; Trinity County \$1K per day per violation and can negotiate down to 50%. There is a disincentive after a certain threshold of fines (eg, once it goes above XX, people may just walk away and abandon the property. Trinity county does not take over any abandoned illegal grow properties. The abandoned illegal grow properties are the worst in terms of ongoing damage to cultural sites (village sites, etc) and environmental impact. What are the options? What can NCRP advocate for here? These properties are a “hot potato” due to liability for counties. Tribes are different – lands are owned by Tribes, not deeded to individuals in many cases. Allotments are also a nuance that needs to be highlighted. PLT, every Tribe is different, no tax base. Sherri and Javier will update the outline to reflect this compl... [1]

- i) NCRP staff team and consultants perform regional assessment of illegal (and legal) cannabis impacts and priority list of cleanup and restoration projects
 - ii) NCRP seek and manage/coordinate funding for environmental cleanup (AB 195, WCB, etc) to implement the identified priorities
 - (1) Tribal Lands
 - (a) Approach and Partners
 - (b) NCRP Role?
 - (2) Public lands
 - (a) Approach and partners
 - (b) NCRP role?
 - (3) Private lands
 - (a) Approach and partners
 - (b) NCRP role?
 - b) Tribal & County Capacity
 - (1) NCRP seek and manage funds to support capacity in Tribal and county departments to enforce legal and illegal cannabis impacts and update land use policies and general plans
 - c) Policy Advocacy
 - (1) Advocate for more funding for North Coast Region
 - (2) Advocate for block grants to NCRP to prioritize and equitably distribute to regional partners (Tribes, counties, NGOs, RCDs) to carry out NCRP approved priorities
 - d) Education and Outreach
 - (1) NCRP and partners develop educational materials (print, web, other media, workshops, webinars, etc) on impacts of illegal cultivation and clean-up/restoration opportunities
 - (2) NCRP and partners identify key communities for translation of educational materials
- 7) Areas where NCRP is specifically NOT focusing
- a) Legal cannabis business development
 - b) Land use and general plan policy development
 - c) Supporting investments to private sector/illegal cultivators that result in ongoing environmental impacts
 - d) Enforcement for legal or illegal cultivation (ie, NCRP will not DO enforcement, will identify issues and problems related to enforcement, policies and funding related to enforcement, build capacity for economically challenged Tribes and counties) (break this out into what NCRP will do)
- 8) Work Plan and Schedule
- a) Assessment Phase
 - i) Regional landscape assessments (remote sensing, modeling, and lidar)
 - (1) AI technology developed by State (cannavision) – can NCRP have access? CDFW (per Criss). Nicole Cal Cannabis. NCRP staff team can look into this and work with experts/consultants. Per Criss, they will release it to law enforcement
 - (2) Javier/Michelle: NCRP needs to have a policy and approach to mapping - need to make sure that datasets are taking into account culturally sensitive areas (like lidar – shows culturally sensitive sites)
 - (3) How do we identify and document what is a legal or an illegal grow? There are sensitivities about this - especially when absentee (or deceased) landowners do not know there is a grow on their property.
 - (4) Evaluate Tribal regional and statewide plans and datasets
 - ii) Local knowledge: interviews of Tribes and counties, other key experts
 - b) Prioritized List of Sites, Projects & Initiatives
 - i) Regional maps of sites (addressing sensitivities outlined above)

Commented [KG6]: Sherri and Javier to flesh this out

Commented [KG7]: Criss: asset mapping of influential legislators (McGuire, Huffman); Javier/Sherri: Tribal asset mapping – DOJ meeting with Tribes to determine who would be important advocates for NCRP platform; Javier: there is a lot of diversity in the ways that Tribes view cannabis – note that this needs to be acknowledged in multiple sections. BIA is an important (yet limited) partner; Also National Parks, USFWS, etc. Sherri – importance of Tribal caucus to build consensus – this is role of CIEA for the NCRP and will inform this document.

Commented [KG8R7]: Education and outreach needs to address different levels of impacts from different aspects (like animal abandonment (Javier/Michelle))

Commented [KG9]: This could be informed by NCRP Data Strategy/ workshops

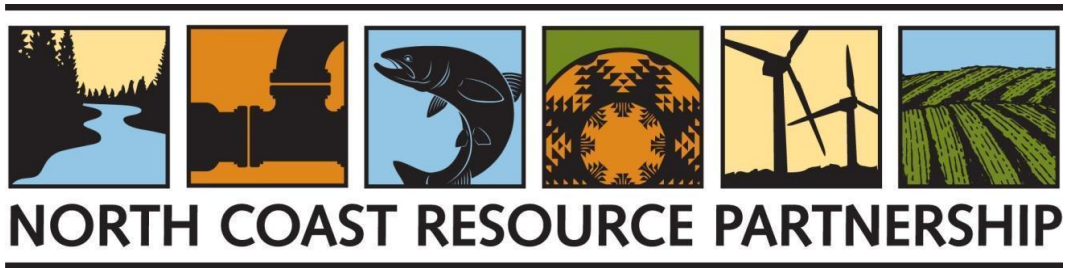
- ii) Costs per individual site for cleanup
- iii) Comprehensive (regional) funding needed for cleanup (rollup of all sites)
- iv) Capacity funding for Tribes/counties
- v) Policy Changes needed
- vi) Key partners
- c) Funding strategy for priority list of projects and initiatives
 - i) Existing funding
 - ii) Funding gaps and strategies for addressing gaps
 - iii) Key partners (electeds and agency partners)
- 9) Ongoing Adaptive Updates: NCRP Illegal Cannabis Strategy
- 10) Appendices
 - a) Miscellaneous information and plans from regional, state and national partners

ADDITIONAL NOTES TO INCLUDE IN THIS DOCUMENT:

- Add in concerns about hazardous materials and that many of these sites are meth labs (important to partner with US EPA, DTSE, CDFW) and groundwater
- Key partner agencies and funders: Department of Toxics Substance Control (Sherri)
- Criss – liability protections for Tribes and counties to take ownership and or do abatement; economic considerations. Properties are typically not worth enough to cover costs of clean up
- (Downey): many illegal grows in remote areas that are hard to access and clean up
- Downey – how do we identify sites that could go back on the market through a legal framework
- How do you allocate clean up resources to landowners without rewarding them for continuing illegal behavior or that it benefits them financially. How do you implement the enhancements when the illegal operator is still involved in land management (Carpenter-Harris and Criss)
- What are seizure options for counties and/or Tribes? Failure to pay taxes, how do you get the parcel back to being a tax paying landowner. Liens?
- Downey: can NCRP advocate for funding and/or policy changes to counties to be able to obtain these properties and clean them up?
- Criss: can state/fed/philanthropy help fill the gaps in Tribal/county funding to establish conservatorships and get properties back into taxpaying landowner hands
- There is fear on the part of legal growers when addressing illegal cannabis – concerns about being perceived in the same light or impacted by illegal grower activities
- NCRP should document its support for well -regulated legal grows, and and note that the organization’s focus is on the environmental impacts of illegal grows
- It is important to translate information into other languages (Hmong as an example) about good land stewardship practices for communities that may be operating on small parcels that are not likely to achieve legal status. There may be USDA funding to do this. Through education and outreach, NCRP needs to address the different cultural values that may be contributing to environmental damage from illegal cannabis cultivation.
- There was some discussion about impacts from legal cannabis, and what elements of legal cannabis this committee should focus on. It was noted that the cumulative impacts of legal cannabis may be as impactful as illegal grows. There was a recognition that NCRP is focusing on illegal cannabis, but it was noted that both have impacts on the North Coast environment. A recommendation that it is important that NCRP support following up enforcement of legal grows to ensure that they are staying within legal boundaries. In some cases, there are illegal chemicals being uses by legal grows.
- What (if any) stance NCRP should take on ensuring that legal grows are in compliance. Suggestions for NCRP role on legal cannabis included policy advocacy, education and outreach, and seeking

funding to support Tribes and counties in effectively regulating and monitoring legal grows and enforcing relevant laws and regulations. NCRP should advocate for avoiding the boom and bust cycle that is so damaging to North Coast lands and communities. Noted that in Trinity county there are 250 licensed grows, and over 5000 illegal grows. It was noted that changes in federal policy will significantly change the outcomes related to legal and illegal grows.

- NCRP stance on avoiding gifts of public funds (eg, funding for private landowners for cleanup of environmental damage, thereby increasing their land value, and how can policies and enforcement ensure these impacts are not repeated after cleanup is paid for with public funds?
- NCRP stance on legal vs illegal cannabis
- How can NCRP TA program be expanded to include NCRP priorities on cannabis?



APPENDIX B

DRAFT NCRP REGIONAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX B: DRAFT REGIONAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT: INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

(to be included as an appendix to the NCRP Regional Capacity Enhancement Strategy)

Updated 4/3/24

DRAFT (to be refined via meetings with the RFFC Ad Hoc and other partners)

BACKGROUND

THE NCRP staff team is recommending that NCRP capacity investments described in the NCRP Regional Capacity Enhancement Strategy be driven by an initial assessment that will be as consistent as possible across all entity types (eg, Tribes, counties, NGOs, RCDs, etc). NCRP staff are recommending that the assessment include all federally recognized and non-federally recognized Tribes as prioritized by NCRP Tribal representatives, as well as approximately 120 other North Coast entities, and that the assessment be completed by fall of 2024. This assessment is intended to be as quantitative as possible, including a combination of selection questions with narrative response follow-up. NCRP staff is considering using a tool such as Survey Monkey or ArcGIS123 to support interviewers in conducting the interviews, ensuring consistent categories of responses that can be “rolled up” across the region to document needs, and specific trends or patterns. Interview questions are expected to include broad general questions to be answered by all interviewees, with some additional detailed questions to be answered only by entities whose mission is relevant to the particular focus area (eg, fire response, habitat restoration).

Interviews should take no more than one hour, focused on base questions. If time permits, supplemental focus-based questions could be covered in that one-hour interview, or interviewees could be invited to participate in a follow-up interview.

Participant introduction: Thank you for participating in this regional capacity assessment. The goal of this effort is to develop a quantified understanding of regional capacity needs that can be used to leverage funding to fill these needs.

Following the assessment, a multi-step process will be used to address identified high-priority capacity needs. The first step will be the development of a program Capacity Enhancement Plan (CEP), which can build on existing organizational strategic plans or can be developed from scratch. Based on capacity needs identified in the CEP, additional support will be allocated, which may include technical assistance and/or direct support for identified needs such as personnel, training, equipment, infrastructure, etc. NCRP technical consultants can assist with the development of Capacity Enhancement Plans at no cost to the participant through NCRP funding from the RFFC program.

1. Please select your organization type - choose one option (pick list)
 - Federally Recognized Indian Tribe
 - Non Federally Recognized Tribe
 - Tribally chartered Fire Department
 - Federal Agency (unlikely to be assessed with this tool)
 - State Agency (unlikely to be assessed with this tool)
 - Local Agency (redundant/nonspecific if we want entity to choose most precise category)
 - Local Public Water Agency (is this not a public utility?)

- Public Utility
- Mutual Water Company
- Community Services District
- County
- City or Town
- Fire Protection District/Fire District
- Volunteer Fire Department
- Fire Safe Council
- Prescribed Burn Association
- Non-profit Organization
- Private (private what? check against eligibility)
- Regional Partnership
- Resource Conservation District
- Other

2. Please select your organization's mission/focus area(s) - choose all that apply (pick list) (*outcome/metric will be how many entities identify X as part of their mission*) [Note: The top-level focus area comes from the Project Categories in Project Tracker, which flow directly from the Vision Plan Strategies, so provide a regionally vetted structure, hence the effort to retain this at the top level and differentiate it using sub-categories.]

1. Capacity: Data, Analysis, Monitoring
2. Capacity: Regional and Local Planning
3. Capacity: Organizational Support and Funding
4. Capacity: Local Workforce
5. Capacity: Community Engagement
6. Fire Resilient Forests: Forest Health
 - 6.1. Wildland fire response
 - 6.2. Fuel management/vegetation management
 - 6.3. Cultural burn
 - 6.4. Prescribed fire
 - 6.5. Biomass
7. Community Health & Safety: Extreme Event Preparation/Response
 - 7.1. Community emergency/disaster preparation/education
 - 7.1.1. Home hardening/defensible space
 - 7.1.2. Land use planning
 - 7.1.3. Air quality
 - 7.2. Community emergency/disaster response
 - 7.2.1. Fire response
 - 7.2.2. Other emergency response (EMT, Hazmat, etc.?)
 - 7.3. Post-disaster community recovery (longer term, as opposed to direct response like fire response)
8. Community Health & Safety: Community Infrastructure
 - 8.1. Fire response infrastructure
 - 8.2. Water supply/water quality infrastructure

- 8.3. Other community infrastructure (i.e. roads, broadband, electrical, etc)
- 9. Ecosystem Conservation & Restoration: Watershed Enhancement
 - 9.1. Tribal knowledge-based ecocultural restoration
 - 9.2. Land acquisition/protection
 - 9.3. Ecosystem restoration (terrestrial/aquatic)
 - 9.3.1. Water/aquatic ecosystem focus
 - 9.3.2. Post-fire ecosystem restoration focus
 - 9.3.3. Habitat/species focus
 - 9.4. Restoration & Conservation planning
 - 9.5. Native plant restoration
- 10. Climate Action: Mitigation and Adaptation
 - 10.1. Emission reduction
 - 10.2. Carbon sequestration
 - 10.3. Adaptation planning/implementation
 - 10.4. Conservation (reduction of use of resources)

3. What communities does your entity serve? Please draw your boundary or submit a map of your area of influence / jurisdictional authority/tribal current land ownership. *Output: whether the entity serves a priority area; number of entities serving disadvantaged communities*

4. Do you have cooperative relationships, formal or informal, with neighboring organizations which share or add to your capacity, resources, capabilities, or responsibilities? *(Output: number of cooperative relationships; network map of cross-boundary collaborations)*

- If yes, please identify how many relationships you have of each type (and list the entities):
 - formal reciprocal agreement (MOU/MOA/JPA?)
 - informal collaboration on project development and implementation
 - Tribal, USFS, CAL Fire, StateParks, BLM, National Parks, City, County etc. shared stewardship agreements
 - other

5. As described in the introduction, the first phase of capacity support that NCRP will provide is the development of a Capacity Enhancement Plan that will identify and quantify the full range of organizational capacity needs. Does your organization have a current strategic plan, work plan, or action plan? *(Outputs: Number of entities with a strategic plan; number that would like assistance developing one. Qualitatively this will help determine the scope/scale of next step support, which would be CEP development)*

- If yes, please describe your plan including when it was prepared, the time frame it covers, any updates, etc. and its effectiveness in identifying organizational needs and next steps. May we have a copy?
- If no, would you like assistance to develop a strategic plan or enhance your existing plan?

6. Goals & Priorities: (open ended question, character limited)

- What are your organization's top three priorities in the short term (1-3 years)?
- What are your organization's top three priorities in the long term (4-10 years)?

7. Organizational Funding

- Does your organization have base funding (regular or ongoing stable annual funding) *(yes/no)*
 - If yes, how much?
 - If yes, current source, amounts, and duration? (ie, 20 year sales tax, permanent parcel tax allocation?)
 - If yes, what are the top three annual expenditures for which base funding is used?
- What level of long-term base funding would allow your entity to execute its responsibilities?
 - Minimum - the minimum, bare-bones level of funding needed to support existing core functions and operations ([pick list/range?](#))
 - Ideal - the level of base funding that would allow your entity to achieve its short and long term goals
- What is the ideal duration of base funding? ([pick list/range?](#))
- What is the annual percentage of funding received attributable to grants? ([pick list/range?](#))
- What is the ideal duration of grants that would support sustainable operations? ([pick list/range?](#))
- Do you have a grant writer?
 - If yes, employee, paid consultant, volunteer? (pick list)
 - If no, what form of grant development support would be most useful? employee, paid consultant, technical assistance for grant development, volunteer (pick list)

8. Personnel - How many active staff/members does your organization have for your programs? Of which types? (pick list/enter #)

- Full time - #
- Part Time - #
- Seasonal - #
- Volunteer - #
- Other (please describe) - #

9. What is the ideal staffing level that would support your organization's mission and goals? (pick list/enter #)

- Full time - #
- Part Time - #
- Seasonal - #
- Volunteer - #
- Other (please describe) - #

10. What training/certifications do your staff need in order to support your organization's mission and goals

- Please list type of training, frequency of training, and number of staff needing this training (open ended)
- What are the highest qualifications or certifications currently held within your program?

11. Challenges - Personnel & Staffing. Please indicate which of these are barriers or challenges in staffing your programs of your organization, and briefly describe the challenge. (pick list with optional character-limited field for description?)

- Recruitment
- Retention
- Training
- Funding
- Other (please describe)

12. Infrastructure - does your organization have adequate physical infrastructure (i.e. building, water/wastewater, communications, etc) to fulfill your mission and goals?

If no, please briefly describe your infrastructure needs (pick list with character-limited fields for description?)

- Buildings
- Water/wastewater
- Communications
- Other (please describe)

13. Equipment - what equipment does your entity need to fulfill its mission and goals? (Need to determine how to get at more detail - type and number - here? Categories will be quite different for different kinds of entities)

- Computers/software
- Communication equipment
- Gear for personnel (i.e. PPE)
- Small tools/equipment
- Large apparatus/equipment
- Vehicles
- Other (please describe)

14. Capacity needs - Please indicate the capacities your entity currently have and would like to develop:

Output: most common capacities that entities need, currently have and want to add or enhance.

CATEGORY	WE HAVE CAPACITY IN THIS AREA	WE WANT TO ADD OR ENHANCE CAPACITY IN THIS AREA	WE DO NOT NEED CAPACITY IN THIS AREA
Fire response			
Fuel/vegetation management			
Home Hardening/Defensible space/Maintenance			
Prescribed fire			
Cultural fire			
Ecosystem stewardship/restoration			
Post-Fire Recovery			

Project Planning & Management			
Grant development			
Administrative and Fiscal Management			
Permitting and Regulatory Compliance			
Community engagement/outreach			
Cross-boundary collaboration			
Trainings			
Other (please describe)			

15. Capacity Challenges - what are your biggest capacity challenges? Please rank the items you select and add additional items as needed

- Ability to receive/engage with capacity support (i.e. insurance, staff to work with consultants, etc.)
- Stable funding
- Staff recruitment/retention
- Volunteer recruitment/retention
- Training/certification
- Succession planning
- Administrative/financial management
- Infrastructure
- Equipment (develop picklist)
- Reporting/regulatory compliance
- Other (please describe)

16. Does your organization need technical assistance or additional support to fulfill its mission and goals? If yes, in which categories? *Output: Most common types of TA needed by entities*

- Staff/volunteer recruitment and retention
- Organizational/Strategic planning
- Administrative/Financial management
- Project design and planning
- Project Management
- Mapping and spatial analysis
- Grant/Funding development
- Permitting and regulatory compliance (e.g. CEQA/NEPA)
- Other (please describe)

17. Other barriers - are there other barriers to achieving your organization’s mission and goals that we have not asked about? Please describe. (open ended/character limited)

18. What other questions should we be asking that will help the NCRP understand regional and local capacity?

19. Is there anything else you wish to share?



APPENDIX C

NCRP PROJECT BUDGET UNDER-RUNS AND FUNDING REALLOCATION PROCESS POLICY

PROJECT BUDGET UNDER-RUNS AND FUNDING REALLOCATION PROCESS, 2021, 2024

Background: In some cases, a NCRP sub-grantee may complete their project under budget or otherwise not expend their entire grant allotment. Depending on the funding source, the reallocation of available funds to another project *within the existing suite of projects* approved by the LC may be allowed. Reallocation of funding may be necessary for a variety of reasons. Potential scenarios include: when a project is completed under-budget; or when a sub-grantee elects not to implement their approved project, or is determined to be substantially out of compliance with the sub-grantee agreement. Another potential scenario is the availability of excess funds from the grant administration budget category. In accordance with the terms of the master grant agreement, the NCRP may allow reallocation of funds to another project within ***the existing suite*** of approved projects to supplement budget short-falls and/or expand the current scope of work to increase the project benefits. Funds will not be reallocated to a project not included within the existing suite of projects. NCRP staff will have the discretion to determine if a portion of the reallocation is necessary to supplement the grant administration budget.

NCRP Project Funding Reallocation Process

1. For amounts less than \$50,000, NCRP staff will use discretion to reallocate the funds to an eligible project within the existing suite of projects with a priority for:
 - a. Supplementing budget shortfalls.
 - b. Supplementing a project that received less than their requested amount during the original selection process.
2. For amounts greater than \$50,000, project funding reallocation will occur, to the greatest extent feasible, within the County or Tribal region where the original project is located and is within *the existing suite* of projects approved by the LC. LC members from the County or Tribal region, where the original project is located, will determine which projects receive reallocation and the amount of funding.
 - a. If the original funds are from a non-Tribal project, they will be made available to another project (**Tribal or non-Tribal**) within the existing suite of projects in the county where the original project was located. The LC members (**Tribal and non-Tribal**) representing that County will determine which projects receive reallocation and the amount of funding.
 - b. If the original funds are from a Tribal project, the funds will be made available to another **Tribal** project within the existing suite of **Tribal** projects in the Tribal region where the original project was located. The Tribal LC members representing that Tribal region will determine which projects receive reallocation and the amount of funding.
3. If the County or Tribal region of origin option is not available (i.e., no projects from the County or Tribal region of origin within the project suite need additional funding):
 - a. Staff will announce the availability of funds to project proponents within the full suite of projects; staff will solicit project requests and description of need from eligible project proponents **using the list of questions listed below; staff will attempt to balance the**

requirements of the grant agreement and the need of project sponsors to develop the supplemental information when considering a due date for this information.

- b. Staff will determine eligible projects
- c. TPRC ad hoc committee will be formed via email or at NCRP meeting if timing allows
- d. Ad hoc committee will develop use the following criteria for project reallocation selection:
 - Alignment with original ranking and deliberations
 - Is there adequate technical and funding rationale for the supplemental request?
 - Completeness, quality of the information, and level of detail of supplemental submission
 - Based on the information provided is there a compelling need for additional funds?
 - Is the amount of requested funds reasonable for the nature of the work proposed?
- e. Ad hoc committee will develop project reallocation option recommendations considering the following direction:
 - Provide the minimum need before moving to max/larger amounts
 - Provide for existing project need before moving on to expanded need
- f. LC will review and approve recommendations at the next LC meeting
- g. TPRC ad hoc committee will be disbanded.

Questions for soliciting project requests and description of need from eligible project proponents:

- Budget Augmentation of Existing Approved Project
 - What is the minimum amount of funds that would meaningfully address your budget shortfall within the timeframe of the master grant agreement?
 - What is the maximum amount of funding that would meaningfully address your budget shortfall within the timeframe of the master grant agreement?
 - Within your original approved project work plan, where would you allocate the additional funds, if awarded?
 - How would the additional funding help you achieve the benefits you already committed to?
 - What is the technical and funding rationale for the supplemental request?
- Project Expansion
 - What is the minimum amount of funds that would meaningfully address your budget needs for an expanded project?
 - What is the maximum amount of funding that would meaningfully address your budget needs for an expanded project?
 - Please outline tasks needed for an expansion of your original approved project.
 - How will the additional funding help you achieve more benefits than you already committed to?
 - What is the technical and funding rationale for the project expansion request?



APPENDIX D

NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT REVIEW & SELECTION PROCESS GUIDELINES

APPENDIX D. NCRP PROJECT REVIEW & SELECTION PROCESS GUIDELINES

1. BACKGROUND

The North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) has an established project prioritization, evaluation, and selection process which is included in the [NCRP Policies and Procedures Handbook](#) and is regularly updated. It relies on objective regional-scale information (including biophysical and socio-economic data), local knowledge and expertise, as well as a diversity of criteria informed by partner and funder goals and objectives. NCRP's process for project evaluation and selection relies on an objective ranking and scoring process that is shared with project sponsors and the general public, and is conducted via multiple steps to ensure equity and transparency at each phase.

2. SOURCE FUNDING SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

The NCRP may be awarded grant or contract funding from state, federal or local agencies, and philanthropic organizations that include specific requirements and guidelines that allow for regional funding dissemination for targeted projects according to the funding program goals. Specific guidelines will be developed for each NCRP funding opportunity that aligns with the funders requirements, solicitation process and technical project selection criteria. These source funding specific guidelines will tier from and align with the NCRP Project Evaluation and Selection protocol and Leadership Council directed guidelines.

3. ADAPTIVE PLANNING AND PRIORITIZATION FRAMEWORK

Regional projects are identified via regional assessments, review of regional plans, interviews, solicitations, technical assistance, and projects uploaded into the [NCRP Project Tracker](#), that reflect the priorities of regional partners. NCRP's prioritization and selection of projects relies on an [Adaptive Planning and Prioritization Framework](#) (APPF) that uses the best available science and data – combined with local knowledge and expertise – to prioritize geographic areas for investment in the North Coast region and support project identification. The APPF includes processes that integrate regional assessments with local knowledge and expertise, combined with rigorous, equitable, and transparent evaluation and selection processes and performance reporting. This framework intentionally integrates and aligns with the goals and objectives of partner agencies and has processes in place to:

- a) Ensure that there is an equitable opportunity for all project sponsors to participate in regional, state, and federal funding opportunities, via competitive and publicly accessible Requests for Proposals
- b) Evaluate and rank projects via the NCRP Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) and a technical expert team where appropriate
- c) Ensure transparent and criteria-driven decision making by elected and appointed members of the NCRP Leadership Council, representing North Coast Tribes and counties
- d) Support project sponsors with technical assistance to ensure project readiness and ensure equitable access to NCRP investments
- e) Document all projects in a regional [NCRP Project Tracking](#) tool
- f) Report on performance for individual projects and the regional portfolio of projects

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE NCRP PROJECT EVALUATION ROLES

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Leadership Council (LC) is the governing and decision-making body for the NCRP. The composition of the LC and decision-making process is defined in the [NCRP Policies and Procedures Handbook](#). The role of the LC in the NCRP project review and selection process is to set policy, and establish the decision-making criteria and framework for the process and to ensure that the process is fair, open and transparent. As the NCRP's governing and decision-making body, the LC provides direction about how the project evaluation and selection process aligns with the NCRP priorities by defining project review and selection guidelines (*see LC Directed Guidelines for Project Scoring and Selection section*). Considering the review and recommendations from the Technical Peer Review Committee, the LC takes final action to approve all projects for the NCRP and approves the region's highest priority projects for grant submittals. As defined in the Handbook, the LC is subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act and is committed to transparency and inclusion, supporting input from partners throughout the region. All NCRP meetings are noticed in advance, open to the public, with opportunities for public comment on every agenda, and all meeting summaries and information are posted on the NCRP website.

TECHNICAL PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) is advisory to the LC and evaluates and makes recommendations based on technical expertise and scientific data. The composition of the TPRC includes appointees from the NCRP region's Tribes and counties, and is defined in the [NCRP Policies and Procedures Handbook](#). TPRC meetings adhere to the Ralph M. Brown Act. The TPRC is comprised of technical staff with expertise that includes fisheries, traditional ecological knowledge, ecology, engineering, geology, agriculture, climate change, forest health, watershed planning and management, water infrastructure and energy. The role of the TPRC in the project review and selection process is to evaluate projects for technical merit based on their professional judgment and expertise, as well as on guidelines developed by the LC and set by the funding solicitation. The TPRC prepares a draft suite of priority projects for review by the LC. Scoring criteria and evaluation summaries from the TPRC are available for public review. TPRC Co-Chairs facilitate the project review meetings to ensure integrity in the process and present the draft suite of priority projects to the LC during the NCRP meeting.

EXPERT TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS

Additional technical consultants may be retained to inform the technical review process on an as needed basis. External technical consultants will not advocate for any projects, nor will they score or rank projects. They may contribute to the TPRC review process in the following ways:

- Participate in the project review meetings to answer questions and provide objective expertise
- Provide objective written review comments

NCRP STAFF

The role of NCRP staff during the project application, review and selection process is to facilitate and coordinate. Staff develops and coordinates project application materials; performs outreach and makes information available to the LC, TPRC and stakeholders; clarifies outstanding issues; makes sure decisions are understood; maintains records; consolidates and summarizes TPRC review of project grant applications, and performs fact checking of state guidelines and criteria as necessary. Staff will not advocate for any projects. Per the direction

of the LC, staff will support project proponents in developing the application materials where timing allows and in accordance with the source funding proposal process and eligibility requirements. The NCRP staff team is defined in the [NCRP Policies and Procedures Handbook](#).

5. NCRP PROJECT APPLICATION, REVIEW & SELECTION PROCESS

The NCRP project application, review and selection process is multi-stepped:

a) NCRP Project Solicitation and Project Information

At the direction of the LC and when there is a funding opportunity, a call for proposals will be announced to North Coast partners. The LC will review and refine the LC directed guidelines and criteria for project scoring and selection based on NCRP goals and objectives, specific regional priorities and funding source requirements and preferences. Staff will develop and make available Project Solicitation application materials based on the NCRP priorities and the funding source solicitation and requirements. The project application materials will include an application, detailed instructions, and a clear description of scoring guidelines and evaluation criteria. Project applicants will provide application materials to NCRP staff via email or via the NCRP website. Microsoft Word and Excel files that make up the NCRP project application will be made available for reference, for application development and for submittal to NCRP staff. Staff will provide outreach, education and application support via workshops and informal meetings by phone, internet and in person.

b) Individual TPRC review of NCRP Project Applications

Staff will compile and provide application materials to the TPRC for review and scoring along with scoring/evaluation forms. This will include:

- A brief summary description of each project
- Technical reference section that includes a table of contents and is limited to 50 pages
- Solicitation FAQ regarding funding round specific requirements
- For projects that received technical assistance, a brief synopsis of the type of technical assistance provided, who provided it and the status of any future technical assistance to be provided by the NCRP or other Technical Assistance entity will also be included.

A TPRC project evaluation conference call meeting will be held prior to the TPRC project review period to discuss the general review process and go over scoring definitions to ensure calibration and clarity. When packaging the project application materials for the TPRC members, a system will be developed to randomize chronology of the project applications that TPRC members review so that project applications are reviewed in different order. The TPRC members will strive to individually review and score the NCRP project applications for technical merit based on criteria as defined by the funding solicitation, NCRP LC defined guidelines (see [LC Directed Guidelines for Project Scoring and Selection section](#)), and their professional expertise and judgment. TPRC members will review all projects referred to them unless they recuse themselves due to a potential conflict of interest (see the [NCRP Conflict of Interest section](#)). TPRC members will provide individual scores to staff for compilation. Time allowance for the individual TPRC review of project applications will be at least 2 weeks depending on the proposal solicitation timeframe. If two weeks is not available, the Executive Committee will determine the suitable duration to meet grant solicitation needs.

c) Group TPRC review of NCRP Project Applications

Staff will compile all individual scores submitted by TPRC members prior to the group TPRC review meeting to determine an initial average project score; these scores are meant to facilitate discussion and will be presented at the TPRC meeting. Adhering to a high standard of professional conduct, TPRC members and staff will meet to discuss each project and may adjust their individual scores based on the group discussion. To ensure a comprehensive project proposal review process, TPRC member attendance during the entire meeting is strongly encouraged, including in-person attendance during in-person meetings. It is recommended that all TPRC members bring laptops to the review session to ensure an efficient and thorough review and the NCRP will provide a laptop for use should a TPRC member not have one. Staff will compile all updated TPRC individual scores to determine an updated average project score. TPRC review meetings are open to project proponents and the public. The agenda at a formally noticed public meeting will include a thorough review of the NCRP Conflict of Interest Guidelines as well as time for comment from the public (*see Conflict of Interest and Public Input Guidelines sections below*). All meeting deliberations, project scores, applicant and public input, and recusals will be recorded.

d) TPRC Selection of Draft Suite of NCRP Priority Projects

During the project review meeting, the TPRC will select a draft suite of NCRP Priority Projects and draft budget amounts for each project. The selection will be based on a number of factors including: technical project scores; project scalability and potential funding allowance; the overall balance of projects based on the LC's defined guidelines for project selection (*see LC Directed Guidelines for Project Scoring and Selection section*); and the collective ability of the projects to meet NCRP goals and be competitive for the funding opportunity. A contingency list of projects will also be developed for consideration in the event that a selected project cannot move forward for inclusion into the regional application for any reason. To ensure an open and fair project selection process, only TPRC members who have reviewed all the project proposals (excepting project recusals), provided project review scores, and participated in the majority of the TPRC group discussions can be involved in the project selection process and deliberations. All meeting deliberations, public input, and Conflict of Interest recusals will be recorded in the meeting minutes.

e) LC Review, Consideration and Final Approval of the Suite of NCRP Priority Projects

The NCRP LC will convene an in-person quarterly meeting held within the North Coast boundary to present, review, and approve the final list of NCRP Priority Projects. During this quarterly, publicly noticed NCRP meeting, the TPRC will provide a summary of the project review process and present their recommended draft suite of NCRP Priority Projects and contingency project list. The LC will review, may amend, and will approve by majority vote a final suite of NCRP Priority Projects and contingency projects to forward to the funding entity. During the LC's review of the draft suite of NCRP Priority Projects, the TPRC will answer questions and provide information as requested by the LC. The LC – comprised of elected public officials and elected Tribal representatives – will make their final decision based on TPRC recommendations, NCRP staff advice, LC guidelines, and other factors that they believe represent the best interest of the North Coast region. The NCRP Priority Projects list will be posted to the website and made available to the public. Project review scores and review meeting materials will be made available to the project proponents and to the general public, upon request.

f) **NCRP Priority Project Application Materials for Regional Proposal**

Depending on the source funding solicitation, NCRP Priority Project proponents will be asked to provide additional project information that may include, but not be limited to, supplemental information related to funding source requirements and technical documentation that support the project. The timeframe to submit this additional information may be very short for expedited funding solicitations. In the event that sufficient additional information for a project cannot be provided within the requested timeframe, that project may not be able to be included in the regional application and another project may instead be selected from the contingency list. Where feasible, NCRP staff will provide technical assistance to project sponsors who require it.

Once the regional application has been approved and selected for funding, individual project sponsors will enter into an agreement with Humboldt County, the NCRP regional grant administrator, to implement each project. It is imperative that an agreement between a project proponent and the NCRP regional grant administrator be executed in a timely fashion.

6. GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC INPUT AND PROJECT SPONSOR INPUT DURING THE PROJECT REVIEW PROCESS

All TPRC project review meetings will be noticed at least 72 hours in advance and will be open and welcoming to the public. A conference call-in number will be provided for project proponents so that they may listen to the meeting and provide input during the public comment period if desired. Staff will mute the phone during breaks and include a statement in the agenda. A time keeper can be assigned to ensure that the break times follow the agenda. The meeting agenda and background materials to be used in the TPRC's decision-making will be available at the meeting location, posted to the NCRP website 72 hours in advance of the meeting, and mailed to any interested member of the public upon request.

All TPRC meeting agendas include time for public comment, which will typically be limited to 3 minutes for each speaker. Public Comment portions of the meeting are not meant to be interactive and TPRC members will not engage in discussion or debate an issue with any member of the public. Public comment and materials delivered to staff from the public will be published on the NCRP website. Project proponents, interested members of the public and members of the public will be invited to provide comment:

- on items not on the agenda;
- after the TPRC discusses the projects amongst themselves, but before the TPRC members submit their final scores;
- after the TPRC develops their draft recommended list, but before the TPRC submits their final recommendation to the LC.

7. NCRP CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

The NCRP Conflict of Interest Policy follows the [California Fair Political Practices Commission](#) (FPPC) guidelines and the intent of the guidelines to address obligations under the Political Reform Act's conflict of interest rules.

Under the FPPC rules, when a member has a conflict of interest with a specific project, that member must publicly disclose the specific nature of the conflict and recuse themselves (i.e. leave the room or remain silent)

during discussion of that specific project. The FPPC guidelines seek to prevent conflicts of interest in two ways - disclosure and recusal.

"No public official at any level of state or local government shall make, participate in making or in any way attempt to use his official position to influence a governmental decision in which he knows or has reason to know he has a financial interest." (Political Reform Act; Gov. Code Section 87100)

"Assets and income of public officials which may be materially affected by their official actions should be disclosed and in appropriate circumstances the officials should be disqualified from acting in order that conflicts of interest may be avoided." (Gov. Code section 81002)

During the NCRP project review and selection process, TPRC and LC members will disclose any potential financial interest in a project. If a TPRC or LC member has a potential conflict of interest, they will be expected to recuse themselves (i.e. leave the room or remain silent) from making, participating in or in any way influencing a project scoring or selection decision.

In the interest of transparency, TPRC and LC members will also disclose any history of contribution to the project, including input in the grant development or project planning or other involvement that could potentially represent a real or perceived conflict of interest. Once disclosed, the TPRC and LC member will determine whether these actions constitute a conflict of interest or will prevent an objective review of the NCRP implementation project(s) and will determine if recusal is necessary. The LC or TPRC member may wish to request the advice of their colleagues on the LC or TPRC to make their determination.

Opportunities for disclosure and reporting will occur during the individual TPRC review of NCRP projects, during the group TPRC project review, and during the TPRC and LC selection meetings. The project score sheets will include a checklist and comment box for TPRC members to disclose potential conflict of interest. Project review score sheets and meeting notes will document any conflict of interest disclosures and recusals. In addition, the TPRC Chair(s), or his/her designee, will be selected to provide oversight during the project review meetings and act as a facilitator of TPRC discussion should conflict of interest issues arise. The TPRC Chair(s), or his/her designee, will be supported by staff to ensure the process adheres to the Conflict of Interest Policy established by the LC.

8. LEADERSHIP COUNCIL DIRECTED GUIDELINES FOR PROJECT SCORING AND SELECTION

Background

The intent of the following LC-directed project scoring and selection guidelines is to promote the implementation of NCRP goals while allowing the flexibility to address specific regional priorities and funding source requirements. These guidelines are in addition to those defined by the NCRP goals & objectives and other funding source guidelines and scoring criteria. The LC includes the following preferences and priority considerations in its decision-making process:

Regional Representation

The LC will make every effort to ensure geographic representation by including projects from each of the seven counties and from the north, central and southern tribal areas of the North Coast region. This guideline will apply only to those projects which are eligible for funding under the NCRP and other state and federal

requirements, and which have met the technical criteria established by the LC and evaluated by the Technical Peer Review Committee.

Economically Disadvantaged Community¹

In an effort to build capacity and extend services to communities that are under-served and/or limited by economic barriers, the NCRP will include screening criteria that will confer additional weight to projects that, in addition to meeting other NCRP criteria, will benefit North Coast disadvantaged communities. The LC reserves the right to prioritize disadvantaged community projects, based on a project’s ability to mitigate threats to public health, watershed health, and the economic and public health benefits that project implementation would bring to these communities.

Jurisdictional Notification & Coordination

Project applicants are required to demonstrate that they have notified counties and Tribes re: proposed projects in the proposed project impact area of a particular watershed or relevant area of County or Tribal interest. Project applicants are required to demonstrate coordination and outreach to potentially interested partners including Tribes in the relevant watershed, sub-watershed or project impact area, including source and receiving water areas.

Programmatic Integration & Balance of Project Type to effectively implement NCRP Goals & Objectives

The NCRP embraces a set of integrated [Goals and Objectives](#) related to ecosystem function and resilience, climate adaptation and energy independence, water quality and supply, economic vitality, collaboration, and the health and safety of North Coast communities.

- a) All project types should address grant requirements as well as NCRP goals, objectives, principles, and priorities.
- b) Programmatic integration and project type diversity will be achieved at the portfolio level - (e.g. small /individual projects not required to demonstrate integration of all priorities, yet they must contribute to a comprehensive suite of projects that achieve a multi-benefit, integrated program or portfolio of impactful projects).
- c) Programmatic integration and project type diversity will be achieved over time and through multiple rounds of funding, resulting in a comprehensive, impactful portfolio of projects and initiatives.
- d) Projects that provide multi-benefits will be prioritized (where all else is equal).
- e) Projects that address specific targets as identified by the LC, including specific North Coast objectives, challenges, and opportunities (e.g., promote biomass-related projects, effective in-stream flow approaches, energy retrofits, drought or flood preparedness, effective instream flow approaches or specific funding opportunities) may be prioritized by the LC during a particular funding round.

¹ Definition for: *Economically Disadvantaged Community (DAC)*: A community with an annual median household income (MHI) that is less than 80% of the statewide annual median household income.

Severely Economically Disadvantaged Community (SDAC): A community with an annual household income that is less than 60% of the statewide MHI.



APPENDIX E

NCRP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE POLICY

NCRP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE POLICY, 2018, 2020, 2022 & 2024

BACKGROUND:

During the January 2018 NCRP meeting, the NCRP LC adopted a process for selection of entities to receive technical assistance based on a Water and Wastewater Service Provider Needs Assessment in North Coast disadvantaged communities to better understand the capacity, training and project needs in the region as part of the Prop 1 NCRP Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement (DACTI) program funding. Technical Assistance for North Coast Tribes was identified through a subsequent process led by the North Coast Tribal Representatives and the Tribal Engagement Coordinator. These processes established the foundation of the NCRP assessment-based technical assistance program.

The technical assistance process is subject to review and refinement per recommendations of the TPRC, NCRP staff, and the current Grant Program Guidelines, technical assistance funding opportunities and requirements, and is approved by the LC.

The NCRP Technical Assistance approach was refined in April 2020, to accommodate RFFC program goals/objectives and guidelines, as well as to direct staff to distribute a Technical Assistance Request for Proposals throughout the region to solicit for DACTI and RFFC project development technical assistance proposals. This established the solicitation-based and local project sponsor (LPS) directed technical assistance program. The LC also directed that oversight of this process would be provided by the RFFC, NCRP Prop 1 DACTI and DACTI Tribal ad hoc committees.

In January 2022, the LC approved an amendment to this policy enabling staff to evaluate and select project proposals using the criteria developed by the Ad Hoc committees and based on available funding.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Based on funding availability, NCRP Technical Assistance will include both assessment-based and solicitation-based local project sponsor driven approaches to ensure that technical assistance is made available based on economic challenge and capacity need, as well as project development needs that – when addressed by the NCRP TA program – can support the effective achievement of the NCRP mission, goals and objectives and achieve beneficial impact in the region.

Local Project Sponsor Driven Technical Assistance (solicitation-based)

The NCRP will continue its solicitation for concept proposals from eligible entities throughout the North Coast region that align with the Goals and Objectives of the NCRP and the source funding. The concept proposals will briefly describe the project, probable outcomes, and the nature of the technical assistance and capacity support requested.

Proposals for technical assistance and capacity support will be evaluated based on a selection process and selection criteria developed by the NCRP ad hoc committees appointed by the NCRP Leadership Council; see criteria below. Technical assistance proposals and capacity support will be evaluated and selected by the staff team using the criteria developed by the Ad Hoc committees based on available funding. Projects scored below 30, will not be considered for funding.

Through a RFQ process, NCRP staff will contract with a team of technical regional experts to provide one-on-one technical assistance and capacity building for the selected technical assistance projects. The typical value of technical assistance provided is in the range of \$5,000 to \$15,000 per entity. The NCRP contracting entity (Humboldt, CIEA or WCW) will be determined through work planning and budget deliberations with the full NCRP core staff team, including annual targets as determined by the LC. Staff will regularly evaluate and make recommendations for program refinement during these regular work planning meetings, and projections and progress will be reported to the LC on a quarterly basis, with the intent of program evaluation and refinement by the LC.

All proposals, scopes of work, final reports, performance measures and deliverables will be documented and uploaded to the NCRP Project Tracker, which is a key tool for tracking NCRP project progress.

Assessment-based Technical Assistance

The NCRP will establish a programmatic and proactive approach to technical assistance and support based on results of a regional needs assessment and annual targets as determined by the LC. The program may include a wide-array of technical assistance, trainings and capacity enhancement support activities based on the needs identified by the assessments. Benefits of partner participation in the assessment process include: credible documentation of need, amplification of need to funding agencies and long-term capacity planning at the local and regional level.

The regional needs assessment driven investments will be prioritized based on a selection process and selection criteria developed by the NCRP ad hoc committees appointed by the NCRP Leadership Council. Building upon the success of and lessons learned from the previous Tribal DACTI assessment-based TA program, RFFC program evaluations related to capacity, and the Humboldt Area Foundation demonstration project focused on capacity investments for Tribal fire departments and organizations. NCRP intends to continue to support a programmatic TA program for Tribes in the North Coast. This Assessment-based Technical Assistance for North Coast Tribes will be selected through a subsequent process developed by the North Coast Tribal Representatives and the Director of Tribal Engagement and approved by the LC.

The programmatic approach will be determined through work planning with the full NCRP core staff team and/or with the Tribal Representatives. Projections and progress will be reported to the LC on a quarterly basis. Budget considerations will include annual targets as determined by the LC.

All project descriptions, scopes of work, final reports, performance measures and deliverables will be documented and uploaded to the NCRP Project Tracker, which is a key tool for tracking NCRP project progress.

NCRP PROJECT PROPOSAL SCORING CRITERIA	WEIGHTING FACTOR	RANGE OF POINTS
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA		
Is the project sponsor an eligible applicant?	N/A	y/n
Is the project type eligible for the current solicitation?		
Is the project sponsor a Tribal or disadvantaged organization?		

NCRP PROJECT PROPOSAL SCORING CRITERIA	WEIGHTING FACTOR	RANGE OF POINTS
<p>Does the project serve a Tribal or disadvantaged community?</p> <p>Does the project align with the goals/objectives of the NCRP and the funding source?</p> <p>Will the TA support leverage substantial outcomes related to these goals/objectives?</p> <p>If the project is located on private land, do the primary benefits provide direct public good?</p>		
<p>REASONABLE NEED</p> <p>Is the financial need clear for this TA support?</p> <p>Are the project technical assistance needs reasonable and justifiable?</p> <p>Can the needs be effectively addressed by the technical assistance team?</p>	N/A	y/n
<p>PROPONENT CAPACITY INFORMATION</p> <p>Does the proposal demonstrate that the sponsor/project team has successful outcomes, permitting viability and work products for projects similar in nature to the project proposal submitted?</p>	1	0-10
<p>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</p> <p>Does the Project Description include a clear problem statement, intended purpose and appropriate solution?</p>	2	(0 – 10 X 2)
<p>PROJECT GOALS ALIGNMENT</p> <p>Do the goals and objectives of the Proposal help to achieve the goals and objectives of the NCRP and the NCRP RFFC grant?</p>	1	0-10
<p>STRATEGIES & BENEFITS</p> <p>Does the project implement effective strategies?</p> <p>Does the project provide multiple benefits of significant magnitude?</p>	2	(0 – 10 X 2)
<p>PROJECT NEED</p> <p>Is the need for the project clearly supported?</p> <p>Does the proposal demonstrate that the project is needed and important to the local community and region?</p>	2	(0 – 10 X 2)
<p>PROJECT DAC STATUS</p> <p>Is the project is located in and substantially benefitting an economically disadvantaged community?</p> <p>Is the project is located in and substantially benefitting a severely disadvantaged community?</p>	2	(0 – 10 X 2)
TOTAL SCORE		0 – 100