



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

Date/Time: Friday, October 18, 2024: 9 am – 3:00 pm

Location: Elk Valley Rancheria – Sam Lopez Community Room
2332 Howland Hill Road, Crescent City

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following items correspond to the NCRP Quarterly Meeting agenda for October 18, 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/>

X CAL FIRE PILOT PROJECT PROPOSAL SUITE REVIEW AND APPROVAL (DECISION)

Late in 2023, CAL FIRE awarded the NCRP a Regional Pilot Forest Health Grant in the amount of \$10 million intended to evaluate opportunities for the NCRP to partner with CAL FIRE to implement an array of forest health projects in the North Coast Region. Additionally, the Pilot program will demonstrate an integrated approach to achieving the mutual objectives of the [NCRP](#), the [Regional Forest and Fire Capacity \(RFFC\)](#) program, [CAL FIRE's Forest Health Grant Program](#), [NCRP's Vision for North Coast Resilience Plan](#), [California Forest Carbon Plan](#), [California's Natural and Working Lands Implementation Plan](#), [AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan](#) and [California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan](#). The pilot project will be implemented by NCRP in partnership with [CAL FIRE's Forest Health](#) Program. The NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot will adhere to the goals and requirements as defined in the *California Climate Investments, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Forest Health Program, Regional Grant Pilot Guidelines, December 2023*.

The NCRP developed a [NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Regional Assessment](#) to act as a screening tool to evaluate forest fuels reduction and vegetation treatment, one of several CAL FIRE Forest Health categories. Other CAL FIRE Forest Health categories not included in the regional assessment due to limitations of regionwide data, include cultural and prescribed fire, revegetation, and biomass utilization - these categories were

evaluated using other data sources. In addition to being used for screening, this regional assessment of forest fuels provided background for project development by NCRP partners and project sponsors.

On May 5, the [NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Project Grant](#) request for proposals was announced. Project development and application support was provided to project sponsors throughout the solicitation process:

- **NCRP Technical Assistance** for CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Projects was first announced in September of 2023 and was made available throughout the NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot project request for proposal period. Project development technical assistance was provided via contracts with Technical Assistance providers for disadvantaged and underrepresented communities.
- **Proposal Development Technical Support** was made available to help project proponents develop application materials for the NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Solicitation via peer-to-peer meetings with regional experts. The time allotted to each entity receiving proposal support varied but was typically between 2-8 hours based on need and availability.
- **Spatial Data Technical Support** was made available to provide GIS support to project proponents to develop and fine-tune GIS polygons representing proposed project areas and proposed activities within the project area; to produce maps and summary reports for the proposed project area; and to provide general information on available GIS datasets relevant to forest health project planning.
- **Informational Webinars and Weekly Office Hours** were held in May - July to provide support for the project application preparation and submission requirements. NCRP staff and regional experts held these workshops via zoom with opportunities for participants to ask questions and discuss a wide variety of topics related to the solicitation including the NCRP Project Tracker platform, project specific environmental compliance requirements, cost estimation, project scalability, project benefits, and project treatment options.

On August 4, the NCRP received 11 project proposals in response to the [NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Implementation Grant](#) solicitation, with a total grant request of over \$15.5 M and a total project cost of over \$18.3 M. The project proposals were publicly posted to the [NCRP Project Tracker](#) website.

During the month of August, the NCRP TPRC reviewed the project proposals individually and provided preliminary scores. Prior to the project proposal review, the TPRC members met to go over the [NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Project Review Process Guidelines](#) and project review criteria. Objective technical input from local technical experts was provided for each of the projects to augment the TPRC review, including potential challenges and concerns.

The NCRP TPRC held the NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Grant Project Proposal Review Meeting on [August 28 & 29 2024](#) at the Wharfinger Building in Eureka, CA. The meeting was open and welcoming to the public with a Zoom participation option and numerous opportunities for public comment. See *Appendix A, TPRC Project Review Meeting Summary* that includes a summary of the Public Comment provided in person, via email during the meeting and via zoom. *Appendix B, Supplemental Public Comment* provides Public Comment received via email to NCRP staff after the TPRC meeting. During the 2-day meeting, the TPRC reviewed each project (see *Appendix C, TPRC NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Project Proposal Review Summary*) and developed the following NCRP TPRC Project Recommendation and contingency approach.

NCRP TECHNICAL PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The NCRP Technical Peer Review Committee recommends that the NCRP Leadership Council approve the following draft suite of projects with recommended budget amounts for inclusion in the NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Regional Grant. Please note that the projects listed with a \$0 dollar amount are not part of the recommended project suite but are included for full disclosure about the outcomes of the TPRC review process.

ID	FINAL SCORE	Organization Name, Project Name	Location / Area Served	TOTAL PROJECT COST	FUNDING REQUEST	TPRC Recommended Budget
11	81.83	Yurok Tribe, Stoo-Wen Ridge Healthy Forest Fuels Reduction Project	Northern Tribal Region	\$1,615,227	\$1,615,227	\$1,615,227
4	80.16	Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, Leggett Area Forest Health Project	Mendocino	\$1,998,805	\$1,998,805	\$1,989,355
5	80.08	Humboldt County Resource Conservation District, Mail Ridge Wildfire Resilience Project, Phase 1	Humboldt	\$933,880	\$833,880	\$833,880
10	78.75	Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District, Siskiyou Juniper Treatment and Landscape Restoration	Siskiyou	\$1,905,492	\$1,905,492	\$1,429,119
1	77.64	Scott River Watershed Council, East Fork Scott River Forest Health Implementation Project	Siskiyou	\$1,293,493	\$1,293,493	\$970,119
7	77.50	Yurok Tribe, McKinney Post-Fire Initial Reforestation & Recovery Implementation	Northern Tribal Region	\$1,528,281	\$1,528,281	\$1,137,074
2	76.52	Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District, Forest Health and Resilience - Broadcast Burning - Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association	Siskiyou	\$542,835	\$542,835	\$542,835
9	72.75	Redwood Valley Rancheria Little River Band of Pomo Indians, Redwood Valley Rancheria (RVR) Fuel Reduction Project	Southern Tribal Region	\$1,364,782	\$1,364,782	\$682,391
6	69.18	Sanctuary Forest, McKee Creek Forest Health Project	Humboldt	\$2,628,087	\$2,000,000	\$0
8	64.41	Coast Ridge Forest Council, Pathway to Fire Resilient Landscapes on the Sonoma Coast	Sonoma	\$3,664,405	\$1,524,665	\$0
3	54.92	Lake Earl Grange, Lake Earl (Del Norte) Forest Health Implementation Project	Del Norte	\$901,049	\$901,049	\$0
				\$18,376,335	\$15,508,507	\$9,200,000

CONTINGENCY PROCESS FOR BUDGET AUGMENTATIONS

The NCRP Technical Peer Review Committee recommended that the NCRP Leadership Council approve the following contingency process should a project drop out of the suite of projects or additional funding becomes available for any reason prior to the Leadership Council approval of the project suite.

Should additional funding become available for any reason prior to the NCRP Leadership Council Priority Project approval for inclusion in the NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Regional Grant (presumably on October 18, 2024), reallocation of funding will augment the priority project budgets, up to the full funding request, in order of score rank. This reallocation would be made to those project budgets that are recommended for funding award, but had their budgets reduced.

After the NCRP Leadership Council approval, the reallocation of funding process will adhere to the **Project Budget Under-Runs and Funding Reallocation Process Policy** described in the [NCRP Policies and Procedures Handbook, 2024](#) (see page 19, APPENDIX A: NCRP POLICIES).

CAL FIRE REVIEW

In accordance with the [NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Project Review Process Guidelines](#), on September 4, TPRC Co-chairs provided CAL FIRE a presentation of the NCRP TPRC project review process and NCRP Regional CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Draft Project Portfolio for CAL FIRE review and input. Based on CAL FIRE review comments, staff worked with project sponsors to address CAL FIRE input and continued to meet with the CAL FIRE Forest Health team to get approval of the draft suite of projects.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The NCRP Staff Team recommends that the Leadership Council approve the TPRC Recommendation and draft suite of projects with recommended budget amounts for inclusion in the NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Regional Pilot Grant, and to reconfirm previous Leadership Council direction for staff to work with CAL FIRE to refine project materials, where applicable aligning project descriptions and supporting materials with reduced budgets, and develop the final packet of materials for submittal to CAL FIRE for implementation in accordance with the *California Climate Investments, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Forest Health Program, Regional Grant Pilot Guidelines, December 2023*.

XI NCRP CANNABIS AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE & REQUEST FOR INPUT (INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION)

The NCRP 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 six meetings, with a focus on the development of a draft NCRP Regional 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.

The NCRP Leadership Council has reviewed previous versions of the draft NCRP Regional Cannabis Strategy outline. Appendix D includes an updated draft outline of the NCRP Regional Illegal Cannabis Strategy 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 Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee is requesting input and guidance on the draft Strategy outline – with a specific request for input on the NCRP Focus Areas listed on pages 4-6.

XII CHALLENGES AND COMMON GROUND: ROUND ROBIN (DISCUSSION)

The NCRP has principles related to seeking common ground, as well as recognizing and respecting local autonomy including Tribal sovereignty. The NCRP Leadership Council has a long history and commitment to discussing controversial topics in a collegial fashion to determine NCRP policy stances that reflect common ground on complicated issues.

The NCRP Executive Committee requested that the NCRP Staff Team send out a survey to the Leadership Council and Technical Peer Review Committee requesting input on topics that may need further discussion in order for the NCRP to clarify its policy positions. The survey was sent on October 4, 2024, and is included as Appendix E.

XIII CAPACITY ASSESSMENT AND REGIONAL CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY (INFORMATIONAL)

CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY & REGIONAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

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. An outline of this Strategy was developed by NCRP staff and the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Ad Hoc Committee, and reviewed by the Leadership Council. A draft of the Strategy will be included for consideration by the Leadership Council during the January 2025 meeting. Per previous Leadership Council and RFFC Ad Hoc Committee guidance, NCRP staff are in the process

of conducting a regional capacity assessment, building on the lessons learned during various other capacity assessment processes. This regional assessment is being deployed using ESRI Survey 123. The NCRP staff team will work with the RFFC Ad Hoc to apply lessons learned and refinements from ongoing program evaluation to the upcoming (delayed) SWRCB grant for a water and wastewater technical assistance program in the North Coast region, as well as other program areas.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: GRANT & PROJECT DEVELOPMENT- 2024 YEAR TO DATE AWARDS

NCRP has had a strong focus on technical assistance (TA) 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 collected 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.

An in-depth summary of NCRP capacity investments (including technical assistance) was provided at the April 2024 meeting in Weaverville. Below is a summary of TA investments made by the NCRP in 2024. The NCRP staff team will provide a comprehensive summary of all NCRP capacity and TA investments to date at the January 2025 quarterly meeting, and this information will provide foundational data to inform the development and implementation of the NCRP Regional Capacity Enhancement Strategy.

NCRP accepts proposals for Technical Assistance (TA) to Tribes and economically disadvantaged communities to support project development and grant applications for projects that improve forest health and increase wildfire resilience. TA was also available for project sponsors intending to apply for the NCRP Cal Fire Forest Health Pilot in August 2024.

Technical assistance is intended to increase the capacity of project sponsor organizations by providing them with services and expertise not otherwise available to them. A significant goal of the TA program is to enable project sponsors to apply for and receive grant funding for implementation projects. Types of TA provided by NCRP-collected consultants may include project development and grant development, including activities that directly support grant applications, such as preliminary project design/planning, site assessment, mapping and GIS analysis, permitting, environmental compliance, project benefits quantification, and cost estimates. Technical assistance awards are provided in the form of a contract between NCRP and a NCRP-approved TA provider authorized to provide consulting services to the project sponsor.

Proposals are accepted on a rolling basis via the [NCRP Project Tracker](#) and are reviewed quarterly, February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1. Appendix F lists the Technical Assistance projects that have been approved to date in 2024.

XIV WILDFIRE RESILIENCE LISTENING SESSION (INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION)

The NCRP hosted The Wildfire Resilience Listening and Learning Session on June 13 of 2024 in Eureka. The themes discussed during the session included strategic and collaborative approaches required for effective wildfire planning, management, and community resilience, Tribal leadership and stewardship, the application of

traditional knowledge, and the importance of community involvement. More details can be found on the NCRP website as well as the following:

- [Listening and Learning Session Video](#)
- [Listening and Learning Session Summary flyer](#)

XV NCRP HANDBOOK UPDATES (DECISION)

The NCRP Handbook and the Memorandum of Mutual Understandings (MOMU) are two foundational documents that guide the work of the NCRP and document NCRP principles, goals, objectives, and processes for the Leadership Council, Technical Peer Review Committee, Staff Team, funders, and partners. The MOMU is updated on an occasional basis, and the Handbook is updated at least annually. Appendix G includes the latest proposed updated version of the Handbook, including updates to introductory language, descriptions of the roles of the Leadership Council and NCRP Staff Team, as well as some organizational refinements. A track changed version of the document is available on request.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve the updates to the NCRP Handbook included in Appendix G.

XVI LETTERS OF SUPPORT (DECISION)

The NCRP has historically provided letters of support for partners after review of the request by the Executive Committee. This process has become challenging logistically, and there are opportunities to demonstrate NCRP support that are more meaningful and supportive for partners.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

In place of providing partners with letters of support, NCRP staff will instead provide partners with a letter documenting alignment of the partner’s proposed project with elements of plans or policies that have been approved by the NCRP Leadership Council. If the partner’s project has been approved for funding by the NCRP Leadership Council, a letter will be provided (as requested) that documents that the Leadership Council has approved funding for the project, and will document the percentage of NCRP funding of the overall project. Letters will be signed by the NCRP Director of Strategic Planning and Communications.

XVII UPDATES

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	\$10,965,056	DWR	April 2020	June 2025
Urban/Multi-benefit Drought Relief: “Planning” Emphasis	\$685,485	\$342,743	DWR	June 2022	Aug 2025
Urban/Multi-benefit Drought Relief: Implementation	\$7,907,271	\$3,516,103	DWR	March 2022	April 2026
Prop 1 Round 2	\$7,115,463	\$2,552,327	DWR	Nov 2023	March 2028
Regional Forest Health Pilot	\$10,000,000	\$11,996	CAL FIRE	Dec 2023	March 2029

Proposition 1 Round 1: 2024 was a successful construction season for our LPS. Twelve of the twenty projects have completed their scope of work and three LPS are expanding the scope to utilize cost savings of the grant budget. Six LPS have closed out their grants, and four additional LPS are working on Project Completion Reports to close out their grants. A few of our LPS have experienced project delays and the Admin Team has submitted a request to extend the term of the grant agreement for one year to allow those projects to reach completion. The Admin Team continues to provide grant agreement administration support and coordinate with the LPS and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to secure approval for construction activities, invoice payments, and advance payment accountability reporting.

Urban & Multi-benefit Drought Relief “Planning” Grant: The NCRP ran two solicitations to identify high priority local projects to include in two regional proposals to DWR’s Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief (UMDR) Grant Program. DWR combined the implementation projects from both solicitations into one agreement, and DWR deemed that two projects - the Scott River Tailings Restoration, Long Pond Implementation, Phase 1 and the Round Valley County Water District Groundwater Vulnerability Monitoring and Assessment Project - were more appropriate for a “Rebate and Planning” grant agreement. Consequently, the two projects were included in a separate grant agreement. The two LPS continue to make progress on the project planning and one project has been approved to initiate the construction activities. 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.

Urban & Multi-benefit Drought Relief Implementation Grant: The LPS continue to make progress on the implementation projects included in the grant agreement. Ten out of the fourteen LPS that received implementation funding have completed CEQA and designs for their projects and have been cleared to commence construction activities. All ten of these LPS subsequently initiated construction activities. Four LPS have completed the construction implementation, three have 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

to other projects in need of additional funds. 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.

Proposition 1 Round 2: The Admin Team has successfully executed all Sub-grant agreements with the LPS. The Admin Team has been providing orientations to the LPS and is actively providing grant agreement administration support. Five LPS have submitted the materials required to secure approval for construction and one project has already completed construction and has closed out the grant.

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. The Pilot is demonstrating an experimental approach intended to result in a regional, landscape scale portfolio of projects that implement the goals of the CAL FIRE Forest Health Program. The Pilot project is being 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. This summer, the Admin Team supported the solicitation process for an eligible suite of projects aligned with the NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Grant Guidelines. Pending approval by the NCRP Leadership Council, the Admin Team is ready to amend the master grant agreement with CAL FIRE to add the selected sub projects and execute the associated subgrantee agreements with the successful proposers. Environmental compliance is required within one year of project commencement and the Team will work closely with other members of NCRP staff team and consultants selected through the recent RFP process to shepherd project proponents through this stage. The Team continues to meet regularly with CAL FIRE staff to ensure the pilot is progressing as expected and that proposals, and ultimately the selected projects, meet the criteria of the Forest Health 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	Ongoing as funding allocations are overseen and evaluated
Woody Feedstock Aggregation Pilot Project	\$700,000	Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (previously ...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	Feb 2025
Riparian Corridor Regional Work Plan	\$45,000	Resources Legacy Fund	August 2022	Dec 2024
Supporting Rural Wildfire Resiliency with Lidar Derivatives Project	\$362,049	State Coastal Conservancy	May 2024	Oct 2025
Collaborative Planning & Capacity Building for Climate Resilience in the North Coast Region of California	\$650,000	Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (previously ...Planning and Research)	July 2024	Jan 2027

Tribal Engagement & Economic Opportunity for Disadvantaged Communities or “DACTI”: This project is complete. The Final Report has been submitted and approved by DWR and the Admin Team is awaiting the retention payment.

Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) Program Block Grants (Rounds 1 and 2): 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. The Team is focused on spending down remaining funds under the Round 1 agreement, which is set to expire in March 2025. The Round 2 agreement will continue 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.

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. 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. Subgrantees include 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. The Admin Team is in the process of amending subgrantee and professional services agreements to extend the term through spring 2025.

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. The Admin Team has been administering three subgrantee agreements and providing support for the Mendocino Reciprocity Cooperative, Dinsmore, and Sonoma County Woody Feedstock pilot projects. The Admin Team recently completed a master agreement amendment to add consultants to the team and increase the budgets of the subregional pilots. The Admin Team is in the process of executing associated amendments to the subgrantee agreements.

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. The NCRP consultant team is making good progress on this grant, after having delays due to the availability of regional lidar (given its major implications for this planning work). During this reporting period, the Admin Team prepared and submitted an interim financial report and expects to receive a second and final payment from the foundation to support the successful completion of this project.

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 supported 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 NCRP is in the process of assembling the point cloud data for the region to initiate the harmonization phase, which will result in a seamless, composite dataset with a single coordinate system across the region. The harmonized point cloud is the first step in creating many regionwide lidar derivative products that will have practical value. The Admin Team prepared and submitted a no cost extension to accommodate delays in the final QA/QC on the USGS 3DEP 2022-point cloud. The Team then extended the term of the associated professional services agreement with the implementing consultant team and continues to coordinate progress reports, payment requests, and communications with NASA.

Supporting Rural Wildfire Resiliency with Lidar Derivatives Project: Funded by the State Coastal Conservancy, this project will build off the Lidar data collected through the USGS project by creating additional derivative layers usable by and freely available to scientists, planners, local jurisdictions, tribes, resource conservation districts, and nonprofits. During this reporting period, the Admin Team executed the master grant agreement with the funder and is in the process of executing the associated professional services agreement with the implementing consultant team.

Collaborative Planning & Capacity Building for Climate Resilience in the North Coast Region of California: Funded by the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, the NCRP's newest project began in July

2024 and will result in a North Coast Regional Climate Resilience Plan. During this reporting period, the Admin Team executed the master grant agreement with the funder and is in the process of executing the associated professional services agreements with the implementing consultant team.

ADMIN TEAM CONTACTS		
Name	Contact Information	NCRP Admin Role
Hank Seemann, Deputy Director	hseemann@co.humboldt.ca.us	Program Oversight
Cybel 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	Admin support for the full portfolio of NCRP grants and contracts

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The 2024 legislative session officially concluded on September 30 with Governor Newsom finalizing the signing and vetoing of bills passed by the Legislature. The summer months preceding the close of the session proved fruitful as a \$10 billion climate bond was approved by the Legislature and the state budget was balanced for fiscal years 24-25 and 25-26.

On July 3, 2024, SB 867 (Allen) was passed by the Legislature and signed by Senate Pro Tem McGuire, who was acting as Governor for the day as both Governor Newsom and Lt. Governor Kounalakis were out of the state. With Senator McGuire’s signature, SB 867 became Proposition 4, The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 which Californians will vote on at the November 5 ballot. Prop 4 provides \$10 billion for climate resilience across eight distinct funding chapters. Water is the largest funding category at \$3.8 billion, wildfire resilience is second at \$1.5 billion, and coastal resilience follows closely behind at \$1.2 billion. Some of the proposed allocations that NCRP could benefit from are:

- Section 901301 provides \$100 million to DWR for projects related to integrated regional water management to improve climate resilience on a watershed basis.
- Section 91520 provides \$185 million to the Department of Conservation’s Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program.
- Section 92010 provides \$415 million to the State Coastal Conservancy for grants and expenditures to protect, restore, and increase the resilience of beaches, bays, coastal dunes, wetlands, coastal forests, watersheds, trails, and public access facilities.

On the legislation side of things, the 2024 session was a bit subdued as the budget downturn meant less funding available for implementation. The following are bills that have been signed into law and are relevant to NCRP:

[AB 2196](#) ([Connolly D](#)) **Beaver restoration.**

Status: Signed by the Governor.

CARCD Position: Watch

Summary:

Existing law, except as provided, authorizes any owner or tenant of land or property that is being damaged or destroyed or is in danger of being damaged or destroyed by certain animals, including, among others, the beaver, to apply to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for a permit to kill the animals. Under existing law, it is unlawful for any person to trap any fur-bearing mammal for purposes of recreation or commerce in fur. Under existing law, a violation of the Fish and Game Code, or of any rule, regulation, or order made or adopted under that code, is a crime. This bill would, subject to an appropriation by the Legislature for these purposes, statutorily establish in the department a program to promote beaver restoration across California, as provided. Because a violation of the program's requirements would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

[AB 2257](#) ([Wilson D](#)) **Local government: property-related water and sewer fees and assessments: remedies.**

Summary:

The California Constitution specifies various requirements with respect to the levying of assessments and property-related fees and charges by a local agency, including notice, hearing, and protest procedures, depending on the character of the assessment, fee, or charge. Current law, known as the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act, prescribes specific procedures and parameters for local jurisdictions to comply with these requirements. This bill would prohibit, if a local agency complies with specified procedures, a person or entity from bringing a judicial action or proceeding alleging noncompliance with the constitutional provisions for any new, increased, or extended fee or assessment, as defined, unless that person or entity has timely submitted to the local agency a written objection to that fee or assessment that specifies the grounds for alleging noncompliance, as specified. This bill would provide that local agency responses to the timely submitted written objections shall go to the weight of the evidence supporting the agency's compliance with the substantive limitations on fees and assessments imposed by the constitutional provisions. The bill would also prohibit an independent cause of action as to the adequacy of the local agency's responses.

[AB 2276](#) ([Wood D](#)) **Forestry: timber harvesting plans: exemptions.**

Summary:

The Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 prohibits a person from conducting timber operations, as defined, unless a timber harvesting plan prepared by a registered professional forester has been submitted to, and approved by, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The act authorizes the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to exempt from some or all of those provisions of the act a person engaging in specified forest management activities, as prescribed, including: (1), for a period of 5 years following the adoption of emergency regulations, the cutting or removal of trees on the person's property that eliminates the vertical continuity of vegetative fuels and the horizontal continuity of tree crowns for the purpose of reducing flammable materials and maintaining a fuel break, known as the Small Timberland Owner Exemption, (2), until

January 1, 2026, the harvesting of those trees that eliminates the vertical continuity of vegetative fuels and the horizontal continuity of tree crowns for specified purposes, known as the Forest Fire Prevention Exemption, (3), until January 1, 2026, the cutting or removal of trees on the person's property in compliance with specified defensible space requirements, as provided, and (4) the cutting or removal of trees to restore and conserve California black or Oregon white oak woodlands and associated grasslands. This bill would (1) repeal the Small Timberland Owner Exemption, (2) rename the Forest Fire Prevention Exemption the Forest Resilience Exemption, revise the standards and criteria for qualifying for that exemption, extend that exemption until January 1, 2031, and (3) extend until January 1, 2031, the other exemption described above. The bill would also revise requirements governing compliance with cutting or removal of trees to restore and conserve California black or Oregon white oak woodlands and associated grasslands. The bill would require the board to adopt emergency regulations that the board considers necessary to implement and ensure compliance with these requirements and with the Forest Resilience Exemption requirements. The bill would also make conforming changes. This bill contains other related provisions.

[AB 2643](#) ([Wood](#) D) **Cannabis cultivation: environmental remediation.**

Summary:

(1) Existing law requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to establish the watershed enforcement program to facilitate the investigation, enforcement, and prosecution of offenses relating to unlawful water diversions and other violations of the Fish and Game Code associated with cannabis cultivation. Existing law also requires the department, in coordination with specified state agencies, to establish a permanent multiagency task force to address the environmental impacts of cannabis cultivation. This bill would require the department to conduct a study to create a framework for cannabis site restoration projects with the goal of providing guidance for the cleanup, remediation, and restoration of environmental damage caused by cannabis cultivation, and to complete the study by January 1, 2027, as specified. The bill would authorize the department to enter into an agreement with a nongovernmental organization or educational institution for that entity to conduct the study. The bill would require the department, on or before January 1, 2027, and until January 1, 2036, to submit an annual report to the Legislature on illicit cannabis cultivation and on the status of efforts to repair habitat degradation and other environmental damage in watersheds affected by cannabis cultivation on both public and private lands, as specified. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

[AB 2875](#) ([Friedman](#) D) **Wetlands: state policy.**

Summary:

Existing law, the Keene-Nejedly California Wetlands Preservation Act, requires the Natural Resources Agency to prepare a plan for the acquisition, protection, preservation, restoration, and enhancement of wetlands, including funding requirements and the priority status of specific proposed wetlands projects. By Executive Order No. W-59-93, former Governor Pete Wilson declared it to be the policy of the state that its Comprehensive Wetlands Policy rests on three primary objectives, including the objective of ensuring no overall net loss and long-term net gain in the quantity, quality, and permanence of wetlands acreage and values, as provided. This bill would declare that it is the policy of the state to ensure no net loss and long-term gain in the quantity, quality, and permanence of wetlands acreage and values in California. The bill would make related legislative findings and declarations.

[SB 1101](#) (Limón D) Fire prevention: prescribed fire: state contracts: maps.

Summary:

Existing law requires all contracts entered into by a state agency for the acquisition of goods or services, as specified, to be void unless and until approved by the Department of General Services. Existing law requires a state agency to secure at least 3 competitive bids or proposals for each contract. Existing law establishes exceptions to these requirements for specified contracts. This bill would include in the list of exceptions a contract entered into by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for the purpose of providing logistical support for large-scale prescribed fire operations, as provided. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.



APPENDIX A

NCRP TPRC PROJECT REVIEW MEETING SUMMARY



**NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP (NCRP)
TECHNICAL PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE (TPRC) MEETING:
NCRP CAL FIRE FOREST HEALTH PILOT GRANT PROJECT PROPOSAL REVIEW MEETING
SUMMARY
AUGUST 28 & 29, 2024**

Date/Time: August 28 10:00 am - 5:00 pm & August 29 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Wharfinger Building, Bay Room, 1 Marina Way, Eureka, CA 95501

Facilitators: TPRC Co-Chairs Sandra Perez and Dale Roberts

AUGUST 28, DAY 1

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Welcome: Co-Chair Dale Roberts welcomed TPRC Members, Staff and Public
- Introductions of TPRC Members, Staff and Public

II. REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA/PUBLIC COMMENT/DECISION

Public Comment for items on the agenda: none

Motion to approve agenda: Elizabeth Salomone

Second: Dale Roberts

Vote: passed unanimously

III. REVIEW [NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Grant Project Review Process Guidelines](#)

Co-chair Sandra Perez led review of Project Proposal Review & Selection Process Overview, (see Appendix A, page 21), Procedures for public input during the project review process (see Appendix A, page 23), Conflict of interest guidelines (see Appendix A, page 24) and Scoring criteria (see page 6).

IV. TECHNICAL PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE PROPOSAL REVIEW

See NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Project Proposal Review Summary

V. PUBLIC COMMENT, PERIOD 1

Emily Afriat, North Coast Regional Director of The Wildlands Conservancy, spoke in support of the East Fork Scott River Forest Health Implementation Project. TWC acquired the Beaver Valley Headwaters Preserve in 2021 with state funding, which is a 6,000-acre property in Callahan on the East Fork. Their

goals and roles throughout their organization and on this preserve as well is to be a willing and activity engaged landowner allowing wonderful partners across numerous state and federal agencies and other non-profit organizations to do this important work with the help of these essential funding sources and programs like the NCRP. They are grateful for this opportunity and hope the committee will consider this project. The long-term vision for the property is to have the entire preserve in a CAL VTP. It is a lengthy process and they are doing it in stages and they have a project with the USFS doing oak restoration. The Watershed Council has also implemented a drought exemption project that recently finished. These are all steps in getting them to the larger goal of having the entire preserve helped.

Judy Rosales, Coast Ridge Forest Council Executive Director, spoke on behalf of the Coast Ridge Forest Council, Pathway Fire Resilient Landscapes on the Sonoma Coast: The cost of doing work in Sonoma County is very high. They are currently working on a project that costs about \$8,000 per acre which is just a one-mile shaded fuel break, and they can't get away from that. The nearest facility for the THP is a 6-hour drive, so the costs are high, and it is one the biggest challenges of getting the project done. The Pines that were planted are nonnative and susceptible to disease and they have been growing for about 50 years. Judy was living there during the 1978 Creighton Ridge Fire and saw what happened, and it is now a dense forest and they've been trying to find a way to manage it. They have been applying for wildfire prevention grants from CAL FIRE (can be seen in their budget) that focuses on evacuation routes of hundreds and hundreds of people who live in those back hills. The pines are really the problem. The footprint of this project is not that big but getting the work done is expensive. They are looking for the best way to make that area safe. The project is scalable. They don't know how they can reduce their costs. They heard feedback that they could reduce costs by chipping and they are using chipping for a lot of their work right now. They got a grant from the County of Sonoma so they have that resource. They have a small business that they are trying to do work with right now. They are looking for ways to manage this forest that continues to grow and continues to create hazardous fuel. The cost is high. The only way they could bring the cost down is to reduce the acreage and she doesn't know that amount. She was also present to learn from the committee and see how this process works. Judy thanked the committee for their time and effort.

Walker Wise, Sanctuary Forest, thanked the committee for reviewing their proposal and for all the feedback. He helped the Executive Director, April, work on the Sanctuary Forest proposal. He acknowledged the high cost per acre and shared that scalability and cost are interrelated. They have a really dense 700 stems per acre Tan Oak forest, especially in the midslopes of the project, that are very expensive, (reflected in their cost breakdown), but if they scaled their project down to just include the riparian areas and the mechanical thinning up on the ridgelines and omitted the dense Tan Oak areas, the cost per acres of treatment would go down. The riparian thinning is expensive but high priority both for restoration objectives for the stream flow benefits they were looking for and because it runs along Briceland Thorn Road which is the evacuation route for all of Shelter Cove and Whitethorn so it has a lot of wildfire safety goals too. If they need to make their project scalable (they discuss that in the proposal) they would like to do the mechanical areas and riparian areas, making the high cost per acre to come down (also notice that in the budget) because they would omit the steeper areas that are all-hand thinning because they are so dense that they can't be lop and scatter so they anticipated high cost trying

to reduce those fuels without equipment access. They appreciate the committee's time and consideration.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT, PERIOD 2

Jessica Clayborne: Yurok Tribe Watershed Restoration and Roads Program, in support of the Stoo-Wen Ridge Healthy Forest Fuels Reduction Project: This is an invaluable project to their community and Tribe, they are stewards of the land and always have been. They were placed there by the creator in order to care for the land and that was taken from them for a long time. It's projects like these that give them back the ability to care for what they're meant to care for. There is a high cost per acre but that is for training Tribal members, like her, who will be working to implement the project. The crew is entirely Tribal members and they just hired 12 additional 18-24 year-old Tribal members to operate heavy equipment. This would be a project that could potentially fund them to continue to work if they chose a career in the Forestry industry. The project has a lot of benefits. Being managed solely for commercial timber purposes for 150 years, it is all even aged timber stands that are ready to go, and they've been lucky that it hasn't happened yet. This ridgeline restoration project will ensure that they can stop a fire if it comes from the Forest Service side or if it comes from the river side. There have been a ton of agencies that have put a lot of money into this area. To lose that would be devastating as an individual and as a community that live there and work there. She is really in support of this as a Tribal member and a member of the Klamath community. To address the maintenance question: Since time immemorial they were able to burn their lands to take care of them as stewards in that area. They are not today. They can't just go and do their thing in the hills, light the fire, leave and return home to their villages. That's a learning curve and they are going to have to learn how to do that and it's projects like these that are going to implement natural boundaries. This ridgeline will run down the main line that goes into the Blue Creek Salmon Sanctuary and will eventually encompass a large area. As far as maintenance, they are working on it. They wanted to include fire in the proposal but it's hard to know how they could deliver on that.

Judy Rosales, Coast Ridge Forest Council Executive Director, on behalf of the Coast Ridge Forest Council, Pathway Fire Resilient Landscapes on the Sonoma Coast: It is unclear if they listed the Kashia Tribe as a partner, although their proposal did say that they were part of the consultation. Because they partner with the Kashia, they have consulted with them and they will consult with them in the future. She can see how a letter is important.

Matt Greene, RFP Forestry and Biological Consulting, commenting on the Coast Ridge Forest Council, Pathway to Fire Resilient Landscapes on the Sonoma Coast: The idea that there is a commercial way to offset the cost is not likely. Revenue generated from selling the logs is less than the actual cost to transport them to the facilities. Getting materials off-site is very expensive. They've been doing chipping and burning projects there for about 5 years. Without having some ability to break even on the trucking, these projects have just sat. Pines are non-native so closer lumber mills for Fir and Redwood cannot be used. Transportation is a huge cost. They chose to go with the THP because they are dealing with a commercial sized tree that they are trying to remove and re-establish a native forest. The pine trees are 16-22 inches in diameter, so they cannot chip those at an efficient rate. They could chip some and pile

and burn, but in trying to meet the objective of carbon sequestration they chose to try and store the carbon in lumber. Because it's an actual Timber Harvest Plan, the Kashia get notified before the project is ever submitted, and through that process there will be a full disclosure of the project, full comments allowed, and the Kashia will be on site to review the project through the Timber Harvest Review Program. They have an agreement that the Kashia will be on site at the beginning. The project has identified about 175 acres and from there they will downscale based on the Kashia's input of where things can't happen.

Chris Lossi, Flowra, provided clarification on the Shasta Valley RCD Siskiyou Juniper Treatment and Landscape Restoration project: The native vegetation is a sage steppe, so in that context there would not be any reforestation because the native vegetation is brush dominant. The question is: If this a CAL FIRE grant, is the restoration of a non-forest dominated ecosystem eligible? The application states that the prescribed fire will be applied in the area that has been previously treated. It's a follow-up prescribed fire. Climate change is addressed by reducing GHG by removing and utilizing Juniper in a way that avoids releasing the carbon in the atmosphere.

Mark Andre, Baldwin, Blomstrom, Wilkinson and Associates, Inc., provided a response to Chris Lossi's comments to NCRP staff via email during the meeting:

- *Forest land is defined by Section 12220(g) of the California Public Resources Code (PRC) as "land that can support 10-percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, ..."*
- Western juniper habitat types stands can be classified as forestland.
- *"Timberland" means privately owned land, or land acquired for state forest purposes, which is devoted to and used for growing and harvesting timber, or for growing and harvesting timber and compatible uses, and which is capable of growing an average annual volume of wood fiber of at least 15 cubic feet per acre.*
- Pure juniper stands are not timberland unless they meet the definition and have other commercial conifers in the mix.
- Western juniper can occur with White Fir (WFR), Jeffrey Pine (JPN), Ponderosa Pine (PPN), Sierran Mixed Conifer (SMC), Montane Hardwood Conifer (MHC), and Sagebrush (SGB) habitats.
- Western juniper must also have other native trees mixed in such as Ponderosa pine , Douglas fir, white fir etc. to qualify as timberland for the purposes of the Forest Practice Rules. A CAL FIRE permit such as Forst Fire Prevention Exemption would not be feasible. In a pure juniper woodland as western juniper are not classified as commercial species. At least in pure juniper woodlands the difficult issue of timberland conversion is not an issue for removal or reduction.
- Western juniper is a native conifer in Siskiyou county.
- The CalVTP PEIR included juniper woodlands and pinyon- juniper in the treatable landscape .
- Also, western juniper reduction using the CalVTP would almost certainly fall under the Ecosystem Restoration category of treatment type..

- **Ecological Restoration:** Generally, outside of the WUI in areas that have departed from the natural fire regime as a result of fire exclusion, ecological restoration would focus on restoring ecosystem processes, conditions, and resiliency by moderating uncharacteristic wildland fuel conditions to reflect historic vegetative composition, structure, and habitat values.
- For CAL FIRE prevention and forest health treatments, I believe that juniper woodlands qualify. Although where western juniper trees are encroaching on non tree habitat types like shrublands, grasslands and savannahs and they are removed because they are only there due to fire suppression it is difficult to make a positive GHG calculation for the treatment.
- Easier to make a case for thinning western juniper and reducing trees per acre only if the goal is to grow larger trees as part of the overall goal.

VII. ADJOURN

AUGUST 29, DAY 2

Since the TPRC Committee completed the proposal review process by the end of the Day 1, the agenda was altered for Day 2 to begin with the preliminary selection of draft suite of NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Implementation Grant Projects and a contingency approach to be presented to the Leadership Council for review during the NCRP Quarterly Meeting, October 18, 2024.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Welcome: Co-Chair Dale Roberts welcomed TPRC Members, Staff and Public
- Introductions of TPRC Members, Staff and Public

II. REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA/PUBLIC COMMENT/DECISION

Public Comment for items on the agenda: none

Motion to approve altered agenda described above: Jonathan Olson

Second: Joe Scriven

Vote: passed unanimously

III. PRELIMINARY SELECTION GUIDELINES DISCUSSION AND SELECTION OF PROJECTS

- Questions were raised about discrepancies in budget presented in Project Tracker narrative versus Workbook.
- Budget narratives included unexplained and indirect costs.
- A motion was requested to accept a consistent approach for each project and to use the amount requested in the Workbook.
 - Motion to approve approach: Andrew Leighton
 - Second: Sandra Perez
 - Vote: 5 aye, 1 no (Jonathan Olson wanted to explore and gain insight for discrepancies)
 - Public Comment: none
- This motion was partially rescinded by Andrew Leighton – Redwood Valley Rancheria should be considered by the amount requested in the Workbook.

Second: Jonathan Olson

- Motion made by Elizabeth Salomone that Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District, Siskiyou Juniper Treatment and Landscape Restoration) be considered at the lower amount, \$1,906,642 and Redwood Valley Rancheria Little River Band of Pomo Indians, Redwood Valley Rancheria (RVR) Fuel Reduction Project) be considered at the higher amount, \$1,364,782.

Second: Sandra Perez

Vote: 5 aye, Joe Scriven abstained

Public Comment: none

- Numbers were adjusted to reflect highest amount request of \$2 million and lowest amount of \$500,000.
- In scaled scenario, if everyone got their low amount requested, they could fund everyone, however, if they fund on biggest ask, they would only fund about 7 projects.
- Yurok tribe request that Stoo-Wen Ridge project take precedence over the McKinney Project was noted, and identified as not necessary in current funding scenario.
- A question was raised if Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District made a similar request between their projects, however the situation is different because the Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association is fiscally sponsored by the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District.
- It was noted that project 2 (Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District, Forest Health and Resilience - Broadcast Burning - Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association) and project 7 (Yurok Tribe, McKinney Post-Fire Initial Reforestation & Recovery Implementation) were the most cost effective.
- Suggestion made to fully fund the top three that scored above 80 and then from there start scaling back.
- Due to Shasta Valley Juniper treatment employing unproven technology, a scale back of funding was suggested. Another member disagreed that the project used tried and true methodology but that the project was indeed scalable by nature. The high number of acreage and uncertainty about eligibility provided other arguments for reducing funding.
- One member was not comfortable recommending funding for project 3 (Lake Earl Grange, Lake Earl Forest Health Implementation Project) over reducing funding for other projects.
- One member was not comfortable fully funding Scott River Watershed Council's project because they are a non-profit with a healthy budget and lacked any funding match.
- One member proposed to fully fund the Yurok Tribe McKinney project based on low cost per acre and project merits, even though it was one the lower ranked projects, but this project ended up being scaled back which opened up funding for a different project, ultimately Redwood Valley Rancheria, although one member questioned the quantity of work that would be accomplished being awarded with the lower scaled budget (as the project had a high cost per acre).
- Regarding when to consider regional representation, the Co-Chairs suggested that the committee consider rank first and then regional representation.
- After scoring, the TPRC recommended budget appeared to be concentrated in the northern region of the state which is more densely forested. Sonoma and Del Norte counties were the

only counties that issued proposals but were not included in the TPRC recommended budget.

- The Mendocino County RCD project budget was reduced because it had the highest total project cost.

IV. FINAL SELECTION OF DRAFT SUITE OF PROJECTS

FINAL SCORE	ORGANIZATION NAME, PROJECT NAME	LOCATION	TOTAL PROJECT COST	FUNDING REQUEST	TPRC RECOMMENDED BUDGET
81.83	Yurok Tribe, Stoo-Wen Ridge Healthy Forest Fuels Reduction Project	Northern Tribal Region	\$1,615,227	\$1,615,227	\$1,615,227
80.16	Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, Leggett Area Forest Health Project	Mendocino County	\$1,998,805	\$1,998,805	\$1,989,355
80.08	Humboldt County Resource Conservation District, Mail Ridge Wildfire Resilience Project, Phase 1	Humboldt County	\$933,880	\$833,880	\$833,880
78.75	Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District, Siskiyou Juniper Treatment and Landscape Restoration	Siskiyou County	\$1,905,492	\$1,905,492	\$1,429,119
77.64	Scott River Watershed Council, East Fork Scott River Forest Health Implementation Project	Siskiyou County	\$1,293,493	\$1,293,493	\$970,119
77.50	Yurok Tribe, McKinney Post-Fire Initial Reforestation & Recovery Implementation	Northern Tribal Region	\$1,528,281	\$1,528,281	\$1,137,074
76.52	Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District, Forest Health and Resilience - Broadcast Burning - Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association	Siskiyou County	\$542,835	\$542,835	\$542,835
72.75	Redwood Valley Rancheria Little River Band of Pomo Indians, Redwood Valley Rancheria (RVR) Fuel Reduction Project	Southern Tribal Region	\$1,364,782	\$1,364,782	\$682,391
69.18	Sanctuary Forest, McKee Creek Forest Health Project	Humboldt County	\$2,628,087	\$2,000,000	\$0
64.41	Coast Ridge Forest Council, Pathway to Fire Resilient Landscapes on the Sonoma Coast	Sonoma County	\$3,664,405	\$1,524,665	\$0
54.92	Lake Earl Grange, Lake Earl (Del Norte) Forest Health Implementation Project	Del Norte County	\$901,049	\$901,049	\$0
		TOTALS	\$18,376,335	\$15,508,507	\$9,200,000

V. CONTINGENCY PLAN DISCUSSION & STATEMENT

- Contingency plan for 8 out of 11 projects approved.
- Contingency plan could inform TPRC Ad hoc committee how to be guided.
- \$1,882,795 was reduced from project funding total because it was over the \$9.2 million grant. After CAL FIRE's review, if a project is deemed ineligible, then the priority would be to fully fund the TPRC approved suite of projects according to rank.
- Current policy dictates that if more project funding becomes available, the first \$50,000 would be at the County of Humboldt's discretion, anything beyond that goes back to TPRC discretion.
- Contingency plan could apply to projects that do not meet the required completion of environmental compliance within one-year, as this is a new requirement.

CONTINGENCY PROCESS FOR BUDGET AUGMENTATIONS STATEMENT:

The NCRP Technical Peer Review Committee recommends that the NCRP Leadership Council approve the following contingency process should a project drop out of the suite of projects or additional funding becomes available for any reason prior to the Leadership Council approval of the project suite.

Should additional funding become available for any reason prior to the NCRP Leadership Council Priority Project approval for inclusion in the NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Regional Grant (presumably on October 18, 2024), reallocation of funding will augment the priority project budgets, up to the full funding request, in order of score rank. This reallocation would be made to those project budgets that are recommended for funding award, but had their budgets reduced.

After the NCRP Leadership Council approval, the reallocation of funding process will adhere to the Project Budget Under-Runs and Funding Reallocation Process Policy described in the [NCRP Policies and Procedures Handbook, 2024](#) (see page 19, APPENDIX A: NCRP POLICIES).

Motion to approve suite of projects and contingency process: Jonathan Olson

Second: Joe Scriven

Vote: passed unanimously

Public Comment: Judy Rosales from Coast Ridge Forest Council thanked the committee and acknowledged that a big reason for not funding their project was the THP. She explained that their project went to their CAL FIRE unit who are involved in all of their projects. A THP and NTMP Forest fire prevention exemptions are allowable for Forest Health. They submitted a Forest Health Project in the last round that didn't get funded and this was part of that project. During the debrief, the main thing brought up was project readiness (they didn't have CEQA). If they did a non-commercial project, her forester brought up that most of the trees are 14-22 inches in 5-7 foot spacing. If they did not do a THP, and they did a fuel reduction project where they chipped, they would have over a foot of chip on the ground which would not allow for any reforestation, any planting, and it would add another \$2000/acre to their project. Judy also had a comment regarding the Contingency Plan: if funding becomes available later in the process, she would like to see some money go to eligible projects that were not funded. It would be more equitable to spread money around.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS:

NCRP Technical Peer Review Committee Members:

Tribal Central District

Joseph Parker, Round Valley Indian Tribe

Del Norte County

Jonathan Olson, County Engineer

Andrew Leighton, Crescent City Engineering Project Manager

Humboldt County

Hank Seemann, Deputy Director, Environmental Services, Public Works Department

Mendocino County

Joe Scriven, Assistant Executive Director/Fisheries Biologist, Mendocino Resource Conservation District

Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager, Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District

Sonoma County

Co-Chair: Dale Roberts, Engineer, Sonoma County Water Agency

Trinity County

Co-Chair: Sandra Perez

NCRP Staff:

Katherine Gledhill, NCRP Director of Project Development, West Coast Watershed

Cybelle Immitt, NCRP Director of Administration and Contracting (Humboldt County)

Sherri Norris, NCRP Director of Tribal Engagement, California Indian Environmental Alliance

Javier Silva, California Indian Environmental Alliance

Shelly Hughes, NCRP Technical Consultant

Public (in-person and via zoom):

Jessica Clayborne, Yurok Tribe Watershed Restoration and Roads Program

Matt Greene, RFP Forestry and Biological Consulting

Chris Lossi, Flowra

Walker Wise, Sanctuary Forest

Judy Rosales, Coast Ridge Forest Council Executive Director

Mark Andre, BBWA

Emily Afriat, North Coast Regional Director of The Wildlands Conservancy

Rod Dowse, Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District

Anna Froelich, Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District

Patty Grantham, Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District and Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association

April Newlander, Sanctuary Forest



APPENDIX B

SUPPLEMENTAL PUBLIC COMMENT

From: Jacobson, Rebecca@Coastal <rebecca.jacobson@coastal.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 4:58 PM
To: Katherine Gledhill <kgledhill@northcoastresourcepartnership.org>; Karen Gaffney <kgaffney@northcoastresourcepartnership.org>; cimmitt@co.humboldt.ca.us
Cc: Gedik, Tamara@Coastal <Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov>; Kraemer, Melissa@Coastal <Melissa.Kraemer@coastal.ca.gov>
Subject: Lake Earl Forest Health Implementation Project

Hi Karen, Katherine, and Cybelle,

We met with Mark Andre and Dennis McCorkle in March about the Lake Earl Grange's proposal to do vegetation removal in the Pacific Shores area in Del Norte County. We told them that it may be difficult to obtain a CDP for vegetation removal in this area, that most of the area is considered environmentally sensitive habitat areas and coastal wetlands, and that the only work that can be permitted in such an area is a resource-dependent use such as restoration or nature study. The Coastal Commission has approved forest health projects along other parts of the coast where there is a need; in this case we weren't aware of a forest health issue that needed to be addressed but instead it seemed as if there was a desire to open up roads that had been blocked by overgrown (environmentally sensitive) vegetation. We also told Mark and Dennis to consult with CDFW who owns the majority of the parcels in this area (all parcels in this area are vacant; there are no legal structures) and has been working on a road decommissioning project in the area in coordination with the County and the Airport Authority. From our understanding, part of the proposal is to open up some of the roads within the area for more vehicles to use them. This is a very complex area with a lot of constraints, and opening up roads in an area with spotty management has in the past led to a lot of resource damage. We are concerned about a project of this nature having similar damaging implications for resources.

We have been made aware that the Forest Health pilot application says that our office is in support of this project. That is a misrepresentation. I saw that the Technical Peer Review Committee did not recommend funding this project, but I still wanted to let you know about this area and the misrepresentation.

Thank you,

Rebecca Jacobson
Coastal Program Analyst
California Coastal Commission, North Coast District
707-826-8950 ext. 207

I am currently on a hybrid schedule, working in the office two days per week.
The fastest way to reach me is by email.



From: Mallory Pappas <mpappas@svrcd.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 2:55 PM
To: Katherine Gledhill <kgledhill@northcoastresourcepartnership.org>
Subject: SVRCD Responses to Comments for Juniper Forest Health Proposal

Hi Katherine,

As mentioned in a previous email, the RCD team has prepared a document with some brief responses to concerns brought up during the initial project review. We felt these may clarify some of our project components and may be helpful for the board to review prior to the final decision meeting.

Thank you for the opportunity!

Mallory Pappas
Project Manager
Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District
530.572.3120



SVRCD Responses to NCRP Juniper Project Comments During Initial Review

1. Why no reforestation plan?
 - a. While not the primary intent of this forest health project, this treatment area is strategically placed to provide additional protection from future wildfires. It is a naturally sparse ponderosa pine stand and the area will not support a densely stocked stand of timber. In order to promote water retention, decrease fire risk, and improve the health of the existing ponderosa stand we did not see a need to incorporate a reforestation component, except where pines have been excluded by the juniper encroachment.
 - b. If considered critical to the project we could amend the proposal to include an appropriate level of reforestation in areas identified as understocked after assessing post treatment conditions. If included, reforestation efforts will be conducted to achieve natural stocking densities.
2. Is this an experimental project that might not be effective?
 - a. The removal of the juniper will be effective in achieving the forest health and fuel reduction goals, especially with the plan to maintain treatments with prescribed fire in the future. The experimental component is to see if the treatments will have a measurable effect on availability of groundwater.

3. What about reseeding with native seeds to keep cheat grass and foxtail from taking over?
 - a. We asked about reseeding grass species during a TA session with NCRP personnel, and they stated that this grant funding will not support any sort of reseeding of grasses. It was absolutely discussed with our team, but since Forest Health monies do not cover this task, the Shasta Valley RCD will pursue funding through alternative sources.

4. Will CalFire Support this type of project?
 - a. Our Cal Fire Siskiyou unit staff were incredibly supportive of the project design and location. We have conducted similar treatments within Siskiyou County. The only difference is those treatments were within and around oak woodlands and this project is within a sparsely stocked pine stand that has been encroached by junipers.

5. Does the project reduce GHG potential?
 - a. By utilizing the woody material as biomass, the project would offset emissions produced during the juniper removal. A secondary benefit of the project is helping to prevent the release of stored carbon by preventing severe wildfires which would kill the pines currently embedded in the junipers.



APPENDIX C

NCRP TPRC CAL FIRE FOREST HEALTH PILOT PROJECT PROPOSAL REVIEW SUMMARY



**NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP (NCRP)
TECHNICAL PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE (TPRC) MEETING:
NCRP CAL FIRE FOREST HEALTH PILOT GRANT PROJECT PROPOSAL REVIEW
AUGUST 28 & 29, 2024**

PROJECT REVIEW SUMMARY

NCRP CAL FIRE FOREST HEALTH PILOT PROPOSALS

[Scott River Watershed Council, East Fork Scott River Forest Health Implementation Project](#)

Location: Siskiyou
Benefit: Tribe = N DAC = Y Severely DAC = N
Total Project Budget: \$1,293,492.64 **NCRP Budget Request:** \$1,293,492.64
TPRC Project Review Final Score: 77.6

Project Abstract: The East Fork Scott River Forest Health Implementation Project will treat up to 350 acres of hazardous fuels to improve forest health, enhance climate resilience, and reduce wildfire risk in the East Fork of the Scott River watershed, near Callahan, Siskiyou County, CA. This ecologically significant area faces challenges from dense tree stands and drought-induced tree mortality. The landowners, The Wildlands Conservancy, seeks to execute comprehensive efforts that employ local residents while fostering long-term carbon sequestration, ecological health, and water quality. The Project includes treatments on adjacent private lands for continuous landscape restoration.

TPRC Project Proposal Review:

- There was a general question relevant to the suite of proposals about whether there is flexibility for applicants to adjust their CEQA compliance approach. The intent of the NCRP is to provide assistance for project sponsors and through that process the environmental compliance pathway may change. Part of the CAL FIRE funding set aside for Humboldt County staff is to ensure that selected projects have their environmental compliance configured within the length of time allowed. Ultimately, Humboldt County staff does expect the proposers to understand their compliance pathway as much as possible, although CAL VTP is a newer tool so it's possible that some proponents aren't as familiar with it so they are proposing other pathways. There are instances of small alterations that Humboldt County staff will make in partnership with CAL FIRE to ensure project success. Environmental compliance is an evolving field so having flexibility makes sense.

- There was a general question relevant to the suite of proposals whether these projects will be affected by prevailing wage requirements, although the projects seem to fall within the categories of proactive and preventative work. NCRP staff is aware that there are prevailing wage issues that may impact the costs associated with some of the proposals. Legal council is in the process of providing a document to the NCRP describing some of those considerations, as categories still have not been determined. The TPRC recommended list of projects will be provided to the legal council and County of Humboldt staff will also work with project sponsors to make adjustments if prevailing wage requirements get triggered, for example when contracting with crews. There are also exemptions to the prevailing wage laws to also consider.
- This project is the 4th most economical in terms of cost per acre.
- One TPRC member ranked this project high due to the high-risk fire area and range of proposal activities matching well with the grant criteria.
- Nexus with past projects increases the value of the project.
- The planned partnership and capacity building with the Volunteer Fire Department and Quartz Valley Indian Reservation factored into the higher ranking.
- The variety of treatment methods for different types of biomass sources shows unique solutions to specific problems rather than taking a blanket approach.
- Scalability of the project would be clearer if more attention was given to the scalability option in the Workbook.
- Some TPRC members had environmental compliance questions, in part due to scalability being linked with compliance in the application. With regard to CEQA compliance, a question was posed about using CAL VTP.
- There are three distinct treatment areas as well as project area roads identified in the proposal that describe the targeted treatment area; other treatment areas appear to be randomly located plots.
- There was discrepancy in the proposed project acreage to be burned.
- One TPRC member questioned the lumping of invasive species control under biomass.
- The Wildland’s Conservancy (TWC) owns the majority of lands involved and has a healthy budget. A lack of any match from TWC when they are receiving most of the benefit is concerning. Some level of cost share would have strengthened the project.

TPRC Recommendation Discussion:

The TPRC recommends funding Scott River Watershed Council, East Fork Scott River Forest Health Implementation Project at \$970,119.

[Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District, Forest Health and Resilience - Broadcast Burning - Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association](#)

Location: Siskiyou

Benefit: Tribe = N DAC = Y Severely DAC = N

Total Project Budget: \$542,834.50 **NCRP Budget Request:** \$542,834.50

TPRC Project Review Final Score: 76.5

Project Abstract: The Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District, acting through the Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association, will broadcast burn approximately 1000 acres by the end of 2028, completing already planned/partially implemented forest health improvement projects throughout Siskiyou County. The implementation of this proposal takes the next step in a series of previous treatment actions to promote forest health and resilience, with the added benefit of reducing the risk of negative wildfire impacts. The initial steps of the project will identify priorities and complete permitting for broadcast burning in the most feasible and strategically beneficial areas available.

TPRC Project Proposal Review:

- This project is one of the most cost effective.
- This region is high on the watch list.
- Proposal made a strong case for capacity building which is a primary goal of CAL FIRE.
- The use of in-house staff to conduct burning rather than contracting out was a plus and provides opportunity to expand support of prescribed burning in the region.
- No unexplained large amounts in budget.
- The requested funding amount was modest in comparison to other projects.
- There is confidence that funding awarded to this project sponsor will be used well and that this project can be accomplished.
- The Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association has been working steadily in the region. Some treatment areas and even compliance have been completed although it is unclear if that work related to burning.
- Proposal did not address how to treat invasive species after burn and did not explain metrics for monitoring.
- There is indication that some environmental compliance has been completed which makes the project more ready, but is unclear where exactly that compliance been met.
- Accounting for CEQA in the budget possibly indicates that there is not a clear understanding of CEQA pathway for the project, but it's helpful that CEQA was considered in the budget in case they do not receive an exemption.
- One TPRC member questioned the possibility of meeting the GHG requirement if the project is for prescribed burn only, without reforestation.
- There were differing views about the scalability of the project. One TPRC member thought that the nature of the project was all-or-nothing, but another member noted that they could accomplish effective work with scaled funding and then increase the project scope if awarded matching funds. The proposed project area of 1,000 acres has a significant footprint but the proponent needs the funds to get planning started and identify where prescribed burning will occur and then obtain permits.

TPRC Recommendation Discussion:

The TPRC recommends funding Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District, Forest Health and Resilience - Broadcast Burning - Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association at \$542,835.

Lake Earl Grange, Lake Earl (Del Norte) Forest Health Implementation Project

Location: Del Norte

Benefit: Tribe = N DAC = N Severely DAC = N

Total Project Budget: \$901,048.50 **NCRP Budget Request:** \$901,048.50

TPRC Project Review Final Score: 54.9

Project Abstract: The Project prioritizes improvement of forest ecosystem health and resilience. The forested habitat is in decline due to lack of management, fire exclusion, human impacts and invasive plants. Project objectives include fuel reduction, invasives removal and ecosystem restoration over 144 acres. Additional benefits include enhanced public safety, by reducing wildfire threats and improving emergency access for local law enforcement agencies and fire response agencies departments. Recreational uses for hunting, fishing, equestrian, mountain biking, hiking, birding and kayaking will be also improved.

TPRC Project Proposal Review:

- Jon Olson recused himself.
- Andrew Leighton recused himself.
- This was the only project submitted from Del Norte County.
- Ranked high for collaboration and support. One TPRC member appreciated the grassroots effort behind the project.
- The priority area is lower than other projects.
- Project area severely overgrown and in need of attention but project does not fully describe what needs to be done.
- Footprint of project is relatively small.
- Amount requested is high relative to acreage.
- Needs scope of work clarification.
- Support letters from Sheriff and Tolowa Nation refer to road repair but project description does not include that. If treating roads for ingress/egress, then proposal needs to clearly state that.
- Requesting almost \$1700/month for project management on a 2-year project given scale of project seems high.
- TPRC members ranked this project low overall due to project merit; capacity and project information was lacking and likelihood of success unclear.
- One TPRC member recommended applicant reconsider the scope of work and rewrite future project proposal.

TPRC Recommendation Discussion:

The TPRC does not recommend funding Lake Earl Grange, Lake Earl (Del Norte) Forest Health Implementation Project over concerns about technical basis and lacking a compelling argument for benefits.

Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, Leggett Area Forest Health Project

Location: Mendocino

Benefit: Tribe = N DAC = Y Severely DAC = Y

Total Project Budget: \$1,998,804.90 **NCRP Budget Request:** \$1,998,804.90

TPRC Project Review Final Score: 80.2

Project Abstract: The forested landscapes within the Leggett Valley Fire Protection District face wildfire risks due to excess fuel loads from decades of industrial timber management and fire exclusion. This collaborative project among multiple landowners aims to improve forest health, reduce wildfire risk, enhance carbon sequestration, and protect critical habitats in the South Fork Eel River Watershed. Building on the Northern Mendocino Forest Health Collaborative's efforts, it includes strategic treatments across 411 acres of the eastern Leggett Valley. Recognized on the 2024 Fire Risk Reduction Community List, this initiative is vital for safeguarding local communities and the environment.

TPRC Project Proposal Review:

- Joe Scriven recused himself.
- Ranked high to due cost effectiveness, partnership with local fire department, severely disadvantaged community criteria and priority location.
- Including training, equipment and SOD in the proposal showed thoughtful consideration for future maintenance of the area.
- Characterization of compliance was well explained.
- Proponent considered a thorough suite of precautions related to performing work on the ground.
- Proposal mentioned private landowner and described relationships but did not provide letters of support. However, it was noted that private landowners are often reluctant to commit.
- Proposal effectively described different treatments in different areas and made case for defensible space, although acreage could be described better in the narrative.
- One TPRC member found the scale of the project compelling.
- Proposal showed intention for Tribal outreach but should be represented in the budget, along with Fire Protection District partners.
- Large areas in budget not broken down.
- Post project monitoring was not specified.
- Description of environmental compliance was thorough yet mention of categorical exemption needs more detail.

TPRC Recommendation Discussion:

The TPRC recommends funding Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, Leggett Area Forest Health Project at \$1,989,355.

Humboldt County Resource Conservation District, Mail Ridge Wildfire Resilience Project, Phase 1

Location: Humboldt

Benefit: Tribe = N DAC = Y Severely DAC = Y

Total Project Budget: \$933,880.08

NCRP Budget Request: \$833,880.08

TPRC Project Review Final Score: 80.1

Project Abstract: Phase 1 Implementation of a multi-phased fuel reduction project along and adjacent to Mail Ridge, a prominent geographic feature in Southern Humboldt, was identified as a priority project in the Humboldt County CWPP has been designed in close collaboration with trusted implementation partners Briceland Volunteer Fire Department, Trees Foundation, Eel River Wailaki and Native Health in Native Hands. The purpose of the project is to promote forest health and disaster resilient forests, protect nearby vulnerable communities from fire risk, and make significant progress toward restoration of the traditional role of low intensity fire.

TPRC Project Proposal Review:

- This project ranked close to the highest overall due to cost effectiveness (low cost per acre) and demonstrated suitable engagement of proposed activities.
- Humboldt RCD has an impressive resume of Forest Health and wildfire reduction projects and have assembled a network of practitioners and other entities, and did a great job describing the first phase of this project.
- Native Health and Hands organization as on-the-grounds crew is a plus.
- Proposal provided a compelling argument of Mail Ridge as a critical path, indicating that the project would have broader effects, positive impacts on acres that are not being treated, and effectively characterized local support.
- Although the project involves a single private landowner on mostly cattle grazed lands and not within a NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Regional Assessment Landscape Priority Area¹, the proposal described the merits of the projects well.
- One TPRC member applauded the project sponsor for providing a letter from the landowner, indicating the clear support for the project.
- Some concerns were expressed over Tribal support and permissions. The Wailaki are not listed as a recognized tribe on NCRP Tribe list, they are Tribal members of the Round Valley Tribe. The project would benefit their members but the Round Valley Tribe has not been contacted by project proponents – and needs to be contacted. The proposal includes only letters of support from the Wailaki.
- A general conversation occurred regarding Tribal outreach. Historically, projects have been listed Tribal communities as beneficiaries without Tribal outreach occurring, so it is important for NCRP to address that by encouraging proponents to reach out to Tribes in the planning stages of projects. This solicitation process required that project sponsors that claim benefit to Tribes submit a letter of support showing the result of their Tribal outreach effort. A discussion occurred regarding the role of the TPRC related to this issue and how to address the issue of a project proponent claiming support without substantiating it. It was noted that the process of acquiring an official letter of approval can take time.
- The Wailaki are not represented in the budget (this could be a Humboldt County RDC procurement policy issue).

¹ [NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Regional Assessment](#). Please note that only some of the CAL FIRE Forest Health categories are addressed by this regional assessment – some of the categories do not have regional data at the scale or resolution appropriate to this type of regional assessment, including reforestation, prescribed fire and cultural fire.

- This project ranked low on maintenance.
- Acreage was tricky to follow in the proposal.

TPRC Recommendation Discussion:

The TPRC recommends funding Humboldt County Resource Conservation District, Mail Ridge Wildfire Resilience Project, Phase 1 at \$833,880.

Sanctuary Forest, McKee Creek Forest Health Project

Location: Humboldt

Benefit: Tribe = N DAC = N Severely DAC = N

Total Project Budget: \$2,628,087.05 **NCRP Budget Request:** \$2,333,174.05

TPRC Project Review Final Score: 69.2

Project Abstract: The McKee Creek Forest Health Project aims to enhance forest biodiversity and health, increase fire resiliency, and improve salmonid habitat and ecosystems on 289 acres in the McKee Creek watershed, a tributary of the Mattole River. Forest thinning will reduce stand density and shift species composition to promote habitat heterogeneity and structural diversity. Benefits include improved fish and wildlife habitat, reduced wildfire risk, and increased resilience to climate change. Future public benefits include combined access with the adjoining Vanauken Creek property, where a public access program is planned, serving as a demonstration forest for sustainable forestry and watershed health.

TPRC Project Proposal Review:

- One TPRC member noted that Sanctuary Forest has been leading the restoration effort for decades with local support and has a track record of success.
- Proposal was written well and showed technical side of how they would achieve project goals, and described providing multiple benefits.
- Detailed monitoring metrics like dry season stream flow measurement was appreciated.
- Ranked low in community benefits (not located in disadvantaged community), wildfire risk reduction, and project occurs primarily within a NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Regional Assessment Landscape Priority Area².
- Several TPRC Members had multiple concerns over cost and budget: some areas of budget were not sufficiently detailed; Stillwater Sciences consultant amount was high compared to Tribal liaison and RFP supervision.
- Relatively high cost of treatment per acre compared to other projects.
- One TPRC member noted that the project benefits seemed geared towards water conservation and was a good co-benefit for this opportunity.
- This project ranked as one of the lowest because the initial funding request was above the maximum request allowed, which made reviewing the proposal challenging from the start.

² [NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Regional Assessment](#). Please note that only some of the CAL FIRE Forest Health categories are addressed by this regional assessment – some of the categories do not have regional data at the scale or resolution appropriate to this type of regional assessment, including reforestation, prescribed fire and cultural fire.

TPRC Recommendation Discussion:

The TPRC does not recommend funding Sanctuary Forest, McKee Creek Forest Health Project due to low community benefits and budget and cost concerns.

Yurok Tribe, McKinney Post-Fire Initial Reforestation & Recovery Implementation

Location: Siskiyou

Benefit: Tribe = N DAC = Y Severely DAC = N

Total Project Budget: \$1,528,281.38 **NCRP Budget Request:** \$1,528,281.38

TPRC Project Review Final Score: 77.5

Project Abstract: Implement post fire recovery and forest health treatments on 2,000 acres of Klamath National Forest lands that burned in the 2022 McKinney Complex wildfire. Project objectives are to reforest burned timberlands; return forests and wildland habitat to a more natural, fire resilient condition; protect water quality in Humbug, Little Humbug, and Clear Creeks, all important salmonid tributaries to the Klamath River; and reduce community wildfire risks. Pre-planting site preparation work includes chipping, hand piling and select burning, and biomass removal of competing vegetation. Oak woodland restoration includes oak sprout sapling thinning and replanting native oaks in areas of high mortality.

TPRC Project Proposal Review:

- Sandra Perez recused herself.
- Multiple TPRC members noted the post-fire approach, significant water quality benefits from proposed treatments, and watershed approach on Klamath National Forest.
- One TPRC member requested the project be fully funded.
- The project ranked high due to cost effectiveness and large scale.
- One TPRC member appreciated that this project builds on other projects and while they don't have matched funds, there are matched funds from adjacent projects that are part of the same forest making this project beneficial to the larger watershed.
- The project is focused on reforestation and is scalable.
- Concern was expressed that the budgeted amount for RFP would not be enough for a complete review of treatments due to large footprint (2,000 acres) of high severity burn area.
- Due to project occurring outside of a NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Regional Assessment Landscape Priority Area³, the proposal could have better explained priority.

TPRC Recommendation Discussion:

The TPRC recommends funding Yurok Tribe, McKinney Post-Fire Initial Reforestation & Recovery Implementation at \$1,137,074.

³ [NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Regional Assessment](#). Please note that only some of the CAL FIRE Forest Health categories are addressed by this regional assessment – some of the categories do not have regional data at the scale or resolution appropriate to this type of regional assessment, including reforestation, prescribed fire and cultural fire.

Coast Ridge Forest Council, Pathway to Fire Resilient Landscapes on the Sonoma Coast

Location: Sonoma

Benefit: Tribe = N DAC = N Severely DAC = N

Total Project Budget: \$3,664,404.75 **NCRP Budget Request:** \$2,574,664.75

TPRC Project Review Final Score: 64.4

Project Abstract: In response to the deforestation and loss of cover caused by the 1978 Creighton Ridge Fire, that burned more than 11,000 acres and destroyed 64 homes in the region, work crews planted nearly a quarter million pines with State of California assistance. The concept put forward by the state was to establish a pine forest which would serve as ‘nurse trees’ to allow Douglas fir and redwood trees to fill in, allowing removal of the pines. These trees are about 45 years old and still growing densely. Landowners are focusing on community-scale land management issues, but despite ongoing forest management efforts, fuel load is excessive and the area is at high risk of catastrophic wildfire.

TPRC Project Proposal Review:

- Ranked high on forest health objectives and collaboration.
- TPRC members agreed that the area needs help but the project is too expensive.
- Multiple TPRC members noted higher cost per acre compared to other projects, specifically logging operations seemed excessive considering potential for marketable timber on site.
- Occurs in a NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Regional Assessment Landscape Priority Area⁴ but not a disadvantaged community.
- Project benefits need more explanation.
- The community has demonstrated a planning effort over the past 10 years but proposal needs to clarify strategy.
- 140 acres is a small footprint and proposal did not explain basis for scatter of polygons.
- Kashia Tribe could be involved but there needs to be more information about tribal participation (including them in the budget would identify involvement). Application lacked letter of support from Kashia Tribe.
- Maintenance and reporting strategies were not strong.
- Unclear if project is scalable.
- Budget included a large lump sum that should have been detailed.
- One TPRC member found the funding request confusing.
- Total cost and whether project could be leveraged with other funds is unclear.
- This project ranked the lowest in part because other proposals with similar fuels reduction didn’t have as high of costs.
- The TPRC recommends revisiting project scope and high cost per acre, focusing on fuels reduction only: if objective did not include THP component and logging operations the cost would be greatly reduced.

⁴ [NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Regional Assessment](#). Please note that only some of the CAL FIRE Forest Health categories are addressed by this regional assessment – some of the categories do not have regional data at the scale or resolution appropriate to this type of regional assessment, including reforestation, prescribed fire and cultural fire.

TPRC Recommendation Discussion:

The TPRC does not recommend funding Coast Ridge Forest Council, Pathway to Fire Resilient Landscapes on the Sonoma Coast due to concerns about project basis, high cost and strategy.

Redwood Valley Rancheria Little River Band of Pomo Indians, Redwood Valley Rancheria (RVR) Fuel Reduction Project

Location: Mendocino

Benefit: Tribe = Y DAC = N Severely DAC = N

Total Project Budget: \$1,364,781.54 **NCRP Budget Request:** \$1,364,781.54

TPRC Project Review Final Score: 72.8

Project Abstract: The proposed project will directly benefit the Redwood Valley Rancheria Little River Band of Pomo Indians through fuel management on their land. Redwood Valley Rancheria (RVR) consists of 166 acres, 142 acres of mixed hardwood forest and chaparral and the remaining areas consists of grasslands or structures. Structures located within RVR include residential buildings, administration buildings and water supply/wastewater treatment facilities. Fuel management on this property is essential to protecting structures and culturally significant sites from wildfire.

TPRC Project Proposal Review:

- Joe Scriven recused himself.
- Multiple TPRC members appreciated focus on protecting the hub of community in a high-risk fire area and found the proposal well justified.
- This project had a diverse and full suite of actions (thinning, mastication, and cultural burning) which indicates that project activities could be prioritized if proponent was given a scaled-down budget to work with.
- One TPRC member requested that the project be fully funded.
- This project has one of the highest costs per acre but leverages work done by a previous Forest Service project. Cost is high given anticipated CEQA pathway.
- One TPRC member noted low team experience, lack of sufficient experts and found the technical basis sound but could be better articulated.
- Planning component and associated budget was large proportionate to the relatively small 800-acre footprint of work proposed. The TPRC recommends project proponent scale back planning budget to 10%. Budget should also clarify matching funds and align numbers in Workbook with other parts of the proposal.

TPRC Recommendation Discussion:

The TPRC recommends funding Redwood Valley Rancheria Little River Band of Pomo Indians, Redwood Valley Rancheria (RVR) Fuel Reduction Project at \$682,391.

Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District, Siskiyou Juniper Treatment and Landscape Restoration

Location: Siskiyou

Benefit: Tribe = N DAC = Y Severely DAC = N

Total Project Budget: \$1,906,641.86 **NCRP Budget Request:** \$1,906,641.86

TPRC Project Review Final Score: 78.8

Project Abstract: This project involves initial treatment for juniper removal and maintenance of areas with past juniper removal. Encroaching juniper will be removed from key areas around the community of Lake Shastina and the Shasta River watershed. Through this removal and utilizing the cut woody material for biomass, the project will support local jobs, promote a wildfire resilient community, improve water infiltration, and prevent excess evapotranspiration. In areas with past juniper removal treatment, prescribed burns will be utilized to prevent new juniper seedlings from re-establishing. The project will treat 1,154 acres; 906 acres of juniper removal, and 248 acres of maintenance prescribed burning.

TPRC Project Proposal Review:

- Ranked high overall.
- Proponents completed outreach and provided 2 letters of support from local Tribes.
- The project is scalable and provided a good explanation of Juniper removal fuel reduction and water supply co-benefits.
- One TPRC member appreciated the experimental nature of the project, that it differs greatly from other projects, and that it has not been tried before.
- Types of proposed practices strengthens the overall proposal.
- Large footprint and cost per acre is reasonable.
- Very different from other projects.
- Indicated Cheatgrass elimination as a goal but did not specify if they will seed after.
- Proposal noted past Juniper removal but did not state when it occurred.
- Scott River location not well described and unclear who owns the land or whether they are supportive.
- Use of biomass removal for energy could be clarified. Proposal implied that Juniper could be sold but did not specify value (biomass usage is a burgeoning industry).
- No mention of metrics to gauge success or if they would be following up with natives to address eliminating Cheatgrass.
- TPRC members had questions about project eligibility, reforestation and landscape ecology: Is this a forest project? What will the area become in the absence of Juniper? Habitat is high elevation shrub steppe habitat, so in theory meets reduction and forest fuels prevention of GHG from catastrophic fire criteria, however there are concerns that CAL FIRE will not be satisfied that there will not be a forest at the end of this project.
- There were different inclinations about whether the scalable and experimental nature of the project made it a good fit for reduced funding or full-funding.

TPRC Recommendation Discussion:

The TPRC recommends funding Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District, Siskiyou Juniper Treatment and Landscape Restoration at \$1,429,119.

Yurok Tribe, Stoo-Wen Ridge Healthy Forest Fuels Reduction Project

Location: Del Norte

Benefit: Tribe = Y DAC = Y Severely DAC = Y

Total Project Budget: \$1,615,227.35 **NCRP Budget Request:** \$1,615,227.35

TPRC Project Review Final Score: 81.8

Project Abstract: The Stoo-Wen Ridge Healthy Forest Fuels Reduction Projects is a proposed 236-acre treatment area that will be implemented using a Cal Fire Forest Fire Prevention Exemption FFPE. The project area is within Yurok phase II lands and includes the Blue Creek Salmon Sanctuary. This treatment area will act as a natural fire line for the community of Klamath, CA and the Blue Creek Salmon Sanctuary while also promoting forest health and economic opportunity to the Yurok Reservation and rural Del Norte County, CA. Proposed work will be designed planned and implemented by Yurok Tribe natural resources laborers and operators. It will focus on using traditional ecological knowledge.

TPRC Project Proposal Review:

- Sandra Perez recused herself.
- Consideration that the Yurok Tribe has requested that this project, if necessary, take priority over the McKinney Project was noted, and identified as not necessary.
- This project was ranked highest in spite of high unit cost.
- An ideal feature of the proposal is that the capacity is in-house and utilizes local expertise.
- The description of the upper Klamath watersheds was detailed. The area is a sanctuary for salmonids, an important co-benefit of the project.
- Appreciation was expressed in long-term planning for training to participate in the next phase of the project.
- One TPRC member recommended full funding of this project as it ranked high for most members.
- One TPRC member ranked this project in the middle because a specific prescription is unknown at this time, different thinning methods are identified but location of treatments are not defined yet.
- More effort was needed to describe maintenance and strategy lacked specifics (location of treatments is not defined yet).

TPRC Recommendation Discussion:

The TPRC recommends funding Yurok Tribe, Stoo-Wen Ridge Healthy Forest Fuels Reduction Project at \$1,615,227.



APPENDIX D

NCRP REGIONAL CANNABIS STRATEGY OUTLINE



NCRP Illegal Cannabis Strategy – Draft Outline (September 16, 2024)

NCRP Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee Members: Supervisor Criss, Councilmember Downey, Supervisor Carpenter-Harris, Supervisor Gogan

NCRP Staff: Sherri Norris, Javier Silva, Karen Gaffney, Katherine Gledhill

Intent/Application of this document:

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

Plan development

- Cannabis Ad Hoc & NCRP staff team
- Leadership Council guidance and review
- Input from Tribes and counties (leaders and staff)
- Potential Partners and consultants
 - IERC (Greta and Mourad) <https://www.iercecolony.org/>
 - Tribal consultants
 - Multiple other agency, NGO, technical expert consultants

Draft Outline

- 1) Executive Summary
- 2) CRP Position on Cannabis Cultivation and Goal for this Strategy:
 - A. NCRP supports legal cannabis when carried out according to all local and state laws. NCRP’s Cannabis Strategy is focused primarily on the negative impacts of illegal cannabis cultivation in the region. These impacts include degradation of water quality, environmental pollution and chemical exposure, and risks and dangers to the local community from trafficking and the increased risk of violence. The economic impacts – the boom-and-bust cycle, the impact on property values, and the enormous cost of mitigating abandoned sites – are also of significant concern.
 - (1) Future Ad Hoc discussion/clarification: cumulative impacts of legal cannabis may be as impactful as illegal grows. There is 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 used by legal grows.

- (2) 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 note that the organization’s focus is on the environmental impacts of illegal grows

- B. **NCRP Goals:** NCRP has a strong focus on advocating for multi-benefit plans and projects that lead to healthy ecosystems and communities. As with past initiatives, NCRP will continue to advocate for initiatives, projects, and policies that are aligned with these NCRP principles, mission and goals
 - i) This plan will result in all illegal cannabis cultivation sites in the North Coast region identified, impacts documented, and sites fully remediated (integrated approach using remote sensing, CDFW maps/information, and local knowledge)
 - (1) Need to acknowledge sensitivity of mapping out cultural sites (and laws related to this)
 - ii) Public and watershed health and economic benefits from remediation will be documented (water quality/supply, biodiversity, public safety, wildfire, etc)
 - iii) Enhanced capacity will be developed in Tribal and county agencies and organizations to support ongoing prevention, enforcement and remediation of illegal cannabis, as well as support for maintaining capacity for addressing legal cannabis

3) NCRP Background and Overview

4) North Coast Region

5) Cannabis in the North Coast

A. **LEGAL CANNABIS**

- i) NCRP support for legal cannabis cultivation and acknowledgement of Tribal, county, state and federal law
- ii) History
- iii) Current state
 - (1) Where in the region cannabis cultivation is and is not legal, and the implications (i.e. cannabis cultivation is not legal in Siskiyou County, therefore the county cannot access Prop 64 funds, yet illegal grows are prominent and out in the open)
 - (2) challenges with monitoring and enforcement of rule violations (especially economically challenged Tribes and counties)
 - (3) Current federal laws
 - iv) Potential future state (i.e. impact of possible federal legalization)
 - v) Impacts of legal cannabis - Supervisor Carpenter-Harris “not all things that are legal are just”
 - (1) Water quality (enforcement of existing regulations?)
 - (2) Water quantity (is cannabis a water-intensive crop?)
 - (3) Cultural and historical sites
 - (a) Tribes may not have legal standing to oppose legal grows, yet legal grows may negatively impact Tribal cultural sites (potential for NCRP advocacy on this?)
 - (b) Tribal ownership and historical use areas may not be aligned with county or other non-Tribal jurisdictions (checkerboard ownership) – need for proactive and better communication and collaboration among Tribes and law enforcement, and other agencies (perhaps MOUs or similar) (NCRP policy advocacy and outreach?)
 - (c) Different Tribes have different positions on legal cannabis cultivation which should be acknowledged and respected
 - (d) Concern re: cultural sensitivities related to legal grows – permitting process in Mendocino County allows permittee to address cultural resources

- (e) Perhaps CIEA can convene tribal representatives to discuss these issues more broadly and to determine how to represent this in the strategy document.
- (4) Species, habitats, impacts and landscape modifications (as with all ag cultivation?)
- (5) Abandoned feral dogs
- (6) Community health and safety (if there is documented evidence to this effect?)
- (7) Economic impacts – boom & bust cycle of industry, impact on property values, etc.
- (8) Tribal and County capacity limitations in legal cannabis enforcement and education
- (9) Capacity limitations – other regulatory, enforcement and education entities

B) ILLEGAL CANNABIS

- vi) History
- vii) Current state
- viii) Impacts
 - (1) Water quality (poisoning of water supplies, both surface & groundwater)
 - (a) Hazardous materials used in cultivation
 - (b) Many of these sites are meth labs (important to partner with US EPA, DTSE, CDFW)
 - (2) Water quantity (water theft)
 - (3) Cultural and historical sites – damage, destruction, risk to Tribal members gathering cultural resources, etc.
 - (4) Species, habitats impacts and landscape modifications
 - (a) environmental damage to habitats and species that rely on them, damage to riparian habitats, etc.
 - (b) Chemicals that kill or negatively impact wildlife (eg, fishers)
 - (5) Increased risk of wildfire – i.e. Dolan Fire was caused by illegal grow, 11 condors killed
 - (6) Community health and safety
 - (a) Safety and health hazards from chemical dumping, trash, etc.
 - (b) Trafficking
 - (c) Direct violence from accidental contact with grows
 - (d) Increased crime in community
 - (e) Animal cruelty – specifically dogs
 - (f) Abandoned feral dogs
 - (7) Economic impacts
 - (a) Enormous cost of mitigation and rehabilitation of sites borne by economically challenged Tribes and counties
 - (b) Subdivisions in rural counties (i.e. Siskiyou) that are deeply impacted and do not have the funds to clean up, thereby causing a major economic impact from cleanup.
 - (c) For landowners, 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.
 - (d) Cost to counties to deal with abandoned properties (i.e., 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.)
 - (e) Tribes have different land ownership patterns (i.e. Tribal vs individual land ownership, allotment, etc.) and no tax base. Yet enforcement and remediation costs are just as high, while jurisdictional issues add complexity
 - (f) Need advocacy for a robust vehicle abatement program (motor homes, cars, trucks, etc.

6) NCRP Focus Areas

- A. **Context:** the outlined focus areas may be addressed by NCRP and/or partners, and will depend on funding availability. NCRP wants to outline all key priorities as a “menu” for key actions in communities, on the ground, and in legislative arenas
- B. Identify and Address Illegal Cannabis Environmental & Cultural & Community Impacts**
- i) Document and map priority list of cleanup and restoration projects and assess illegal cannabis impacts
 - ii) Identify, acquire, and manage funding for environmental cleanup (AB 195, WCB, etc) to implement the identified priorities
 - (1) 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? 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.
 - iii) Develop a Tribal Lands implementation strategy
 - (a) Approach and Partners
 - (b) NCRP Role
 - iv) Develop a Public lands implementation strategy
 - (a) Approach and partners
 - (b) NCRP role
 - v) Develop a Private lands implementation strategy
 - (a) Approach and partners
 - (b) NCRP role
- C. Support and enhance Tribal & County Capacity** - NCRP seek and manage funds to support capacity in Tribal and county departments to enforce rules related to legal and illegal cannabis, mitigate impacts of illegal cultivation, and update land use policies and general plans
- i) County and Tribal Jurisdictional Authority
 - ii) Land Use Authority
 - iii) Enforcement Authority
 - iv) Capacity
 - v) Land abandonment and county strategies for conservatorships/sale (talk to Trinity County) (case studies)
 - vi) Balance of private property rights and private property responsibilities
 - vii) Projects that the agencies are working on are often related to projects funded by NCRP – especially watershed restoration projects. Seek funding for capacity building for Tribes and counties – areas where there are fee lands/public lands, there are unmet opportunities for the county and Tribes to collaborate on solutions (cleanup, education, etc)
 - viii) Strengthen collaboration with state and federal agencies to provide additional capacity to North Coast Tribes and counties
 - ix) Enforcement –
 - (a) For legal grows, counties and Tribes need resources for effectively regulating and monitoring legal grows and enforcing relevant laws and regulations.
 - (b) For illegal grows, counties and Tribes need resources for stopping the existing illegal practices and returning the land to a safe and healthy state

- (i) Enforcement by Tribes/on Tribal lands- conducting legal proceedings, county/Tribal collaboration on enforcement). Need to have conversations with state and fed and county agencies on collaboration on enforcement.
- (ii) Enforcement by Tribes and Counties (is it just counties, or are state & federal entities involved?)
 1. Enforcement for environmental regulation needs to be consistent and even across the landscape. Legal grows often receive a lot more enforcement attention - those who are lawful are paying the price/paying a higher price than illegal growers. Add a bullet to understand barriers for environmental compliance agencies in terms of enforcement - what are policy advocacy steps that NCRP can advocate for
 2. How do we identify sites that could go back on the market through a legal framework
 3. Are there data about enforcement and impact thereof (is the problem going up or going down as a result of these interventions?)
 4. How do we address the lack of urgency around health impacts to human populations? This is a cumulative issue which plays out in a decentralized manner on the landscape, impact is not as well appreciated.
 5. Cannabis is advertised as “medical” even if grown with pesticides
 6. 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?

D. Policy Advocacy

- (1) Share this Strategy with funders, agencies, legislators, partners in the region
- (2) Advocate for more funding for North Coast Region for all actions identified in this Strategy
 - (a) List of state/federal funding for remediation and foundation funding.
 - (i) Department of Toxics Substance Control
 - (b) Advocate for block grants to NCRP to prioritize and equitably distribute to regional partners (Tribes, counties, NGOs, RCDs) to carry out NCRP approved priorities
- (3) Advocate for more support/action from state and federal agencies
- (4) Identify allies and partners
 - (a) Asset mapping of influential legislators (McGuire, Huffman)
 - (b) Tribal asset mapping – DOJ meeting with Tribes to determine who would be important advocates for NCRP Strategy
- (5) Acknowledge diversity in the ways that Tribes view cannabis. BIA is an important (yet limited) partner; Also National Parks, USFWS, etc.
- (6) Importance of Tribal caucus to build consensus – this is role of CIEA for the NCRP and will inform this document.
- (7) NCRP should advocate for avoiding the boom and bust cycle that is so damaging to North Coast lands and communities.
- (8) Work with coordinating agencies that are tasked with enforcement (water boards, CDFW, DPR) on monitoring and advocacy. Ask them to participate on an advisory team to support the development of this Strategy.
- (9) Identify specific policies where there is regional consensus and advocate for their adoption
 - (a) can NCRP advocate for funding and/or policy changes to counties to be able to obtain these properties and clean them up?

- (b) can state/fed/philanthropy help fill the gaps in Tribal/county funding to establish conservatorships and get properties back into taxpaying landowner hands

E. **Education and Outreach** Through education and outreach, NCRP or partners need to address the different cultural values that may be contributing to environmental damage from legal and illegal cannabis cultivation.

- (1) Identify audiences for education & outreach
 - (a) The public
 - (b) Funders
 - (c) Growers (legal and illegal) of various cultures (e.g, Hmong community in Trinity County)
- (2) NCRP and partners develop educational materials (print, web, other media, workshops, webinars, etc) on impacts of illegal cultivation and clean-up/restoration opportunities
 - (a) Education and outreach needs to address different levels of impacts from different aspects
 - (i) Biodiversity impacts
 - (ii) Water quality
 - (iii) Water supply
 - (iv) Etc (pull from above sections)
 - (v) animal abandonment
 - (b) Checklists for legal grows (i.e. counter false messages from realtors, etc.)
 - (c) BMPs for large and small operations
 - (d) Water quality may be a strong message area – for wildlife and people
 - (e) Criss: legal costs growers a lot more than illegal. How do we advocate for marketing and education outreach that allows people to understand what they are smoking/consuming? Is there a “natural” certification that can be advocated
- (3) NCRP and partners identify key communities for translation of educational materials
 - (a) Materials should help growers (of all cultures) to understand the rules as well as values
 - (b) Culturally sensitive translation – not just literal translation

F. **Areas where NCRP is specifically NOT focusing for this Strategy**

- i) Legal cannabis business development
- ii) Land use and general plan policy development (but this plan could include advocacy or capacity investments related to this)
- iii) Supporting investments to private sector/illegal cultivators that result in ongoing environmental impacts
- iv) Enforcement for legal or illegal cultivation (ie, NCRP will not DO enforcement, however NCRP will identify issues and problems related to enforcement, policies and funding related to enforcement, and build capacity for economically challenged Tribes and counties).

7) **Work Plan and Schedule (NCRP wants to focus on making this strategy ACTIONABLE)**

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 – which shows culturally sensitive sites) (NCRP Data Strategy/Workshops)

(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) Develop criteria for prioritizing sites

(1) Ecosystem and biodiversity impacts

(2) Human community health impacts

(3) Safety impacts (criminal elements)

ii) Regional maps of sites (addressing sensitivities outlined above)

iii) Mapping needs to show public vs private lands (federal, state, county, private (industrial timberlands, ranches) and note the differences in legal frameworks for each (eg, growing on federal land is a federal offense – much more serious)

iv) Costs per site for cleanup (*Per Mourad Gabriel – full remediation of sites = 99% likelihood that illegal cannabis will not return; partial remediation = 50-60% likelihood that illegal operations will return (economic calculation on part of illegal growers)*)

v) Comprehensive (regional) funding needed for cleanup

vi) Capacity funding for Tribes/counties

vii) Policy Changes needed

viii) Key partners

C. Funding strategy for priority list of projects and initiatives

i) Existing funding

ii) Funding gaps and strategies for addressing

iii) Develop outreach plan for funders and legislators

(1) NCRP could convene a funding meeting or funding panel with key partners

(2) Key partners (electeds and agency partners)

(3) How can LC members, TPRC, staff and partners use this plan to advocate, educate, and gain funding for the region

(4) Tribal liaisons (CNRA, DWR, OPR, CAL FIRE, etc, Dept of Toxic Substances)

(5) CDFW/WCB

(6) DOC

(7) USFS

(8) NOAA

(9) NRCS

(10)USFWS

(11)State Board

(12)NRCS

(13)Tribal funders

(14)Philanthropic partners

(15)List others

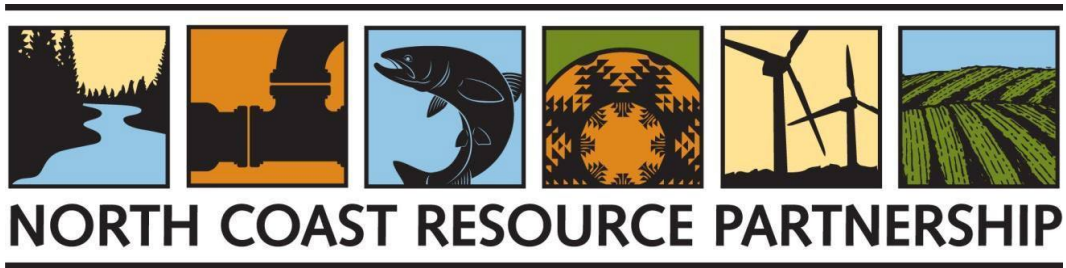
8) Ongoing Adaptive Updates: NCRP Illegal Cannabis Strategy

9) Appendices

A. Miscellaneous information and plans from Tribal, county, regional, state and national partners

Additional Notes for Updating Strategy Draft

- Carpenter-Harris - Add context in Plan Purpose section: importance of acknowledgment and documentation, having a regional strategy that reflects what locals have been experiencing for years - ensuring communities are seen and heard
- Criss - this is a repetitive story throughout the region, the cumulative impacts are massive. Systematic lack of interest/focus on the part of society, agencies. This plan can help to surface/daylight/amplify the incredible level of damage to the environment and community
- Carpenter-Harris: pose this work as focusing on health and safety for the entire community/all people
- Carpenter Harris: this is not a single issue - everything is wholistic, cannot in isolation address one issue, need to address cannabis as something that has multiple impacts. Broken people break landscapes, break communities. Healed people heal communities and landscapes. Separation from the land creates separation from the ability to understand this wholistic perspective
- Carpenter-Harris: how do we address enforcement issues (eg, water quality impacts of chemicals that are not yet listed in regulatory laws and policies - lethal chemicals from other countries). How do we advocate for policy changes to address this?



APPENDIX E

COMMON GROUND SURVEY

NCRP Leadership Council & Technical Peer Review Committee Survey - Common Ground

Background

The NCRP has principles focused on common ground and respect for Tribal sovereignty and local autonomy, while acknowledging that there are many diverse perspectives represented on the Leadership Council and in the region. Further, the NCRP has a broad and diverse mission, with an array of goals and objectives. The Leadership Council has a long-term practice of refining its mission, principles, goals, and objectives, and discussing challenging topics in a respectful and open-minded manner to develop agreements on NCRP strategies, prioritization criteria, and guidance for staff and the TPRC. The [NCRP Handbook](#) reflects this shared Leadership Council guidance, and is regularly updated with new information. Other forms of agreed upon direction from the Leadership Council include various NCRP plans and strategies that have been approved by the Leadership Council.

The NCRP Executive Committee has suggested an agenda item for the NCRP Quarterly Meeting on October 18 focused on establishing common ground for items about which Leadership Council members may have different perspectives. The Executive Committee and staff have identified some issues that have been raised in the past, and are also seeking input on any additional issues that the Leadership Council wishes to discuss. This discussion and decision making by the Leadership Council will guide the work of staff and the TPRC moving forward. Criteria established as a result of these discussions may inform things like project prioritization, review and selection, legislative outreach, funding priorities, and NCRP communications and messaging. This may be a conversation that continues over multiple meetings - the goal is to start the conversation at the October meeting, with that discussion informed by the results from this survey.

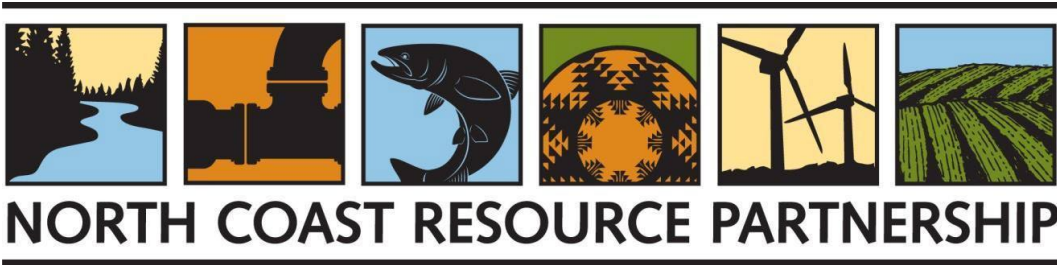
Priority Issues for Discussion

Following is a list of items that the Executive Committee and staff have identified that may need discussion in order to develop or enhance NCRP common ground, agreements or policy stances, as well as providing clearer direction for the NCRP staff team to implement the NCRP mission. There is room at the end of the table for additional items to be listed. Please note that this survey is intended to gather input from individual Leadership Council and Technical Committee members, and the results from this survey do not imply approval by Tribal Councils or county boards of supervisors that appoint NCRP Leadership Council members.

Please review the topics below and add any that are missing. For each topic, please add your thoughts on:

- a) whether it is a high/medium/low priority for Leadership Council discussion/resolution
- b) if you believe NCRP needs a policy or strategy for that topic, please briefly list your suggestion
- c) if you believe NCRP has a role to play in facilitating a regional partner discussion on the topic, please share your thoughts on what that might look like
- d) if the topic is not something that requires a NCRP policy or facilitation role, please note whether it is a topic that should be addressed via educational or information sharing opportunities (NCRP website, meeting materials links, panel discussions during NCRP meetings, co-sponsoring information sharing with partners).

TOPIC	NCRP DISCUSSION PRIORITY (H/M/L)	NCRP POLICY STANCE (suggest a NCRP policy or strategy, for discussion)	NCRP FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS WITH PARTNERS	EDUCATION/INFO SHARING ONLY (NCRP HOSTED PANEL DISCUSSIONS)
Herbicide Application for invasive species control or land management				
Biomass Utilization (scale, impact, community preferences, economic development)				
Wildfire Suppression/Management			Example: Wildfire Listening Session	
Illegal Cannabis				
Offshore Wind				
Great Redwood Trail				
Recreation/Access				
In-Stream Flows				
Tourism/Blue Economy				
Dams & Dam Removal				Example: previous NCRP panel in Weaverville
Public/NCRP Funding to Private Entities				
Water Transfers				
Industrial Timberland				
Other: list below				



APPENDIX F

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR GRANT AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
2024 YEAR TO DATE AWARDS

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR GRANT AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT- 2024 YEAR TO DATE AWARDS

PROJECT SPONSOR, PROJECT NAME	TRIBAL REGION, COUNTY	STATUS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Westport Volunteer Fire Department, Wildfire Prevention Plan Development	Mendocino	Award approved, on hold per request of project sponsor	Westport Volunteer Fire Department requests TA to obtain a grant to create a WVFD Area of Influence CWPP. WVFD does not have a CWPP and needs one to be able to obtain funding for Roadside Fuel Reduction and other fuel reduction activities to be included in our CWPP. WVFD is requesting TA for Cal Fire or Coastal Conservancy grant writing and TA to get planning maps for work and planning. WVFD will work with our community to identify and prioritize fuel reduction projects, design them, obtain permits, improve ingress, egress and turnaround abilities, provide employment for local residents, and assist our primarily elder populations in defensible space in our SDAC community, include our tribal neighbors
Salmonid Restoration Federation, Forest Health in Cahto Watershed	Mendocino	Contracting in progress	The Mendocino Magic (MM) property is located in Laytonville, CA within the Cahto Creek watershed, an important tributary to the South Fork of the Eel River. The property consists of 600 acres of forest, grassland, and oak woodlands. SRF and MM will work with staff from Native Ecosystems Inc. to assess forest health and wildfire prevention opportunities on the property that would complement existing and future forest health work in the watershed. TA funding would be used to conduct spatial analysis of historic and current vegetation types, assessment of wildfire severity, on the ground assessments to develop site specific mapping, prescriptions, and cost estimates, and to coordinate with other stakeholders implementing forest health projects in the watershed including adjacent landowners, the Mendocino County RCD, and the Eel River Recovery project. The resulting work product would be a forest health assessment report which will be used as a basis for submitting a CalFire grant proposal
Redwood Alternative Agriculture Fund, Little Larabee Creek Road Maintenance Association	Humboldt	Contracting in progress	LLCRMA requests assistance with preparing materials for a the NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot. The LLCRMA is working to piece together multiple grants to serve the needs of the rural landowning members of the LLCRMA. The RMA represents approximately 2,000 acres. With a predicted interest from half of the RMA membership this proposal estimates 1,000 acres of treatment area. LLCRMA needs assistance determining which of the ecosystem restoration service needs can be best served by the CalFire Forest Health Pilot. Strategic thinning, fuels reduction and road work are the primary identified proposed activities. We are requesting assistance building budgets, maps, and other grant materials.
Ethos Environmental, Spy Rock Forest Health Technical Assistance	Mendocino	Contracting in progress	Ethos specifically requests technical assistance with Greenhouse Gas calculations and technical completion of the intersectional forestry-hydrologic-ecologic data-full Forest Health Pilot plan into a single, implementation-ready document for use with NCRP’s Forest Health Pilot opportunity and as foundation for a wider forward looking community forest

PROJECT SPONSOR, PROJECT NAME	TRIBAL REGION, COUNTY	STATUS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
			health plan. Ethos needs a technical advisor to take current forestry and hydrological data and proposal information, then convert that data into Greenhouse Gas data to both confirm our actions or changes, for inclusion in the Forest Health Pilot proposal. While there is currently significant data completed and a rough plan is begun, the intersectional data-heavy Forest Health Pilot pre-proposal would significantly benefit from scientific writing and planning to incorporate and coalesce that data into a proposal-friendly plan.
Yurok Tribe, McKinney Post-Fire Reforestation & Recovery TA	Tribal North District	Work in progress	This request for Technical Assistance (TA) is to enlist the help of experienced foresters to help the Yurok Tribe develop a CalFire Forest Health pilot project that targets reforestation of catastrophically burned areas in the McKinney Fire (2022) footprint, which has experienced large debris flows and large sediment inputs to the watershed. TA would specifically focus on planning and further developing the project concept and result in a more specific geographic area and refined scope of work for a pilot Forest Health pilot implementation project. Potential matching fund sources for the Forest Health pilot proposal would also be identified. This technical assistance request would assist with the collaborative post-wildfire response strategy and restoration implementation that has been initiated through a partnership between the Yurok Tribe Fisheries Department, Karuk Tribe, Mid-Klamath Watershed Council, and Watershed Research & Training Center.
Weaverville FPD, Annexation of Goodwill Response Area TA	Trinity	Work in progress	WFPD is seeking technical support funds to allow us to continue working with Planwest Partners Inc. to provide pre-application technical assistance for annexation of Weaverville's Goodwill Response Area, that includes a) preparing a plan for services and application supporting documents to be submitted to LAFCo, b) developing a draft ordinance and summary documents to establish/increase a Special Tax or Assessment, and c) advising on the annexation process, election schedule, community engagement approach, and associated activities.
Shasta Valley RCD, Siskiyou PBA Burn Boss Planning Resources TA	Siskiyou	Work in progress	The Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association (SPBA) is accelerating outreach, planning and implementation of private land burning to reduce the risks of wildfire loss and improve overall forest resilience and health. To accomplish this goal, the SPBA needs to contract with a certified California Prescribed Burn Boss to develop a portfolio of burn plans. This portfolio will address differing local fuel types and site conditions and allow burn practitioners to match plans to specific conditions to safely and effectively implement broadcast burns. Implementing burn plans developed by a certified California Prescribed Burn Boss also allows landowner access to state provided liability protections.
Scott River Watershed Council, East Fork Scott River	Siskiyou	Work in progress	The East Fork Scott River, a sub-watershed with high ecological significance, faces challenges with overly dense tree stands and heightened tree mortality due to prolonged drought impacts.

PROJECT SPONSOR, PROJECT NAME	TRIBAL REGION, COUNTY	STATUS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Forest Health Implementation – Phase 2			The Wildlands Conservancy (TWC), owner of 6,094 acres, is seeking to execute comprehensive forest health and restoration efforts across its ownership. Preliminary assessments indicate that over 1,500 acres urgently require treatment. The requested technical assistance (TA) aims to craft a forest health implementation grant project for strategic and high priority portions of the ownership and plan for additional phases of future treatment. Project objectives include co-benefits such as employing local residents, fostering long-term carbon sequestration, enhancing ecological health, and improving water quality.
Safer West County, Bohemian Collaborative Forest Stewardship Plan	Sonoma	Work in progress	The Bohemian Collaborative is a Safer West County subcommittee consisting of large parcel (~50+ acres) landowners surrounding the Dutch Bill Creek watershed and the adjacent watersheds/'firesheds' of Green Valley, Willow Creek/Coleman Valley, and Salmon Creek/Tannery Creeks as well as Cal Fire and other local fire agencies in Sonoma County. The goals of this project are to build on existing FMPs that exist for some parcels and identify priority fire risk reduction projects and set management priorities through the development of a landscape-level Forest Stewardship Plan and create work products to support applying for various federal, state, and local grant funding sources.
Redwood Forest Foundation, A Pilot Project for Watershed Recovery of Anderson Creek Headwaters	Mendocino	Work in progress	Gulch 7 is a 241-acre headwater drainage to Anderson Creek to Indian Creek to the South Fork Eel Watershed. This project will develop a process and model for headwater restoration in this representative watershed that is significantly impaired and fire prone yet remains an important contributor to salmonid spawning grounds in Anderson Creek. The project will be an opportunity to provide local jobs and build capacity in our region for restoration on a watershed scale. This project aims to engage the community for participation and education on restoration techniques, enhance forest sequestration and stream health. A trail system through the watershed will provide safe access for the community. Carbon from biomass created during fuel reduction work will be sequestered in large wood stream structures, Structural Round Timber (SRT) building, biochar-in-place and slash packing headwater swales. Prescribed fire or pile burning will be used for hazardous fuel reduction where feasible.
Post Mountain VFD Technical Assistance	Trinity	Work in progress	The Post Mountain Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$15,000 from the North Coast Resource Partnership to build capacity in the area of fuels management planning. These funds would be spent to hire an environmental consulting firm to develop plans for forest health and fuel reduction, prepare environmental documentation, and assist us with the preparation of one or more grants to improve the fuel regime in the community of Post Mountain.

PROJECT SPONSOR, PROJECT NAME	TRIBAL REGION, COUNTY	STATUS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
ORE-CAL RC&D, Ore-Cal Strategic Planning for Capacity Building	Siskiyou	Work in progress	<p>This project will enable Ore-Cal RC&D Council will benefit Tribes, Economically Disadvantaged communities, and severely disadvantage communities by giving Ore-Cal an updated mission and vision that is in tune with the current reality of our communities and region. One part of the project will be to do outreach and bring a wider breadth of community, by using a wider net to cast out with outreach. Another part of the project will be bringing light to the unaddressed needs that Ore-Cal can address with our updated master plan for the next several years. Another part of this updated plan is a conversion to an agile strategic plan that will put into process a frequent review and update, addressing if the identified opportunities and needs of our community that match our mission are successfully being met and that new opportunities that have come to light are being considered and implemented into the operating plan. Communities in our area that are Severely Disadvantaged show up as Dorris, Tulelake, Mt Hebron, Macdoel, Happy Camp, Scott Bar, Hamburg, Seiad, Horse Creek, Klamath River, Hornbrook, Hilt, Montague, parts of Yreka, Calahan, Somes Bar, Salmon River. Many of those same communities are also in the Economically Disadvantaged category also according to the map.</p>
Humboldt County RCD, HCRCD GeoSpatial Support	Humboldt	Work in progress	<p>HCRCD provides forest health and wildfire resilience planning and implementation support for unincorporated Humboldt County. This project aims to develop a better means of serving communities and developing and implementing CWPP projects though improved geospatial capacity. This will aid in HCRCD providing more streamlined delivery of technical support to those communities, and, ultimately, result in HCRCD being able to increase the pace and scale for planning and implementing fuels reduction and forest health projects in Humboldt County.</p>
Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, HBMWD Watershed Lidar Project	Humboldt	Work in progress	<p>Ruth Lake is the primary drinking water source for two-thirds of the residents of Humboldt County, a source of recreation in Trinity County and the primary environmental water enhancement source in the Mad River basin during the river's natural low flow season. HBMWD needs technical assistance to perform analysis and implementation of Lidar data that will be provided from the USGS Northern California Lidar acquisition project.</p>
Coast Ridge Forest Council, Pathway to Fire Resilient Landscapes – Northern Sonoma Coast Planning Unit TA	Sonoma	Work in progress	<p>Technical assistance was provided to develop grant proposals for two previous projects. Both projects were funded. CRFC received \$423,000 from the County of Sonoma for a shaded fuel break project on 9.3 miles of a major access road to four rural communities. Nearly a million-dollar Cal Fire grant is funding shaded fuel breaks along 7.1 miles, totaling 165 acres of rural back roads. These projects are laying the groundwork for future projects. This project is divided into two planning units, the North Sonoma Coast and the South Sonoma Coast. A</p>

PROJECT SPONSOR, PROJECT NAME	TRIBAL REGION, COUNTY	STATUS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
			<p>technical assistance grant was awarded in March 2023 to begin work on planning evacuation routes in the South Coast unit. Technical assistance needed for the North Coast includes project planning for developing a CalVTP, and the following: Defining a clear definition of our partnerships and how each will be involved; What resources will each contribute to the implementation and success of the project; Budget - are we administering all the funds or sub-awarding a portion to each partner what's the process for handling these awards and joint efforts. We have begun this discussion with BBW and would like to continue their participation in the process.</p>
<p>Scott River Watershed Council, East Fork Scott River Forest Management Planning, Phase 1</p>	<p>Siskiyou</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>The Project will integrate forest and road management on 2000 acres of private ownership timberland in the East Fork Scott River watershed, a critically important salmonid spawning and rearing river. Methods will include mastication, chipping, prescribed burning, and mechanical and hand treating drought-stressed dead and dying trees and brush. The watershed is identified as a very high fire severity area by Cal Fire. Benefits from these efforts will be by and for the local community, yielding advantages such as enhanced forest health, decreased fire risk, increased carbon storage, and the creation of employment opportunities within our economically disadvantaged community.</p>
<p>Yurok Tribe, Yurok Trust 562T5508 – Klamath, CA Fuels Reduction TA for Pilot Grant Development</p>	<p>Tribal North District</p>	<p>Award approved, work in progress, no TA contract in place</p>	<p>Yurok Fire will apply for the following project types: Community Health, Forest Fuels Reduction, Prescribed Fire/Cultural Fire, Pest Management and Biomass Utilization. The project landscape is located on the Yurok Reservation within the Klamath, CA. Townsite. This community has been declared "Severely Economically Disadvantaged" and verified on the "NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Regional Assessment Story Web Map for Severely Disadvantaged Communities 2020." The total project area is 341.03 acres and is comprised of six separate forested units (Sec 28 T14N R1E HM 13.93 ac, Sec 3 T13N R1E HM 117.08 ac, Sec 10 T13N R1E HM 103.21 ac, Sec 15 T13N R1E HM 31.21 ac, T13N R2E HM 55.60 ac, & T13N R2E HM 20 ac). The land was transferred from USDA Forest Service to Dept. of Interior for Benefit of Yurok Tribe and recorded on August 27, 2013. To date, no fuels reduction activities have been performed. Recent photos were taken to document current overgrowth and close proximity to inhabited areas. One wildfire could easily destroy the Klamath townsite, residential area, economy, tribal headquarters and infrastructure. Aside from the primary benefit of reducing the threat of a potential catastrophic wildfire catastrophic event to the community, the secondary anticipated benefit is the formation of a dedicated and well-equipped year-round Wildland Urban Interface Team to systematically mitigate the fuel-load from all Yurok trust lands. The location of 562T5508 is especially enticing due to its accessibility. Typically, Yurok</p>

PROJECT SPONSOR, PROJECT NAME	TRIBAL REGION, COUNTY	STATUS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
			fieldwork requires hours of drive time, on unpaved rocky roads per day, just to reach the destination, so this project would open the doors to new labor-force opportunities as well as utilize CalFire Alder Camp Inmate Crews.
Redwood Valley Rancheria Little River Band of Pomo Indians, Redwood Valley Rancheria Fuel Reduction Project	Tribal South District	Work in progress	The proposed project will focus on post-fire management and future fire prevention. Fuel reduction, restoration and re-vegetation will be conducted throughout the forested and oak woodlands that burned in the 2017 Redwood Complex fire. This will improve habitat, encourage native and culturally significant species growth, and reduce wildfire risk. Post-fire management actions will include thinning, pruning, and chipping to reduce accumulated live and dead fuels less than 6 inches in diameter. Basal re-sprouts on trees in burned areas will be reduced to 3-4 dominant re-sprouts. During thinning, hand crews will promote oaks within 100 ft spacing and leave burned oaks standing for 3-5 years for re-sprouting. Crews will focus on the removal of invasive species. Cut and gathered material will be chipped or piled for burning. This project will reduce the probability and intensity of future fires, strengthen the tribe against fire-related economic loss, and restore burned areas.
Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria, Trinidad Rancheria Demonstration Forest Land Acquisition	Tribal Central District	Award approved, work in progress for Phase 1, no TA contract in place	This project supports the necessary steps to acquire property. Appraisal, timber inventory and evaluation have been completed using NCRP TA funds. Assistance with grant applications for forest acquisition to expand territory for the Rancheria is needed. The tribe currently own 80 acres held in trust. This will be a 40% increase in land ownership for the tribe. Opportunities for acquiring vacant timber land in this area are extremely limited. Acquiring this land is consistent with the goals outlined in our Integrated Resources Management Plan. The tribal council has authorized Environmental program staff to move forward with planning and acquisition of this land. This project is consistent with the States 30 by 30 initiative by restoring tribal ownership and control of lands.



APPENDIX G

NCRP HANDBOOK UPDATES



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES HANDBOOK

October 2024

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Important Links

[NCRP Leadership Council, Technical Peer Review Committee, Executive & Ad Hoc Committee Membership](#)

[NCRP Leadership Council Motions and Direction](#)

[NCRP Website Useful Links](#)

[NCRP Projects](#)

[NCRP Tribal Representation Process](#)

[NCRP Memorandum of Mutual Understandings](#)

[NCRP Memorandum of Mutual Understandings Signatories](#)



I. BACKGROUND: NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP HANDBOOK

First developed in 2011, the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) Policies and Procedures Handbook documents the decisions, history and approved institutional processes and protocols of the NCRP, including the governance structure, decision making process, technical review process, staff and consultant roles, NCRP mission, guiding principles, goals and objectives, project prioritization criteria, and all Leadership Council (LC) decisions and policies approved during NCRP quarterly meetings. The Handbook also lists projects identified and funded by the NCRP, and all NCRP plans and strategies reflect the guidance included in the Handbook. The NCRP Handbook is a “living document” and is reviewed, updated and approved by the LC on an annual or as-needed basis, during NCRP quarterly meetings.

By providing an historical overview of the NCRP and documenting its policies and processes, the Handbook supports long-term institutional knowledge, the orientation and onboarding of new Leadership Council and Technical Peer Review Committee members, and provides valuable information in a transparent fashion to NCRP funders and other partners. The NCRP is guided by a [Memorandum of Mutual Understandings \(MOMU\)](#), signed by over 140 agencies, multiple Tribes, non-governmental organizations, watershed groups, special districts, private consultants, and other stakeholders - signifying their support for NCRP principles, goals, planning and implementation processes. The MOMU is updated occasionally as needed, whereas the Handbook is updated at least annually. A copy of the MOMU can be found in Appendix G and a list of signatories to the MOMU in Appendix E.

II. NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP MISSION, GUIDING PRINCIPLES, GOALS & OBJECTIVES

NCRP Mission

Enhance the watersheds and communities of the North Coast region through integrated, multi-objective planning and project implementation in collaboration with North Coast partners.

NCRP Guiding Principles

All NCRP actions and processes are guided by the following principles:

- Local leadership and governance – collaborative Tribal and county direction and decision making
- Transparency in all actions – meetings, decisions, planning and project selection
- Local knowledge and local autonomy – respecting the autonomy and unique perspectives and preferences of Tribes, counties, and partners
- Focus on common ground for the enhancement of all communities and watersheds

- Equity and fairness in governance, engagement, participation, and all decisions and actions
- Acknowledge Tribes as Sovereign Nations, recognize Tribal leadership, recognize Tribal expertise and responsibility of Tribes as stewards, and support meaningful Tribal consultation, collaboration and involvement
- Increase quality of life in economically disadvantaged, underrepresented and underserved communities
- Use the best available local and regional information, traditional knowledge, science and data to prioritize investments
- Align with and synchronize local, state, federal, Tribal priorities
- Integrate multiple goals and objectives into all activities
- All planning and capacity building focused on outcomes on the ground and in communities
- Attract and leverage funding for the region, and use all funding effectively and transparently
- Communicate and amplify the importance of the North Coast Region and the need for investment
- Develop plans and projects at multiple scales – ranging from regional to local
- Consider the long-term impacts of NCRP actions and investments

NCRP Goals and Objectives

GOAL 1: SHARED VISION THROUGH INCLUSIVE, MULTI-BENEFIT REGIONAL PLANNING

1. Develop, Collect and Analyze Data at a Variety of Spatial Scales to Inform Priority Projects/Actions
2. Engage with Regional Partners to Inform High Quality Planning and Implementation
3. Integrate indigenous science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge in collaboration with Tribes to incorporate these practices into North Coast Projects and Plans
4. Respect Tribal Sovereignty, Local Autonomy and Local Knowledge in NCRP Planning and Implementation
5. Work across Jurisdictional Boundaries to Achieve Common Objectives Effectively and Efficiently

GOAL 2: HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS, HABITATS AND SPECIES

6. Work across Jurisdictional Boundaries to Achieve Common Objectives Effectively and Efficiently
7. Conserve, Enhance and Restore Watersheds and Ecosystems that Support Biological Diversity

GOAL 3: REDUCED OR AVOIDED EMISSIONS AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

8. Avoid Emissions via Land Management and Policies
9. Promote Local Energy Independence, Water/ Energy Use Efficiency and Infrastructure Enhancements
10. Protect and Enhance Forest Based Carbon

GOAL 4: CLEAN AND ABUNDANT WATER FOR HUMAN COMMUNITIES

11. Ensure Water Supply Reliability and Quality
12. Protect and Enhance Groundwater Resources
13. Improve Drinking Water Quality and Water Related Infrastructure to Protect Public Health
14. Protect and Enhance Watersheds and Ecosystems that Provide Water Quality and Supply Benefits

GOAL 5: HEALTHY, SAFE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

15. Address Climate Change and Extreme Event Effects, Impacts and Vulnerabilities

GOAL 6: VITAL AND SUSTAINABLE LOCAL ECONOMIES

16. Document and Share the Sustainable Economic Benefits of Working Landscapes and Natural Areas
17. Ensure that Disadvantaged and Underrepresented Communities Benefit from Initiatives
18. Prioritize Plans, Projects and Actions that Result in Long Term Sustainability of Jobs & Revenues

III. NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE AND ROLES

Convened in 2005, the NCRP is an innovative, stakeholder-driven collaboration among Tribes, local government, NGOs, agencies, RCDs, and other interested groups and partners focused on healthy watersheds, safe and healthy communities, and economic vitality for the North Coast Region. The NCRP Region includes all or part of seven North Coast counties (Del Norte, Siskiyou, Modoc, Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino, and Sonoma) and the homelands of North Coast Tribes. The NCRP is governed by a Leadership Council comprised of Tribal and county representatives from the North Coast region. The LC sets direction, establishes criteria and investment targets, and makes all decisions for the NCRP. The LC is supported by the Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC), an advisory body to the LC that provides scientific and technical expertise. The LC and committees are described in more detail below. Current membership is outlined on the NCRP Leadership Council, Technical Peer Review Committee, Executive & Ad Hoc Committee Membership webpage. The NCRP Leadership Council decisions and other policy direction to date are listed in detail on the NCRP Leadership Council Motions and Direction webpage. The NCRP structure and the following roles are subject to revision based on the regular review and decision-making process of the Leadership Council. Updates to structures and roles will be reflected in the Handbook as changes are made.

Leadership Council

The NCRP Leadership Council is a nationally unique governance structure – with sovereign Tribal nations and local county governments working in an integrated, collaborative fashion to achieve the mission and goals of the NCRP while representing the priorities of their constituents. Building collaboration between Tribes and counties is an important opportunity to develop and maintain trust while achieving the shared objectives of North Coast Tribes, counties and other partners. Leadership Council members represent the NCRP in outreach to local communities, state and federal legislators and agency staff, and support the alignment of Tribal, federal, state and local priorities.

The NCRP Leadership Council (LC) consists of two Board of Supervisors' appointees and alternates from each of the seven counties and three Tribal representatives and alternates selected by the North Coast Tribes according to the "Tribal Representation Process" as described below and on the [NCRP Tribal Representation](#) webpage with related Tribal nomination and voting documents. The NCRP LC nominates and elects two Co-Chairs (one Tribal and one county) and two Vice-Chairs (one Tribal and one county) on an as-needed basis and each position is brought before the LC for reconsideration and appointment every two years.

The NCRP Leadership Council provides strategic direction and oversight to the NCRP planning process - making all decisions and guiding the work of the staff team by setting criteria, targets and direction. Each member of the Leadership Council has one vote and the majority of LC decisions to date have been unanimous. When decisions are not unanimous, the majority votes prevail. The NCRP LC is committed to transparency and inclusion, supporting input from stakeholders from throughout the region and beyond, as well as information sharing via the NCRP website, meetings, and workshops. All meetings are noticed in advance, open to the public, and all meeting summaries and information are posted on the NCRP website. NCRP meetings and activities are in compliance with the Brown Act as well as the standards of the California Fair Political Practices Commission.

All NCRP Leadership Council, Technical Peer Review Committee members - and the entities that appointed them - are required to be signatories to the Memorandum of Mutual Understandings (MOMU).

Tribal Representation Process & Inclusion of North Coast Tribes

Tribes in the North Coast determine their own representation and approval of the [NCRP Tribal Representation Process](#). Together there are twelve (12) Tribal seats available in the North Coast. Of these, three (3) are Leadership Council, three (3) are Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) and six (6) are Alternates. Federal recognition is not a criterion to participate in the representation process. Regional Tribes recognize the Tribes in their own region for selection of NCRP representative purposes. Tribes in each Voting District (North, Central and South) are given the opportunity to nominate a person that they feel is qualified for each vacant seat in their District, and to select from those nominated to fill those positions through selection by their self-appointed Voting Delegate. Tribal representatives meet on a regular basis to receive updates from the NCRP Tribal Engagement Director, provide direction to Tribal staff, and provide recommendations to the Tribal Leadership Council members to carry forward in Executive Committee and NCRP Quarterly Meetings.

Executive Committee

The NCRP Executive Committee is a standing committee comprised of the LC Co-Chairs (one Tribal & one county), Co-Vice-Chairs (one Tribal & one county), and two additional members (one Tribal & one county). The LC reconsiders the members' appointment every two years or on an as-needed basis. The Executive Committee provides day-to-day leadership for the NCRP, providing guidance to the NCRP staff team, reviewing and signing letters of support, representing the NCRP with legislators and key agency partners and making time-sensitive decisions on behalf of the NCRP. Any time sensitive decisions made by the Executive Committee reflect previous LC direction and are consistent with LC approved goals and objectives. Decisions are made by unanimous or majority vote. When majority vote cannot be reached, the decision is brought before the full Leadership Council for consideration. Executive Committee decisions are reported via email and provided as an update to the full LC at their next quarterly NCRP meeting. A listing of current LC Executive Committee members can be found on the [NCRP Leadership Council, Technical Peer Review Committee, Executive & Ad Hoc Committee Membership](#) webpage.

Technical Peer Review Committee

The Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) is comprised of two technical & scientific staff (and alternates) appointed by LC members or the Board of Supervisors from each county, as well as Tribal representatives (and

alternates) selected by the North Coast Tribes according to the “Tribal Selection & Representation Process” as posted on the NCRP website with related Tribal nomination and voting documents. The TPRC nominates and submits prospective Co-Chair nominees for LC selection and approval on an as-needed or biennial basis. The TPRC provides support to NCRP and the LC via the evaluation of projects and plan development. The TPRC works with NCRP staff to develop criteria and protocols for project evaluation and selection that are considered and approved by the LC. Expertise on the TPRC includes – but is not limited to - fisheries, traditional ecological knowledge, ecology, engineering, geology, agriculture, climate change, forest health, Tribal cultural fire, watershed planning and management, water infrastructure and energy. A listing of current TPRC members can be found on the [NCRP Leadership Council, Technical Peer Review Committee, Executive & Ad Hoc Committee Membership](#) webpage.

Ad Hoc Committees

The NCRP Leadership Council forms Ad Hoc Committees on an as-needed basis to address specific issues or topics. These committees are not subject to the Brown Act and are disbanded once the topic has been addressed and outcomes have been reported to the Leadership Council. NCRP Ad Hoc Committees must comprise less than a quorum of the LC and may include members of the LC and TPRC, as well as the NCRP core staff team and consultants. Ad Hoc Committees work closely with the NCRP staff team to advise and guide plans and criteria that will be considered by the LC.

Core NCRP Staff Team

The core NCRP staff team is comprised of representatives from Sonoma Water, the County of Humboldt, the California Indian Environmental Alliance, and West Coast Watershed, and the staff designated on behalf of each entity as needed. The staff team reports to the NCRP Leadership Council and works collaboratively with the Technical Peer Review Committee, Ad Hoc Committees, funding agencies, partners, and the community. The staff team leads the day-to-day coordination of the NCRP and implements the direction and decisions of the entire LC (or the Leadership Council’s approved designees, such as the Executive Committee, TPRC Co-Chairs, or Ad Hoc Committees). In addition to executing the direction of the LC, the NCRP staff team is responsible for collaborative work planning, project management, communications, consultant management, representing the NCRP at meetings and events, execution of high quality NCRP work products, community engagement, and providing quarterly forecasting and reporting to the Leadership Council, funders, and the public. The staff team meets on a regular basis to carry out the mission of the NCRP and the directives of the LC. The staff team is responsible for working collaboratively to prepare and provide recommendations for LC decisions and direction. If staff team consensus is not reached, the staff team will prepare and present different scenarios for consideration by the LC.

Reflective of the NCRP focus on an integrated program led by Tribes and counties, the NCRP staff team is responsive to and supportive of all partners in the region – including Tribes, counties, agencies, cities, watershed groups, etc. The Tribal Engagement staff have an enhanced and specific role to support Tribal participation and engagement in the NCRP and receive direction and guidance from Tribal LC members and Tribal TPRC members to advance Tribal support and to facilitate the Tribal nomination and voting processes.

Following is more detailed information about the individual roles of the NCRP core staff team.

Sonoma Water

Since the inception of the NCRP, substantial matching funds and allocation of staff resources have been provided by the Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) in support of achieving the mission of the NCRP. Sonoma Water supports the strategic planning, outreach, legislative and funding application elements on behalf of the NCRP, and has contracted with West Coast Watershed to lead these efforts. Sonoma Water assigns staff to serve as part of the core staff and consultant team to advise and coordinate on strategy, key initiatives, legislative and community affairs, plan development, funding applications, meeting planning and outreach.

NCRP Staff and Title: Molly Oshun, Sonoma Water Climate Resiliency Engineer

Regional Grant Administration – County of Humboldt

Since April 28, 2005, the LC has consistently approved the County of Humboldt to act as the regional applicant, recipient of, and Regional Administrator of grant funds on behalf of the NCRP and authorizes an allocation of each grant to Support Humboldt's administrative role. To date the County of Humboldt has successfully managed millions of dollars in grant funding for hundreds of NCRP planning and implementation projects. The Humboldt Regional Administrator Team (Admin Team) provides QA/QC on all invoices and progress reports submitted by sub-grantees prior to compiling regular grant progress reports and invoices to submit to the granting agency. Humboldt County contracts with NCRP consultants - CIEA and West Coast Watershed as members of the core staff team - to carry out the core functions described below. The County of Humboldt Admin Team maintains auditable files and acts as the liaison between local project sponsors, NCRP consultants, and granting agencies to streamline communications. As needed, the County of Humboldt assigns County of Humboldt staff to act as part of the NCRP staff team to advise and coordinate on plan development, funding applications, work planning, project management and reporting, meeting planning and outreach. The County of Humboldt establishes and maintains project-related risk management practices to protect the County and the NCRP from liability.

NCRP Staff Lead and Title: Cybelle Immitt, NCRP Director of Administration and Contracting

Consultants

The NCRP relies on an array of consultants to support its planning and implementation efforts - some are long term consultants that play a foundational role in the ongoing functions and processes of the NCRP, while others are short term technical consultants hired for a specific need. All consultants will be required to sign the NCRP MOMU, and their contracts will confirm that they have read, understand and commit to the information and guidance included in the NCRP Policies and Procedures Handbook.

Following is a list of the current long-term consultants who act as members of the NCRP core staff team, and a description of their roles and work on behalf of the NCRP.

NCRP Lead Consultant - West Coast Watershed (WCW)

Responsible for LC & TPRC Coordination, Strategic Planning, Project Development, Funding Applications, Plan Development, Data Development, Partner Engagement, Outreach and Communications, Technical Consultant Contracting, Oversight and Coordination

West Coast Watershed (WCW) serves the NCRP under contract to Sonoma Water and Humboldt County to support the ongoing functioning of the NCRP and strategic execution of the NCRP mission. In close collaboration with assigned staff from Humboldt County, Sonoma Water and CIEA, WCW is responsible for the following tasks.

- LC & TPRC Coordination & Strategic Planning: plans and convenes NCRP governance meetings (LC, TPRC, Executive Committee); supports the Executive Committee, Ad Hoc Committees and LC in decision making and tees up decisions and/or staff recommendations to the Leadership Council; tracks LC decisions; creates and updates policy and messaging documents; regularly updates this Handbook and MOMU for LC consideration and approval
- Partner Engagement, Outreach and Communications: plans and convenes NCRP stakeholder workshops, conferences and other meetings; maintains the NCRP website and communication tools; supports the Executive Committee, Ad Hoc Committees and LC in decision making, legislative and other outreach; represents the NCRP at meetings, conferences and during legislative testimony
- Project Development, Funding Applications, Plan Development, Data Development: creates and implements programs to identify, prioritize and support project development; produces NCRP data sets, research, assessments and plans, ensuring project identification, prioritization and evaluation; supports the TPRC in project evaluation and ranking; develops and coordinates funding applications; manages and coordinates spatial data and mapping, databases and project management tools; provides project management and performance tracking, including tracking of all NCRP projects, plans, sub-agreements, technical assistance and capacity investments.
- Technical Consultant Contracting, Oversight and Coordination: hires and oversees technical consultants focused on spatial analysis and planning, water and wastewater infrastructure enhancement, forest and watershed health, capacity investments, research and technical writing, graphic design, and other duties as required or assigned.

NCRP Staff and Title: Karen Gaffney, Director of Strategic Planning and Communications

NCRP Staff and Title: Katherine Gledhill, Director of Project Development

NCRP Tribal Engagement Coordinator - California Indian Environmental Alliance (CIEA)

Responsible for Tribal Outreach and Engagement, Strategic Planning, Project Development, Tribal Technical Consultant Contracting, Oversight and Coordination

CIEA was recruited and approved by the NCRP Tribal Representatives in 2014 to coordinate Tribal representation, engagement in the NCRP, and to coordinate capacity and technical assistance to support Tribes. CIEA coordinates and facilitates Tribal outreach, engagement and Tribal participation in NCRP programs, ensuring that Tribal perspectives are included in all NCRP planning documents, strategic planning, messaging and communications, advocating for state and federal resources for North Coast Tribes, representing the NCRP at meetings and conferences, policy and legislative review to support Tribal Sovereignty and ensure Tribal access

to programs, performing outreach to North Coast Tribes, ensure that Tribes are supported to participate in NCRP planning efforts, regional workshops and trainings, quarterly meetings, and applying for project funding. CIEA facilitates Tribe-to-Tribe meetings, meetings with Tribes and regional agencies, and coordinates and provides technical assistance to Tribes, including hiring, overseeing and working with technical consultants to meet Tribal needs. CIEA coordinates and facilitates the nomination and voting process for Tribal selection of the LC and TPRC Tribal Representatives and the coordination meetings of selected NCRP Tribal Representatives and regional Tribes. In coordination with NCRP staff team, CIEA staff represents the NCRP at conferences and meetings at the local, state and federal level. In close collaboration with assigned staff from Humboldt County, Sonoma Water and WCW, CIEA works to ensure effective communication with the NCRP Tribal Representatives on meeting agendas, strategic plans and policy decisions of the NCRP. CIEA acts as a resource to Tribal sponsored projects and integrates findings into wider programs.

NCRP Staff and Title: Sherri Norris, Director of Tribal Engagement and Programs

NCRP Staff and Title: Javier Silva, Director of Tribal Technical Assistance

IV. NCRP FUNDING AWARDS

GRANT PROGRAM	YEAR	AWARD
Proposition 50, NCIRWM Planning Grant	2005	\$500,000
Proposition 50, Implementation Grant, Round 1	2006	\$25,000,000
Proposition 50, Implementation Grant, Round 2	2007	\$2,079,000
Proposition 50 Implementation Supplemental Funding	2010	\$2,176,860
CEC Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant	2010	\$959,117
Proposition 50, DWR directed funding for Water & Wastewater Service Provider Outreach & Support Program	2011	\$500,000
Proposition 84, NCIRWMP Planning Grant	2011	\$1,000,000
Proposition 84, NCIRWMP Implementation Grant, Round 1	2011	\$8,222,000
Proposition 84, NCIRWMP Implementation Grant, Round 2	2013	\$5,386,000
Strategic Growth Council, Sustainable Communities Grant	2014	\$1,000,000
NCRP 2014 Proposition 84, IRWM Drought Project Grant	2014	\$8,700,000
NCRP 2015 Proposition 84, IRWM Project Grant	2015	\$11,047,939
NCRP Proposition 1, Disadvantaged Community Involvement funding	2017	\$2,650,000
California Natural Resource Agency, NCRP Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program	2019	\$4,037,500
Proposition 1, Round 1 IRWM Implementation Project Grant	2020	\$12,720,000
California Natural Resources Agency, NCRP Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program, Round 1	2019	\$4,037,500

GRANT PROGRAM	YEAR	AWARD
California Natural Resources Agency, NCRP Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program, Round 2	2021	\$13,560,000
Humboldt Area Foundation and Wild Rivers Community Foundation, Fire Response Capacity Building	2021	\$500,000
Governor's Office of Planning and Research Woody Feedstock Aggregation Pilot Program	2022	\$700,000
NCRP Urban & Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant	2022	\$3,592,756
NCRP Urban & Multibenefit Drought Relief Tribal and Underrepresented Set-Aside Grant	2022	\$5,000,000
Actionable Lidar-Based Data for Wildfire Prevention Planning, Response, and Rehabilitation on California's North Coast	2022	\$123,656
Riparian Corridor Regional Work Plan	2022	\$45,000
CAL FIRE, NCRP CAL FIRE Regional Pilot Grant	2023	\$10,000,000
	TOTAL	\$123,037,328

Appendix A

NCRP Policies

2024

NCRP POLICIES, 2024

Background

The North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) is led by a Leadership Council (LC) comprised of voting members from North Coast Tribes and counties. The LC is the governance and decision-making body for the NCRP, and sets policy on a regular basis to provide direction to the NCRP Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) and NCRP staff. The NCRP has a strong focus on transparent decision making and regional equity, and seeks to share and disseminate its policies and processes so that stakeholders in the North Coast region have a clear understanding of the decision-making process that is used by the NCRP. The policies and processes of the NCRP are regularly reviewed and updated by the LC based on new information and the needs and opportunities facing the NCRP and the North Coast region. Approved policy updates are included and/or referenced in the NCRP Handbook.

A. MEMORANDUM OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS, 2022

The Memorandum of Mutual Understandings (MOMU) developed in 2004 and updated in 2010 and 2022, defined the purpose, general goals, definitions and mutual understandings of North Coast agencies towards developing a North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan¹ and planning process to increase regional coordination and collaboration to obtain funding for water-related projects. The MOMU, delineated the North Coast boundary and described the roles, composition and decision-making process of the Leadership Council (LC) and Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC). The 2022 MOMU established adherence to the Ralph M. Brown Act and outlined the Tribal Representation Process. A copy of the MOMU can be found in Appendix G and a list of signatories to the MOMU in Appendix E.

B. NCRP STRUCTURE, ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, STAFFING, 2011 – current

During the July 2011 NCRP Meeting, the LC adopted the NCRP Handbook that described the roles and responsibilities of the project team: LC as decision-making body, TPRC providing technical review and advice, Humboldt County as contract administrator & overseeing project implementation, and Sonoma Water providing ongoing support & direction for planning & fund development. During the December 2020 meeting, the LC updated the governance structure and established the Executive Committee comprised of the Leadership Council Co-Chairs, Co-Vice-Chairs, a fifth member nominated and approved by the LC and a sixth member nominated by the Tribal representatives and approved by the LC. Additionally, the LC allowed the formation of Ad Hoc Committees on an as needed basis to address a short duration issue or topic. The NCRP Handbook has been updated on an annual basis and includes detailed descriptions of the NCRP roles and election processes.

¹ The North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan was the original name of the North Coast Resource Partnership.

C. NCRP PROJECT REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS GUIDELINES, ongoing

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.

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 funder's 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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Community

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.

D. NCRP GRANTS AND CONTRACTS ADMIN ALLOCATION, 2018 & 2024

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. During the April 2024 meeting authorized an allocation of up to 6% to cover County of Humboldt costs for grant administration/project management for all NCRP grants or contracts.

E. 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 short-falls.
 - 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. The Tribal LC members 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 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?

F. NCRP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SELECTION PROCESS, 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	N/A	y/n
Is the project sponsor an eligible applicant?		
Is the project type eligible for the current solicitation?		
Is the project sponsor a Tribal or disadvantaged organization?		
Does the project serve a Tribal or disadvantaged community? Does the project align with the goals/objectives of the NCRP and the funding source? Will the TA support leverage substantial outcomes related to these goals/objectives? If the project is located on private land, do the primary benefits provide direct public good?		
REASONABLE NEED	N/A	y/n
Is the financial need clear for this TA support? Are the project technical assistance needs reasonable and justifiable?		
Can the needs be effectively addressed by the technical assistance team?		
PROPONENT CAPACITY INFORMATION		
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?	1	0-10
PROJECT DESCRIPTION		
Does the Project Description include a clear problem statement, intended purpose and appropriate solution?	2	(0 – 10 X 2)
PROJECT GOALS ALIGNMENT		
Do the goals and objectives of the Proposal help to achieve the goals and objectives of the NCRP and the NCRP RFFC grant?	1	0-10
STRATEGIES & BENEFITS		
Does the project implement effective strategies?	2	(0 – 10 X 2)
Does the project provide multiple benefits of significant magnitude?		
PROJECT NEED		
Is the need for the project clearly supported?	2	(0 – 10 X 2)
Does the proposal demonstrate that the project is needed and important to the local community and region?		
PROJECT DAC STATUS		
Is the project is located in and substantially benefitting an economically disadvantaged community?	2	(0 – 10 X 2)
Is the project is located in and substantially benefitting a severely disadvantaged community?		
TOTAL SCORE		0 – 100

G. ON-GOING PROJECT INCLUSION PROCESS INTO THE NCRP PLAN, updated 2019

Increasingly, funding opportunities for project implementation require or give preference to projects that are included in an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWM) Plan. Regardless if projects are being submitted during a regular IRWM project selection cycle or between regular cycles, each project must be first recommended by the TPRC and be approved by the LC. The following process will provide a mechanism for including projects on an on-going basis into the NCRP Plan.

1. Project proponents will complete preliminary project information:
 - Project Name
 - Organization Name, Type & Contact information
 - Project location address
 - Funding Program names
 - Total project cost & Funding request
 - Start/End dates (tentative)
 - Alignment with NCRP Plan Objectives (selection boxes)
 - Project Summary & Goals
 - Project partners
 - Description of benefits (including if/how the project will benefit disadvantaged communities)
 - Project management strategies/ project elements (selection boxes)
2. Project proponent will submit a signed [Memorandum of Mutual Understandings \(MOMU\)](#) if one has not already been submitted.
3. Staff will review the project and follow-up with project proponents regarding any eligibility concerns (Urban Water Management Plan, Agricultural Water Management, Surface Water Diverter, Groundwater Management Plan, CASGEM/SGMA compliance, proponent type)
4. Staff will submit the project to the NCRP Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) for 30 days of TPRC review.
5. The TPRC will review eligible projects to ensure alignment with the NCRP Goals and Objectives and for technical comment.
6. Should the TPRC identify that the project is in alignment, the TPRC will recommend the project be provided to the LC for approval at a NCRP Quarterly Meeting for review and comment. If the timing of the NCRP Quarterly Meeting does not align with the project deadline, it may be submitted by the TPRC to the Executive Committee for approval.
7. Staff will 'Publish' eligible NCRP Projects and project summaries will be included on the website; and staff will report to the LC at a NCRP Quarterly Meeting
8. Additional project information will be required when NCRP funding solicitations and calls for proposals occur; NCRP project proponents will be allowed to edit preliminary project information.
9. NCRP Priority Projects will be selected by the LC. NCRP Priority Project proponents will need to adopt the NCRP Plan when completed per the IRWM Guidelines.

H. NCRP POLICY ON EXTERNAL PLAN INTEGRATION, 2019

The NCRP engages in multi-objective integrated planning to achieve its regional goals and to guide local project implementation. The NCRP regularly reviews local, regional, state and federal planning documents, and where relevant, integrates or references data and information from these plans into updated NCRP plans as updated. NCRP data integration from local and statewide plans may include local Tribal, RCD or watershed plans, reports from business or academic partners, State plans focused on watershed and community health, sustainable groundwater management, and data and planning related to climate change. The NCRP has a history of synchronizing statewide planning priorities with local planning efforts, including Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plans and Storm Water Resource Management Plans. Occasionally, the NCRP will be requested to fully integrate or ratify the recommendations from other planning processes, or to lend support to outreach and stakeholder engagement for planning processes not initiated by the NCRP. For the purposes of this policy discussion, plans that are not commissioned or executed by the NCRP will be called External Plans. The following section outlines the NCRP policy and process for addressing External Plans.

The NCRP process to a) incorporate or integrate External Plan recommendations, b) be referenced as supporting an External Plan – in part or in full, or c) engage with another planning process, is outlined below. When any variation on items a-c (above) are requested, NCRP staff will initiate the following:

1. NCRP staff will work with External Plan staff or plan proponents to determine the purpose of the External Plan, its potential relevance to the NCRP planning process, and alignment with NCRP goals, objectives, technical review and decision-making processes, and an approach to NCRP staff support, and stakeholder outreach and engagement.
2. The TPRC will be notified of the staff recommendations, and a 30-day comment period will be initiated for the TPRC to review, confirm alignment with the NCRP Goals and Objectives, and for their technical comment. Before the conclusion of the comment period, the TPRC Co-chairs will coordinate with NCRP staff to provide the TPRC with the opportunity to meet in person or by phone to discuss the merits of the proposal.
3. NCRP staff will then bring the request and a staff recommendation to the NCRP Executive Committee for consideration. The Executive Committee will determine if the proposal should be brought forward during a regular quarterly meeting cycle, or if the proposal should be expedited between these cycles. Based on the time required for action the Executive Committee will also determine if the full LC or the Executive Committee will make the final decision.
4. Any Local Plan project proponents seeking funding that requires project inclusion into an IRWM Plan will follow the steps outlined in the On-Going Project Inclusion Process into the NCRP Plan found in the NCRP Handbook.

I. NCRP PLAN & STORM WATER RESOURCE PLAN INTEGRATION PROCESS, 2018

The development of Storm Water Management Plans satisfies the requirements of Senate Bill 985 and State Water Board SWRP Guidelines to establish eligibility for local agencies and organizations to receive future State Storm Water Grant implementation funds. The purpose of a SWRP is to integrate storm water management with other basic aspects of aquatic resource protection and overall water management including flood control, water supply, and habitat conservation.

The following process was approved by the LC on January 20, 2018 to incorporate a SWRP into the NCRP Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan.

1. The SWRP plan will include a summary of the NCRP Plan under the Existing Plans section.²
2. The SWRP Plan, Implementation Strategy and Scheduling of Projects section will include a discussion on how the SWRP will be incorporated into the NCRP Plan per the following steps.
 - The Public Draft SWRP will be provided to the NCRP Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) for review to ensure alignment with the NCRP Goals and Objectives and for technical comment. The comment period will be 30 calendar days.
 - The Public Draft SWRP will be presented to the NCRP Leadership Council (LC) at a NCRP Quarterly Meeting for review and comment. If timing of the NCRP Quarterly Meetings does not align with the SWRP finalization, the SWRP may be submitted to the LC via email for review and comment.
 - Any TPRC or LC commentary will be considered and addressed prior to finalizing the SWRP with a “response to comments” memo.
 - At a NCRP Quarterly Meeting, a copy of the Final SWRP and “response to comments” memo will be presented to the NCRP LC for the final decision vote. If timing of the NCRP Quarterly Meetings does not

² An example description: *The North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (NCRP Plan) provides a centralized and collaborative framework for addressing local, regional, and statewide water resource priorities. The NCRP Plan emphasizes the creation of a sustainable environmental and socio-economic framework for the North Coast, by engaging in integrated planning for water infrastructure and natural resources. Planning and project focus areas include the recovery of salmonid populations, enhancement of the beneficial uses of water, support for energy independence, climate adaptation, local autonomy and intra-regional cooperation. The NCRP Plan focuses on areas of common interest and concern to North Coast stakeholders and on attracting funding to the North Coast Region, and recognizes unique local solutions in different parts of the Region. The NCRP is comprised of the seven North Coast counties and Tribes within the NCRWQCB watershed boundary. The NCRP Plan is supported by over 100 agencies, special districts, Tribal organizations, non-governmental organizations, watershed groups, and other stakeholders.*

align with the SWRP finalization, the SWRP may be submitted to the LC via email for consideration at the next NCRP Quarterly Meeting.³

- SWRP project proponents seeking funding that requires project inclusion into an IRWM Plan will follow the steps outlined in the On-Going Project Inclusion Process into the NCRP Plan.

J. NCRP PROCESS FOR EVALUATION OF FUNDING & LEGISLATIVE OPPORTUNITIES, 2020

The NCRP has been very successful in pursuing funding and influencing legislation to achieve the goals and objectives approved by the LC. Typically, NCRP staff apprise the LC and TPRC of funding and legislative opportunities at the NCRP quarterly meetings, and makes staff recommendations to the LC related to these opportunities, whereby the LC provide direction to staff and the Executive Committee regarding any approved actions on these opportunities. Formal authorization to accept a grant agreement is typically agendized at a NCRP quarterly meeting, and requires the approval of the LC as well as the formal authorization of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, acting as the NCRP fiscal and contracts sponsor.

There are times when funding or legislative opportunities have a rapid turnaround, and in these cases the Executive Committee is authorized to direct and provide guidance to staff in order for the NCRP to pursue these opportunities. Actions that may be taken between quarterly meetings by the NCRP staff with guidance and review from the NCRP Executive Committee include:

- 1) Writing letters related to legislation or funding opportunities that are in support of NCRP Goals and Objectives and aligned with NCRP policies and previous LC direction.
- 2) Evaluating funding or legislative opportunities that are aligned with NCRP goals, objectives and policies, including attending meetings, engaging in discussions, and drafting preliminary concepts for legislator, agency or funder review.
- 3) Prior to substantively proceeding on any funding or legislative opportunity, NCRP staff will receive approval from the Co-Chairs at a minimum, and will request approval from the full Executive Committee. Where relevant, TPRC co-chairs will be consulted and engaged. A decision to formally submit a grant application may be authorized by the Executive Committee. In the absence of the full Executive Committee, the Co-chairs may authorize this action.
- 4) For grants or funding under \$10,000 that are in alignment with previous LC direction, NCRP staff may independently pursue these opportunities provided that Humboldt County is willing to take on the administration of the funding. These funds may be used only for logistical support for stakeholder outreach (e.g., workshops, meetings, handouts) and not for planning or project implementation.

³ The SWRP Guidelines note that for the purposes of receiving project funding, submittal of the SWRP to the IRWM group (for further incorporation into the existing IRWM plan) fulfils the requirement for “incorporation”.

- 5) NCRP meeting materials will include a summary of any actions taken by the Executive Committee and/or staff related to funding or legislative opportunities.
- 6) A decision to accept grant funding would be voted on by the full LC and approved by Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, acting as fiscal and contract sponsor for the NCRP.
- 7) Any funding request would honor the LC approved approach to local autonomy – allowing Tribes or counties to opt out of any element of the funding request in which they do not wish to participate.
- 8) Funding requests or legislative input will predominantly focus on NCRP project implementation, but may also include stakeholder outreach and coordination, technical support for project proponents, data, analysis and planning, or enhanced funding for economically disadvantaged communities.
- 9) The LC may choose to form an Ad Hoc committee focused on funding and/or legislative opportunities – either for specific funding and/or legislative opportunities, or in service of developing more general funding and legislative strategies. An ad hoc committee will be created as needed, serve for a specified period of time, and be disbanded when no longer required. The ad hoc committee is intended to advise NCRP staff and make recommendations to the LC, and may be comprised of LC and TPRC members appointed by the LC.
- 10) Refinements to this approach may be added at each NCRP quarterly meeting, and refined LC direction may apply generally or to a specific legislative or funding opportunity.

K. SUB-GRANTEE AGREEMENT COMPLIANCE POLICY, 2021

The County of Humboldt (COUNTY), in its role as the Regional Grant Administrator on behalf of the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP), aims to create an environment in which each Sub-Grantee can be successful. The COUNTY intends to actively assist Sub-Grantees in understanding and meeting the grant agreement requirements. However, it is the responsibility of the Sub-Grantee to comply with grant agreement terms and conditions, NCRP policies, and applicable laws and regulations. When errors or delays arise, the COUNTY will work with the Sub-Grantee to try to find solutions before they become compliance issues. However, when sufficient corrective actions are not taken by a Sub-Grantee to resolve compliance issues, the COUNTY will initiate the following procedures.

Failure to Execute the Sub-Grantee Agreement

The Project Sponsor is required to sign and return the Sub-Grantee agreement, so that it may be fully executed, within the prescribed amount of time depending on the grant program. The prescribed amount of time will be specified when the Sub-Grantee agreement is provided to the Project Sponsor.

- If the Sub-Grantee is unable to sign the agreement within the prescribed amount of time, the submittal of a time extension request is required. In order to be approved, a written request shall explain the reason the extension is necessary and provide a proposed timeline, stating when the

signed agreement will be submitted to the COUNTY. Approval of the extension request will be at the discretion of the COUNTY grant manager.

- If the Sub-Grantee fails to submit the signed Sub-Grantee Agreement or an acceptable extension request within the prescribed amount of time, COUNTY staff may recommend that the NCRP Leadership Council (LC) withdraw the project funding offer and initiate the process of reallocating the funds to a different project, per the NCRP Policy, *Project Funding Reallocation Process*.

Other Significant Compliance Issues

Compliance with Sub-Grantee Agreement terms and conditions, NCRP policies, and applicable laws and regulations is a mandatory requirement to maintain good standing with grant program. Common non-compliance circumstances include the following:

- Repeated failure to follow required administrative procedures and requirements after multiple reminders, such as:
 - Late invoice and report submittals
 - Insufficient quality and completeness of forms and reports
 - Incorrect or altered forms
 - Inadequate communication to remediate errors, delaying the payment process
- Repeated lack of responsiveness to communications regarding grant compliance
- Failure to submit signed grant agreement amendments within the prescribed amount of time
- Noncompliance with state and local permits
- Noncompliance with grantor contract requirements

Procedures to Remediate Significant Compliance Issues:

1. When COUNTY staff determines that there are significant compliance issues, the Sub-Grantee will be notified via email that they are out of compliance and a corrective action is required within 10 calendar days.

- a. If corrective action is not taken and communicated to the COUNTY within 10 days, the Sub-Grantee shall submit a written request for a time extension to come into compliance, with an explanation for why an extension is warranted and a schedule for coming into compliance.

- b. **Mandatory Compliance Refresher Training:**

The COUNTY will hold a conference call or personal meeting with the Sub-Grantee to review the applicable procedures and requirements of the agreement.

A follow-up letter will be sent to the Sub-Grantee identifying the issues discussed during the refresher training. The letter shall be signed by the Sub-Grantee and returned to the COUNTY, acknowledging an understanding of and commitment to comply with the terms of the grant agreement.

2. **Formal Noncompliance Letter:**

If the Sub-Grantee still fails to correct the issue within 10 days, the COUNTY will send a Noncompliance Letter to the Project Manager, the Project's Agency/Organization Director, and copied

to the NCRP Executive Committee Members. The letter will reference the compliance issue, prior attempts from the COUNTY to attain compliance, and the suggested actions to bring the Sub-Grantee back into compliance within 10 days.

3. Conference Call/Meeting:

The Non-Compliance Letter will suggest a conference call or meeting to discuss the compliance issues and corrective action required. The call or meeting is an opportunity for the Sub-Grantee to present a corrective action plan that can be agreed upon by the Sub-Grantee and the COUNTY to resolve the compliance issues.

4. Termination of Agreement:

If the compliance issue remains uncorrected after the deadline indicated in the letter and there continues to be no agreed upon plan of action as a result of the meeting, COUNTY staff may recommend that the NCRP Leadership Council authorize termination of the Sub-Grantee agreement and, as applicable, initiate the reallocation of funds, per the NCRP Policy, *Project Funding Reallocation Process*.

The Sub-Grantee will be added to a list of entities that failed to comply with the grant agreement requirements, which will be provided to the Technical Peer Review Committee as a reference at future project review meetings for funding opportunities.