



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

MEETING SUMMARY

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

I WELCOME

- Elk Valley Rancheria Tribal Welcome
- Del Norte County Welcome: Supervisors Howard and Wilson
- North Coast Resource Partnership Welcome: Leadership Council Co-Chairs Hillman and Gore
 - Resolutions of Appreciation presented to Dan Gjerde, Glenn McGourty, Brandon Criss (Nathan Rich will be presented with Resolution of Appreciation at the January 2025 Quarterly Meeting)
 - Executive Committee elections in January 2025
 - Cyndi Childress, Tribal Council Secretary and Administrative Manager for the Nor Rel Muk Wintu Nation, was nominated and approved to act as alternative for Tribal Northern District Leadership Council alternate for Leaf Hillman

II PARTNER AND AUDIENCE INTRODUCTIONS

- Introductions by Leadership Council, Technical Peer Review Committee, Staff Team Members, Partners and Audience
- In January, the NCRP Executive Committee will nominate and vote on Leadership Council and TPRC membership, an invitation was extended to step forward

III REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA/PUBLIC COMMENT/DECISION

Public Comment: none

Motion: Supervisor Howard

Second: Supervisor Wilson

Public Comment: NCRP has a vital role in the region and is making a difference.

Vote: passed unanimously

IV PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Public Comment: none

V PARTNER PRESENTATIONS (INFORMATIONAL)

TOLOWA DEE-NI' PROJECT

Rachel McCain, Natural Resources Department Director and
Cynthia Ford, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Presentation: [Tribal Community Wildfire Protection Plan and Capacity Enhancement Plan, programs supported by the NCRP](#)

The Cultural and Wildland Fire Program is 5 years in and going strong with trails and fuel reduction work including crew formation, skill development, a type-6 engine crew and women-in-fire-training crew in development. CWPP consultant Cross Contour Fire helped guide the process so that the Tribal voice was heard throughout the planning effort to include resources and priorities of the Tribe, which include more than just infrastructure. This assistance was integral because the plan helps with future projects as well. The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation will be one of the first Tribal governments to do capacity enhancement planning. Developing a fire program takes immense effort and is a long-term goal. Work accomplished from NCRP Fire Response and Capacity Project funding will be completed in April 2025.

Tolowa Dee-ni' ancestral territory includes a vast 2.7 million acres and overlaps California and Oregon. Within this region, numerous counties have plans but they are not specific to Tribal resources or goals, making it challenging to work amongst the different agencies. The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation has minimal current land ownership and the Tribe wants to identify landscapes that are important to protect and maintain as fire-adapted communities. Some neighboring Tribes have maintained these lands that are fundamental to the health of the larger landscape. Reintroduction of good fire is needed to address the current condition of the forest – the old way can inform the new way. The goal is to remove fear and realize that fire is something we have to live with. The CWPP scoring needs to change to include cultural sites (beyond housing, sewer and water lines) and capacity enhancement planning helps to inform those revisions.

The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation has been organized since 1987, with an environmental program in the Tribal government since 2020. It has been an extreme burden to manage different grants with different timelines and difficult to balance the need for more staff with budgetary constraints. The capacity enhancement planning work is essential for outlining priorities, as well as easing application and reporting burdens. Developing work-force capacity, especially full-time jobs in the woods, is a great thing for all Tolowa Dee-ni' Tribal citizens. Fewer reporting requirements in working with the NCRP is appreciated and the Forest Service has traded off managing grants.

Discussion began with acknowledging the challenging way that block grants are delivered and the possibility to scale tasks by relying on partners to share the burden of grant management. Many people enter the environment fields with a desire to work in the field and end up working in administration jobs. Adding fringe benefits like professional development when writing grants and developing projects could allow grants to cover grant administration costs. Other Tribes may want access to what the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation has learned in this process, although each Tribal government has unique situations. Tribes should be hired to provide technical assistance and expertise to other Tribes. The Leadership Council appreciated the hard work that is taking place to bring healthy fire back in the area. Support from CAL FIRE, local cooperation, and trust allows for achievements in burning.

DEL NORTE COUNTY PROJECT

Jon Olsen, PE, County Engineer, Del Norte County TPRC Member

Presentation: [Partnership - City/County Sewer System Improvements with NCRP grants](#)

Crescent City and the County of Del Norte share a sewer system with 21 sewer lift stations, weak monitoring systems, and 40-year-old equipment. The County received an IRWM Prop 84 block grant from the NCRP in 2015 and partnered with Elk Valley Rancheria for additional funding for 5 pump upgrades and 19 electrical panels. These upgrades were very important because real-time monitoring and alarms means fewer sanitary overflows and a cleaner environment. This project took patience as the grant application, agreement with the Water Board and Humboldt County, project design, construction contract pumps, electrical contract/design, and implementation took 5 years to complete.

In August of 2023, the Smith River Complex fire came through causing power loss to the entire community, with no line service for more than 20 days, and no backup generator power for more than a week. This affected sanitary lift stations, where workers had to transport mobile generators to each lift station. Lessons learned included the importance of looking for opportunities, understanding how those opportunities network together, and to take advantage of failures. Appreciation was expressed for the on-going partnership with Elk Valley Rancheria.

Leadership Council members discussed the merits of Orick's plans to build a microgrid in partnership with Cal Poly Humboldt to power their sewer treatment system. Microgrids may be a short-term fix to become more resilient and Del Norte County is looking into that.

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

Walter Mackelburg, CAL FIRE Climate & Energy Forest Health Area Forester
Presentation: [CAL FIRE's Regional Landscape Pilots](#)

The number one goal of California's Wildfire & Forest Resilience Action Plan is to increase the pace and scale of forest health projects by mobilizing regional action plans to develop a network of Regional Forest and Community Fire Resilience plans and a pipeline of local and regional shovel-ready projects. The key benefits of a regional approach empowers local governments and collaboratives to set priorities and integrate forest reliance and sustainable development programs; foster alignment of state and federal goals/mandates including forest health, climate adaptation, watershed protection, biodiversity and outdoor recreation; facilitate multi-benefit, multi-jurisdictional projects; and build a workforce and capacity to develop an ongoing pipeline of projects. The goals of CAL FIRE's Regional Landscape Pilots are to align with goals of Task Force & DOC's Regional Forest & Fire Capacity Program; accelerate the development and implementation of a portfolio of forest health projects across a region; accomplish high priority project that might not otherwise access funding; and foster regional capacity building and partnerships. A \$10 million grant was awarded to Humboldt County for the NCRP Forest Health Pilot, in which NCRP executed a multi-step, transparent, open solicitation and project review process leveraging science, data, local knowledge and expertise to recommend a slate of priority projects. CAL FIRE grant program solicitations for fiscal year 2024/2025 for Forest Health opens November 13, 2024 and closes January 15, 2025. Sign up on the [Forest Health Grants webpage](#) for grant updates.

Questions from audience members were posed around the total amount of funds requested for the last round of Forest Health grant and acreage/connectivity requirements for future grants. Leadership Council and TPRC members discussed the looming issue of prevailing wage law effect on project cost per acre of treatment. An attorney has been hired to review each NCRP Forest Health Pilot project with the resulting information hopefully of help to project sponsors. Torchbearr is reaching out for more funding for training capacity and appreciates that CAL FIRE wants to pay prevailing wage so that people can do the work and provide for their families. This is a concerning and complex issue, as licensed people are needed for this work (State of California requires a landscape contractor license).

Dale Roberts, TPRC Co-Chair, Sonoma County Water Agency
NCRP Regional CAL FIRE Forest Health pilot Grant Project Proposal Suite Review & Approval

The NCRP CAL FIRE Regional Pilot Grant implements key forest health strategies in the vision for North Coast resilience. Project proposal support included technical assistance for project development, proposal and application support, spatial data support, webinars and weekly office hours. 11 project proposals were submitted to the Project Tracker website, with a total grant request of \$15.5 million, and total project cost of \$18.3 million. The TPRC conducted a review according to the NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Project Review Process Guidelines and met in person on August 28 & 29, 2024 to discuss the project proposals, finalize scores and select a draft suite of Priority Projects with funding reallocation contingency. The meeting was open to the public with opportunities for comment. On September 4, a CAL FIRE Priority Project presentation and review was conducted and clarifying information was subsequently developed and provided to CAL FIRE for 2 proposed projects per CAL FIRE request. On October 2, CAL FIRE approved the proposed slate of 8 projects that allocates \$9.2 million to on the ground projects, and \$0.8 million to Humboldt County to administer contracts. Half of the proposed projects include reduced budgets. Project acreage totals 5,579 acres. All projects benefit Tribal and/or disadvantaged communities, with 3 projects sponsored by Tribes in northern and southern districts. Next steps are to select a team via RFQ/RFP for technical support for environmental compliance and obtain legal counsel to inform project budgets regarding prevailing wage law. Project sponsors and technical experts will update workbook materials and complete a Priority Population Table, GHG Emissions Workbook, and CARB-CCI Job Co-Benefit analysis. A GIS team is in place to prepare spatial data per CAL FIRE/MAPPER requirements. Ongoing staff meetings with the CAL FIRE team will occur to prepare for streamlined regional reporting. Debrief meetings will be planned to develop process improvements for all aspects of the Pilot project.

For more information, see Meeting Materials:

Appendix A NCRP TPRC Project Review Meeting Summary

Appendix B Supplemental Public Comment

Appendix C NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Project Proposal Review Summary

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*.

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

Public Comment: none
Motion: Supervisor Djerde
Second: Supervisor Ogren
Public Comment: none
Vote: passed unanimously

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

NCRP Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee & NCRP Staff Team Background:

The NCRP Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee (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 46-48.

NCRP Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee (Supervisor Carpenter-Harris absent) and Leadership Council Discussion and Input on NCRP Illegal Cannabis Strategy Draft Outline (outline in [blue](#)):

Illegal chemicals have been found at illegal grow sites, fires have started, piles of refuse impact fish and wildlife (the Fisher has been greatly affected) so it is clear that there are multiple severe impacts due to this issue. The Committee is developing a plan but it comes down to the money to fund efforts. The state and federal governments are expecting local groups to enforce laws and lead clean-up activities, which is a repetitive story throughout the region, although the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Commissioner has been receptive and wants to work with the Committee.

Conversations with County Supervisors have been helpful but Sherriff's departments and CDFG need to be involved. Illegal grows are also on Tribal land, where there are different laws, and Tribes are willing to help with efforts, but this requires communication and cooperation between Tribes, Sherriff's departments, and county departments. The conversation should focus on how to clean up this mess and consider protection of the Fisher, Spotted Owl and aquatic life.

6) B. Identify and Address Illegal Cannabis Environmental & Cultural & Community Impacts

- (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.

Committee is vacillating on this point.

6) 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

- v) Land abandonment and county strategies for conservatorships/sale (talk to Trinity County) (case studies)

Counties do not take over possession of the property and working with the receiver company is difficult. They would like to have more projects in the same area so that if properties are closer together, they could act on that.

- ix) Enforcement –

- (a) For legal grows, counties and Tribes need resources for effectively regulating and monitoring legal grows and enforcing relevant laws and regulations.

Officers used to respond but due to the current budget crunch, they were taken off code enforcement programs and now the licensing branch does code enforcement for illegal grows, which is better because that frees up some officers to look at illegal grows. It is a better idea to have the people who provide licenses be the ones to respond to those who want licensing. With 6,000 illegal grows, code enforcement does not seem like a good use of the Sheriff department's time to enforce laws on growers who already have a license. Legal grows are checked twice a year. A huge problem is limited law enforcement and trying to clean up illegal grows is incredibly difficult. Trinity Pines consists of 1,063 properties and the majority are grow sites. CDFG made 10 citations there but had a hard time. Post Mountain in Trinity County needs more help than the County can provide. 99% of growers are growing illegally there even though they are without water or electrical infrastructure. With code enforcement being gone, hopefully illegal grows will have more oversight. It is going to take a long time to close the door that has been opened. California grown Cannabis has the reputation for being the best and was also the most expensive so the goal for growers became selling it to illegal markets by taking the risk of transporting it to states where Cannabis is restricted. Growth is unrestricted, unregulated and uncontrolled and there are no standards in the industry. Until the State steps into control and regulate, the North Coast region will suffer because it has incentivized growers to establish a presence in the illegal market. The illegal cannabis market is flooding the legal cannabis market with an estimated 1 million pounds coming in from illegal grows.

Looking at the strategy is overwhelming due to different jurisdictions, viewpoints on illegal grows, and capabilities of monitoring and enforcing rules. Tribes have identified illegal cannabis as a problem, with multiple agencies considering it, but the challenge is that Tribes do not have enforcement options. When there are raids or clean-ups, the growers disappear but species are impacted long term. We need to identify and bring in partners and agencies and this issue should become a higher priority because it aligns with the goals of NCRP.

A question was raised around lobbying on policy, if it directly opposes NCRP's bylaws, and how results could be delivered in that context. After months of Siskiyou County supervisors dealing with the ACLU, it would be helpful if the NCRP could lobby because this is an issue that cannot be escaped and has come to a point where it cannot be stopped without widespread assistance. It will cost millions just to deal with the legal part of the issue (Sheriff and code enforcement). What is needed is more back-up because the legal system considers growers above reproach. The NCRP should work on a policy-level document to pursue funding with. Trinity County would vote yes on this. Because the NCRP position on illegal Cannabis seems unanimous, it would be fair to lobby. Support was expressed for drafting a letter and information packet providing solutions. In the short-term, Counties could declare an emergency based on environmental degradation.

The North Coast region has been here before when logging practices were out of control in the 1960's. As an industry, Cannabis is still emerging and it is more regulated than food crops. Illegal markets developed in part due to the burdens and barriers to growing legally, making it cheaper to grow through the illegal process. Humboldt County has reduced illegal grows by 90%, yet legal growers are still struggling, creating a need to improve financial supports for legal growers like direct sales for farmers. Cannabis is an economic commodity in north coast counties. The way to incentivize legal growers is to require less regulation. Destroying the illegal

market will also incentivize the legal market. Many counties are also lowering taxes on legal Cannabis because the price has dropped.

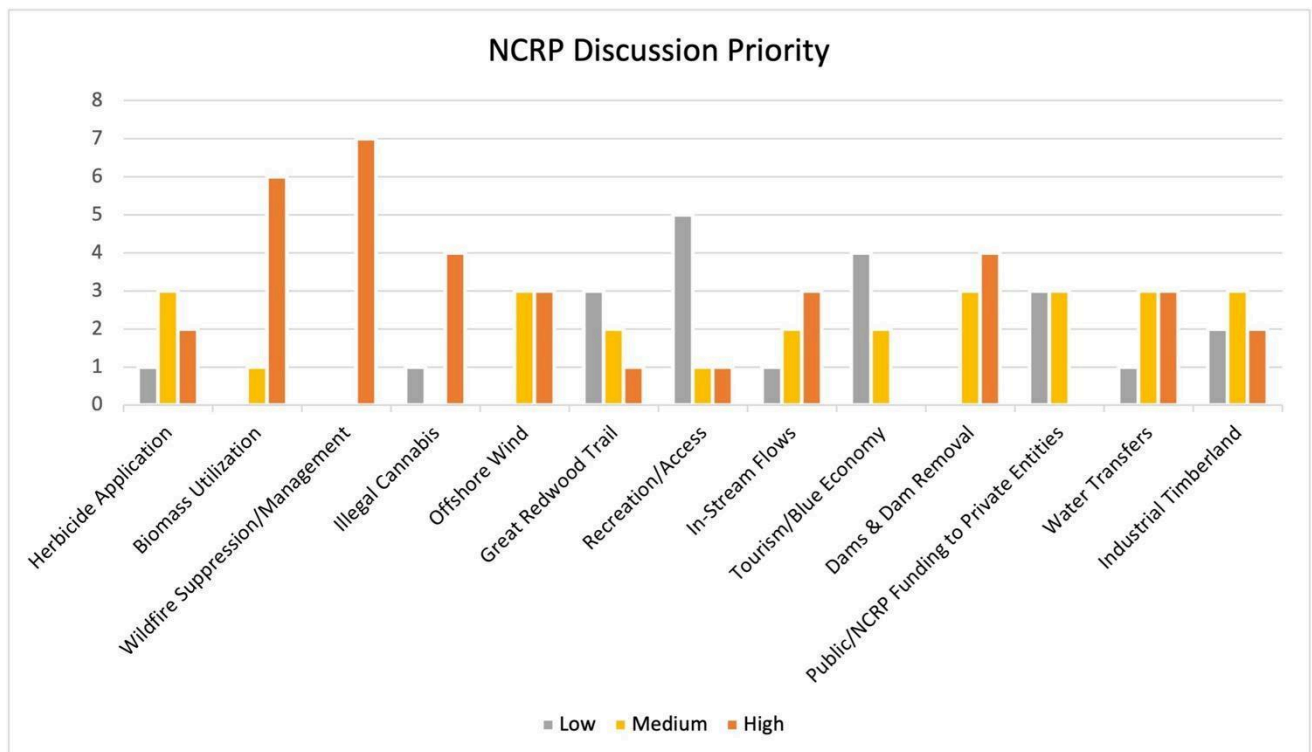
The NCRP approach is good and should consider partnership with environmental groups and develop an influence so that consumers are aware of the destructive nature of illegal Cannabis. County representatives are overwhelmed by this issue. Taking a broad approach to solving a problem has to include public awareness. Council members agree to move forward with staff recommendation to take the work of the Ad Hoc Committee and consulting team and work closely with the Executive Committee, and bring next steps to the partnership in January, 2025.

VIII CHALLENGES AND COMMON GROUND

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

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 is included in meeting materials as Appendix E.

The following chart represents the results of the Common Ground Survey that was issued to NCRP Leadership Council and Technical Peer Review Committee members prior to the Quarterly Meeting and incorporates scores and input provided during the meeting.



Summary of NCRP Discussion Priority

Highest Priority: Wildfire Suppression/Management

Suggested policy or strategy:

- NCRP policy to support acquiring wildfire suppression equipment, and methods and personnel to improve suppression success, with the goal of protecting communities and returning forest to a healthy state
- Develop strategy as necessary to enable funding policy
- Increase preventative work

High Priority: Biomass Utilization, Illegal Cannabis, Dams and Dam Removal

Biomass Utilization

Suggested policy or strategy:

- NCRP policy to support and grow biomass use to support forest improvements.
- Carbon negative approaches
- Resources need to be protected and utilized - importance of biomass utilization impact on communities cannot be overstated

Facilitated discussions with partners:

- General support for this, many partners are willing to share their work and excitement
- Range of projects, pros and cons, mobile conversion systems

Illegal Cannabis

Suggested policy or strategy:

- Because of the criminal element associated with this, caution and care are needed
- Support restoration of grow sites while steering clear of identifying sites
- Support legal cannabis
- Plan projects
- Lobbying
- County Supervisors should declare an ecological disaster emergency so that the problem is elevated to the state so that potentially the national guard could assist
- Success depends on collaboration with many people and communities in a concerted effort

Facilitated discussions with partners:

- More work with ad hoc committee and buy-in from state and local government
- Tribes meeting with BOS and Planning Department
- Systems to support legal cannabis
- Keep presentations coming

Education/Info sharing only/NCRP hosted panel discussions:

- More information and education to the public
- State and Federal government entities need to hear rural county issues
- Legislation

Dams and Dam Removal

Suggested policy or strategy:

- Too political to establish policy
- NCRP Policy is to support removing failing, not-to-be-relicensed or abandoned dams to return hydrograph/flows to a more natural state that supports a healthy ecosystem
- Distributed storage, not mega dams

Facilitated discussions with partners:

- General support for this, NCRP has a lot to learn

- Win-win solutions
- Tribal community that depends on the Eel River is living in a food desert due to dams

Education/Info sharing only/NCRP hosted panel discussions:

- Support was expressed for NCRP hosted panel discussion
- Need to get information out

Medium Priority: Herbicide Application, Offshore Wind, In-Stream Flows, Water Transfers, Industrial Timberland

Herbicide Application

Suggested policy or strategy:

- Too political for policy
- NCRP policy to support the responsible use of herbicides by trained and licensed personnel, when deemed the best solution, with the goal of protecting communities and returning ecosystems to a healthy state
- Conditions for use

Facilitated discussions with partners:

- Early intervention, integrated management

Support was expressed for NCRP hosted panel discussion.

Offshore Wind

Suggested policy or strategy:

- NCRP policy is to support development to improve energy independence, local and regional economy, as long as it does not negatively impact marine life and ecosystems
- NCRP needs education to create a policy
- Must meet tribal concerns
- Low priority – no real connection to what NCRP does

Facilitated discussions with partners:

- No
- Mitigation, community benefit

Support was expressed for NCRP hosted panel discussion.

In-Stream Flows

Suggested policy or strategy:

- Absolutely not
- NCRP policy is to return hydrograph/flows to a more natural state that supports a healthy ecosystem
- Minimize diversions

Facilitated discussions with partners:

- So many involved with this and lots to talk about
- Ag producers/Tribal input/Fed & State agencies
- Enhancements to groundwater storage

Support was expressed for NCRP hosted panel discussion.

Water Transfers

Suggested policy or strategy:

- NCRP policy to support when results in an improvement in in-stream flows, a healthier ecosystem or improves water supply to communities
- Economic offset for loss of timber industry
- Transfer water from Eel River to Russian River because fire districts have very little water and agriculture may disappear because water resource is scarce - come to an agreement that helps these communities because options are few if Mendocino County does not have agriculture
- Capture winter water through water transfer
- Perhaps take Lake Sonoma water up the hill to generate energy – projects like that can be a revenue source and increase energy independence

Support was expressed for NCRP hosted panel discussion.

Industrial Timberland

Suggested policy or strategy:

- NCRP policy to assist landowners to restore forest to a healthy state that supports a healthy ecosystem
- Uneven age management, tools for carbon credits
- Develop national recreational areas: forests are losing marketable wood because there are no THPs, forests need to be cleared out before they become food for pests but there are no mechanisms to go in for recoveries of those areas - policy and legislation needs to address this issue

Facilitated discussions with partners:

- Utilize partners for education and outreach

Support was expressed for NCRP hosted panel discussion.

Low Priority: Great Redwood Trail, Tourism/Blue Economy, Public/NCRP Funding to Private Entities

Great Redwood Trail

Suggested policy or strategy:

- NCRP policy to support development to improve economy, as long as it does not negatively impact ecosystems
- Meaningful tribal consultation
- No need for NCRP to repeat what other boards do on this issue

Facilitated discussions with partners:

- Education and outreach
- Land back county management
- None

Support was expressed for NCRP hosted panel discussion, especially due to strong opinions on both sides.

Tourism/Blue Economy

Suggested policy or strategy:

- NCRP policy to support development to improve economy, as long as does not negatively impact ecosystems
- There are already tourism boards
- Balance

Facilitated discussions with partners:

- Utilize partners for education and outreach to the public and government agencies - cross pollination
- Examples of pros and cons
- None

Public/NCRP Funding to Private Entities

Suggested policy or strategy:

- Establish policy/strategy to create equality, inclusivity and creativity in funding opportunities
- Stewardship incentives

Facilitated discussions with partners:

- Private sector investments

Lowest Priority: Recreation/Access

Suggested policy or strategy:

- NCRP policy to support development to improve economy, as long as it does not negatively impact ecosystems

Facilitated discussions with partners:

- NGO's and government agencies for education and outreach, great for project planning and implementation
- None

Education/Info sharing only/NCRP hosted panel discussions:

- Regional networks

Added Topics:

- Broadband access to rural areas: need more information not necessarily a policy
- Energy Independence: develop strategy and discuss solar panels
- Conservation of ecological and cultural resources: develop strategy and hold panel discussions
- Lack of funding for post project monitoring
- Dispersed water supply projects

Suggestion: Topics could be presented "seminar" style and scheduled outside of quarterly meeting

IX CAPACITY ASSESSMENT AND REGIONAL CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY (INFORMATIONAL)

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 ArcGIS Survey 123 with CIEA to interview 35 Tribes and NCRP staff to interview 135 entities (agencies, NGOs, etc.). Once the initial survey has been distributed, it will be shared with the entire NCRP listserve as project partners' completion of survey would inform future funding goals.

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. Meeting Materials Appendix F lists the Technical Assistance projects that have been approved to date 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.

Next steps: Capacity Enhancement Strategy

NCRP Leadership Council Tribal representatives directed Tribal Engagement Staff to develop a cultural fire training pilot in collaboration with Torchbearr. CIEA will work with the NCRP staff team to further develop this proposal under the terms of the NCRP RFFC Round Two grant, being administered on behalf of the NCRP by Humboldt County.

X WILDFIRE RESILIENCE LISTENING SESSION (INFORMATIONAL/STAFF GUIDANCE)

First Session: Observations from Co-Chair Hillman and other NCRP attendees

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.

The event was well attended and very useful. Agency partners and knowledgeable speakers offered reflections on the topic and the session provided space for members to share fears and experiences of their communities. The goal of these sessions is to learn from one another. Every participant speaks so that everyone in the room is heard. Some communities in Siskiyou County have learned painful lessons that perhaps others can learn from in terms of engaging with local warning systems and law enforcement evacuations. Supervisor Ogren suggested holding a session in Yreka in Spring 2025. Mendocino Tribes have also requested a session to be held in their area prior to the January quarterly meeting.

[Wildfire Resilience: Listening and Learning Session Video](#)

XI 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 Meeting Materials Appendix G.

Public Comment: none

Motion: Supervisor Bohn

Second: Supervisor Wilson

Public Comment: none

Vote: passed unanimously

XII 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.

Public Comment: none

Motion: Co-chair Hillman

Second: Co-chair Gore

Public Comment: none

Vote: passed unanimously

XIII UPDATES

Regional Administrator & Project Implementation Update

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. Admin Team contacts, Active Implementation Grant and Active Planning Grant information is in Meeting Materials pages 7-15.

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 listed in Meeting Materials pages 12-15. The \$10 billion climate bond could be considered a new area of funding for the NCRP.

XIV NEXT MEETING JANUARY 29 - 30, 2025 IN SANTA ROSA

This 2-day meeting will be focused on climate change, due in part to the Climate Bond passing. The intention is to invite partner and agency officials (including those from Sacramento, the Bay Area, and other areas) to invest in the NCRP. Staff are in the process of reaching out to the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria to host. A reception is being planned for January 29th.

ADJOURN

Time: 2:30

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

in attendance: 78

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS

Co-Chair: Leaf Hillman, Karuk Tribe, Northern District

Co-Chair: Supervisor James Gore, Sonoma County

Co-Chair Alternate: Cyndie Childress, Nor Rel Muk Wintu Nation

Co-Vice-Chair: Councilmember Michelle Downey, Round Valley Indian Tribes, Central District

Co-Vice-Chair: Supervisor Steve Madrone, Humboldt County

Executive Committee: Supervisor Nancy Ogren, Siskiyou County

Supervisor Dean Wilson, Del Norte County

Supervisor Chris Howard, Del Norte County

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County

Supervisor Dan Gjerde, Mendocino County

Supervisor Glenn McGourty, Mendocino County

Supervisor Brandon Criss, Siskiyou County

Supervisor Liam Gogan, Trinity County

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Co-Chair: Leaf Hillman, Karuk Tribe, Northern District

Co-Chair: Supervisor James Gore, Sonoma County

Co-Vice-Chair: Councilmember Michelle Downey, Round Valley Indian Tribes, Central District

Co-Vice-Chair: Supervisor Steve Madrone, Humboldt County
Supervisor Nancy Ogren, Siskiyou County

TECHNICAL PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Co-Chair: Dale Roberts, Engineer, Sonoma County Water Agency, Sonoma County
Andrew Leighton, Crescent City Engineering Project Manager, Del Norte County
Jonathan Olson PE, County Engineer, Del Norte County
Hank Seemann, Deputy Director, Environmental Services, Public Works Department, Humboldt County
Joe Scriven, Assistant Executive Director/Fisheries Biologist, Mendocino Resource Conservation District, Mendocino County
Rick Dean, Siskiyou County Director of Community Development, Siskiyou County
Wayne Haydon, Certified Engineering Geologist, Sonoma County

NCRP STAFF

Karen Gaffney, NCRP Director of Strategic Planning and Communications, West Coast Watershed
Susan Haydon, NCRP Director of Legislation and Policy Development, Sonoma Water Agency
Sherri Norris, NCRP Director of Tribal Engagement, California Indian Environmental Alliance
Javier Silva, California Indian Environmental Alliance
Cybelle Immitt, NCRP Admin Humboldt County
Julia Cavalli, NCRP Admin Humboldt County
Denise Monday, NCRP Admin Humboldt County
Rose Roberts, NCRP Technical Consultant
Shelly Hughes, NCRP Technical Consultant

PARTNERS

Alex Cunha, North Coast RCD Collaborative
Ali O. Lee, Humboldt Area Foundation & Wild Rivers Community Foundation
Alicia Lopez, Lopez Ranch Dairy Farm Smith River
Cassie Nichols, Caltrans
Cassie Pinnell, Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting
Chris Grabill, County of Sonoma, Supervisor Gore
Cynthia Ford, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation
Dominic Pignata, USDA NRCS
Drew Barber, Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting
Elena Sisnens, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation - THPO
Erika Valek, USDA NRCS
Erika Steinbring, Torchbearr
Gabe Schultz, CAL FIRE
George Jennings, ORE-CAL RC&D Council
Grant Werschull, Smith River Collaborative Alliance
Harry Hubbell, County of Sonoma, Supervisor Gore
Heather Pardue, Elk Valley Rancheria
Heidi Wordhouse, Ethos Environmental
Jeff Powers, Smith River Alliance
Jessica Ann Boyt, DWR

Jessica Clayburn, Yurok Tribe
Jessica Ludy, US Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District
Jill Demers, Humboldt County RCD
Kathy Allen, US Forest Service
Kayla Weiss, Caltrans
Leila Roberts, HAF +Wild Rivers Community Foundation
Melyssa Spandri, Forestry and Water Resources Program
Pat Higgins, Eel River Recovery Project
Rachel McCain, Natural Resources Department Director
Richard Nelson, Yurok Tribe
Rosanna Bower, County of Del Norte
Sarafina Maraschino, US Army Corps of Engineers
Scot Steinbring, Torchbearr
Sheila Balent, US Forest Service
Terrence Figueroa, Nuestra Comunidad
Tim Bailey, ISF
Timmarie Hamill, CA Urban Streams Alliance-The Stream Team
Troy Ralstin, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation
Walter Mackelburg, CAL FIRE Forest Health
Wendell Bedell, Caltrans
Xavier Tito Cervantes, DWR/NRO
Yana Valachovic, UC Cooperative Extension
Yuliya Osetrova, California Department of Water Resources