

Executive Summary

41-065

Project Title: Cat Creek watershed Project, Review of the Forest Road System for Repair, Relocation or Obliteration. Eldorado National Forest, US Forest Service.

Project Description: An Interdisciplinary (ID) team would develop a process and then review the forest road system in the Cat Creek watershed to make recommendations concerning which roads should be repaired, relocated or obliterated. If these recommendations are implemented, there will be a reduction in the amount of sediment moving into the Cosumnes River. Sediment reduction will result in improvements in aquatic habitat for fall run Chinook salmon and water quality.

Approach/Tasks/Funding: An ID team would initiate this project in the early winter in FY 1998 and would complete it by the summer of FY 1998. Outcome would be a set of recommendations for decision makers and a process that could be used in other watersheds.

Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED: Project would address land management practices (forest roads) that have resulted in widespread erosion in a watershed with highly erodible soils. Currently the watershed is rated as being in poor condition. Project would develop a process that could be used to review forest roads on National Forest lands in the entire Cosumnes River basin. The process could also be used to review road systems on private timber lands. Implementation of project recommendations would improve habitat for priority aquatic species including San Joaquin and East-side Delta tributaries fall run Chinook salmon.

Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts: \$38,000 is requested to complete this project. No third party impacts are planned.

Applicant Qualifications: Eldorado National Forest has a wide range of specialists available to support this project and no money to fund it.

Monitoring and Data Evaluation: California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) has implemented a long term bioassessment monitoring project in the Cosumnes Basin with the support of the Nature Conservancy and the US Environmental Protection Agency. Data collected and analysed from their permanent survey sites could be used by Eldorado National Forest to monitor effects of implemented recommendations.

Local Support/Coordination: Possible partners include CDFG, the Nature Conservancy and private timber companies. This proposal would also support the CALFED non-ecosystem objective of improving water quality in the Bay-Delta.

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