

## COVER SHEET (PAGE 1 of 2)

## May 1998 CALFED ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROPOSAL SOLICITATION

Proposal Title: The Spring Creek Local Watershed Stewardship Proposal  
 Applicant Name: Cara M. Wasilewski, Nevada County Resource Conservation District  
 Mailing Address: 113 Presley Way, Suite One, Grass Valley, CA 95945  
 Telephone: (530) 272-3417  
 Fax: (530) 477-8055

Amount of funding requested: \$ 566,373.00 for 2 years

Indicate the Topic for which you are applying (check only one box). Note that this is an important decision: see page    of the Proposal Solicitation Package for more information.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Passage Assessment  | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Passage Improvements    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Floodplain and Habitat Restoration                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Gravel Restoration           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Harvest   | <input type="checkbox"/> Species Life History Studies |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watershed Planning/Implementation                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Screen Evaluations - Alternatives and Biological Priorities |   |

Indicate the geographic area of your proposal (check only one box):

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sacramento River Mainstem              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sacramento Tributary: <u>Yuba River</u> which is a tributary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> East Side Delta Tributary: <u>                    </u> of the Feather   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suisun Marsh and Bay                   | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin Tributary: <u>                    </u> River.               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Mainstem             | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>                                    </u>                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape (entire Bay-Delta watershed) | <input type="checkbox"/> North Bay: <u>                                    </u>                  |

Indicate the primary species which the proposal addresses (check no more than two boxes):

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin and East-side Delta tributaries fall-run chinook salmon |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Winter-run chinook salmon   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spring-run chinook salmon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Late-fall run chinook salmon  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fall-run chinook salmon   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta smelt   | <input type="checkbox"/> Longfin smelt                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Splittail   | <input type="checkbox"/> Steelhead trout                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Green sturgeon  | <input type="checkbox"/> Striped bass                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Migratory birds   |   |

COVER SHEET (PAGE 2 of 2)

May 1998 CALFED ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROPOSAL SOLICITATION

Indicate the type of applicant (check only one box):

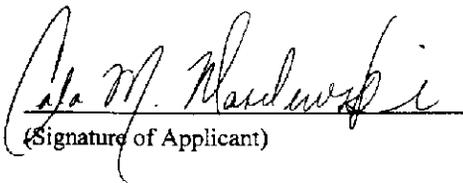
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State agency                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Non-profit joint venture      | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local government/district | <input type="checkbox"/> Private party  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> University                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____   |

Indicate the type of project (check only one box):

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implementation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Education                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research   |  |

By signing below, the applicant declares the following:

- (1) the truthfulness of all representations in their proposal;
- (2) the individual signing the form is entitled to submit the application on behalf of the applicant (if applicant is an entity or organization); and
- (3) the person submitting the application has read and understood the conflict of interest and confidentiality discussion in the PSP (Section II.K) and waives any and all rights to privacy and confidentiality of the proposal on behalf of the applicant, to the extent as provided in the Section.

  
(Signature of Applicant)

## II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### THE SPRING CREEK LOCAL WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP PROPOSAL

Submitted by the Nevada County Resource Conservation District

The Spring Creek watershed, a tributary of the South Yuba River, is located in Western Nevada County. The suppression of wildland fires and other land management activities has led to the degradation of ecosystem quality in this area. The Spring Creek watershed has been identified as a geographic priority area within the San Juan Ridge Coordinated Resource Management Plan, which was established in 1992. Many watershed improvement projects have been implemented in this area, however, they have been mainly limited to public lands. The intended approach of this project is to coordinate partnerships between private landowners and public land agencies to increase the effectiveness, efficiency, and cost-benefit ratio associated with the current programs in the area. The tasks to be completed include vegetative treatments to reduce fuel loads, the incorporation of fuelbreaks, and upland habitat management. Implementation of the project will begin immediately following the notification of proposal funding, and will continue for two years.

Within the past 35 years, there have been many major wildland fires in the Spring Creek watershed. The need to incorporate private participation and public land management activities is vital to address resource issues effectively. The proposed CALFED funding will provide cost-share assistance to encourage private participation with on-going watershed management activities.

The total budget cost for the proposed project is \$774,351.00. A total of \$566,373.00 of CALFED funding is requested to implement conservation practices on 1,270 acres of private land within the Spring Creek watershed. The proposed CALFED funding will be matched with \$207,978.00 of private landowner contribution. The local economic community will be strengthened through selection of service contracts from local businesses. The Nevada County Resource Conservation District will be administering the proposed CALFED funding. The District provides assistance to private landowners on erosion, water quality, forest health, and other ecosystem concerns. The District will be working in conjunction with the federal and state agencies and local non-profit organizations that currently have on-going projects in the Spring Creek watershed.

A combination of professional efforts will be used to monitor and evaluate the proposed project. Monitoring will occur in three general categories: collection of baseline data, documentation of the effectiveness of the specific implementation measures, and the measurement of erosion and sedimentation processes.

The proposed project is supported by the Proposition 204 Steering Committee and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between local watershed groups. The ultimate goal is to maintain and propagate a healthy watershed for the immediate area and the enhancement of ecosystem quality for the Bay-Delta.

**THE SPRING CREEK LOCAL WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP  
PROPOSAL**

CARA M. WASILEWSKI, RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST  
NEVADA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
113 PRESLEY WAY, SUITE 1  
GRASS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 95945  
PHONE: (530) 272-3417  
FAX: (530) 477-8055  
EMAIL: ncrcd@oro.net

Organization Type: Special district under the authority of the State of California  
Tax Status: No non-exempt status  
Tax Identification Number: 94-6037651

In collaboration with the Natural Resource Conservation Service

## IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### A. Project Description and Approach

Western Nevada County, according to the California Department Of Forestry and Fire Protection, has been identified as one of the leading areas for potential catastrophic wildland fires in the state. The lack of a natural fire regime has resulted in a decline in ecosystem quality. An invasion of brush species and an overcrowding of young trees has led to an increase in insect infestation and disease, ultimately increasing the risk of wildland fires.

The steady decline in watershed quality and diversity can be attributed to poor land management practices. The event of a wildland fire within the region is likely to increase in intensity, due to heavy fuel loading. Such an occurrence could result in the destruction of natural resources (i.e., water, soil, wildlife), as well as life and property.

The protection of the upper watersheds is critical. The impacts of a catastrophic wildland fire include water quality degradation, which will affect the immediate area, the central valley agricultural industry, and the urban lower watersheds. Other effects include the reduction of riparian areas essential in this area for yellow-legged frog and neotropical migrant bird habitat, the retrogression of spawning sites for fall-run chinook, and the overall biodiversity essential to maintain a healthy ecosystem.

The San Juan Ridge Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) was formed in 1992 to address the issues of fuels management and the decline in biodiversity. Although local land agencies have been cooperating on joint projects, success has been moderate and limited to public lands. To adequately address the natural resource issues within this area, the participation of private landowners is vital for the CRMP to succeed. The proposed CALFED funding will compliment the efforts of agencies by providing landowners with a cost-share incentive to deal with the resource issues on their lands.

Within the CRMP, the Spring Creek watershed was designated as a geographic priority area to coincide with pending management practices. This critical area was distinguished to maximize the efficiency and efforts of the agencies within the CRMP's 207,000 acres. The watershed has been determined to be a high priority area by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. It is recognized as Foothill Yellow-legged frog habitat, which has been determined as a Species of Special Concern on both the state and federal level.

The intended approach of this project is to coordinate partnerships, already established through the CRMP, between the private landowners and the land management agencies. By placing conservation practices on project boundaries instead of property boundaries, there will be an altogether increase in the effectiveness, efficiency, and the cost benefit ratio associated with the current programs.

## **B. Proposed Scope of Work**

Phase 1: Education and outreach to the private landowners in the Spring Creek watershed.

Task 1: Inform landowners through a series of workshops, brochures, newsletters, and demonstration sites throughout entirety of project.

Phase 2: Vegetative treatments to reduce fuel loads and improve desirable species.

Task 1: Brush management in the Spring Creek watershed.

Subtask 1: Mechanical removal of brush.

Phase 3: Place strategic fuelbreaks in coordinated efforts with public lands.

Task 1: Determine high priority areas to incorporate fuelbreaks.

Task 2: Mechanically remove brush to create fuelbreak.

Phase 4: Plant treated sites (where appropriate).

Task 1: Forest stand improvement.

Task 2: Range planting.

Phase 5: Manage grazing activities to protect soil and water resources and riparian areas.

Task 1: Upland wildlife habitat management.

Task 2: Upland aquatic habitat management.

## **C. Location and/or Geographic Boundaries of the Project**

HUA Code: 18020125; County: Nevada; Fips Code: 057

The Spring Creek watershed is located within the San Juan Ridge Coordinated Resource Management Plan. This geographic priority area drains into the South Yuba River, eventually emptying into the Bay-Delta. The inherent watershed supplies water to the Central Valley agricultural industries and the urban, metropolitan areas in the lower watersheds.

The CRMP lies between the Middle and South Fork of the Yuba River (See attached map). The CRMP encompasses an extensive area covering 206,900 acres and has been further divided into sub-areas. The Spring Creek watershed lies north of the South Yuba River, south of Cruzon Grade Road, west of Backbone Road, and east of Tyler Foote Crossing Road.

#### **D. Expected Benefits**

The primary stressors identified for the Feather River/Sutter Basin Ecological Zone involve land use issues such as grazing, forestry/agricultural practices, and wildland fires. Increased contaminant loads due to excessive erosion, another result of land use activities, has also been determined to be a primary stressor on water quality issues.

Priority species include spring-run chinook salmon and fall-run chinook salmon .  
Secondary species include yellow-legged frogs and neotropical migrant birds.

**“The Yuba River Watershed is considered one of the most significant ecological units in the Feather River/Sutter Basin Ecological Zone “** (ERPP, page 254). The primary benefit of this project is the protection, restoration, and maintenance of the ecological functions and processes in the watershed. A combination of proper fuels management and land use activities within the geographic priority area will ultimately enhance the health and productivity of the Bay-Delta.

The elimination of heavy fuel loads, through the coordinated efforts of private landowners and public land agencies, will reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fires. By maintaining and propagating beneficial watershed management practices, there will be an increase in the quality of wildlife and fisheries' habitat, improved riparian and riverine environments, and an overall increase in biodiversity.

The secondary benefits of this project include community development and an increased local capacity to address natural resource issues. In addition, there will be an increase in monetary, technical, and educational support for conservation practices on private lands.

By improving the health of the upper Yuba River watershed, there will be an increase in water quality and quantity. This is essential for endangered wildlife and anadromous fish habitat, the agricultural industry in the lower watersheds, and the Bay-Delta.

#### **E. Background and Ecological/Biological/Technical Justification**

The deficiency of fire within the CRMP boundaries has led to an increase of fuel loads and poor forest health. The need to incorporate private support with local land agencies is a necessity to ensure the success of the plan. Installation of proper land management techniques on both private and public lands will assist with promoting a healthy ecosystem.

There are no alternatives to achieve comparable objectives. Landowners within the geographic priority areas have traditionally participated in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) cost-share programs. Burning was a common practice in the past and many landowners participated in CDF's Vegetation Management Program (VMP)

controlled burns in the 1980's. This was until the lack of funding, staff, and restrictions nearly brought the program to a cessation. The landowners are still willing to burn, however liability issues, air quality topics, and a long VMP list have discouraged almost all private burns.

The basis of the expected benefits involve implementing preventive measures to decrease the risk of wildland fires that could potentially eliminate the remaining healthy functions of the Yuba River watershed. By improving forest stands and removing invasive brush species, restoration can begin bringing the watershed back to a healthy functioning system. Implementation of proper grazing management activities will reduce sedimentation into the watershed and permit restoration and protection to occur within the riparian and riverine corridors. Outreach and education for the private sector will link the proposed management practices together.

The project meets the ERPP objectives concerning Upper Watershed Processes found on page 270. By restoring the ecological processes in the upper watersheds, the maintenance and improvement of water quality and quantity flowing into the Bay-Delta will be viable. This will be achieved by **“reducing the excessive fuel loads found in this region (Programmatic Action 1A), improving land management practices (Programmatic Action 1B), and developing a management plan (Programmatic Action 1C)”**.

The proposed project also relates to the ERPP objectives concerning the reduction and elimination of stressors in the land use section found on pages 271-272. The maintenance of high-quality habitats for wildlife, aquatic, and plant communities will be achieved by promoting proper grazing management practices. **“The elimination of conflicts between land use practices and watershed practices will be accomplished by working with the private landowners to protect and restore the watershed (Programmatic Action 1A); and to implement land use plans that establish, restore, and maintain riparian areas by creating buffer zones between the streams and grazing activities (Programmatic Action 1B)”**.

The long-term effects of the benefits resulting from the proposed project will include enhanced water quality/quantity entering the Bay-Delta, an increase in habitat quality/quantity for plant and animal communities, and an overall increase in biodiversity. These effects will ultimately contribute to the overall improvement in health of the immediate area and the Bay-Delta.

The project addresses the objectives of the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program (AFRP) and sections of the CVPIA by establishing, restoring, and maintaining healthy ecological functions in the Spring Creek watershed. By promoting a healthy ecosystem within this key upper watershed, there will be increased water quality/quantity for habitat enhancement and other “beneficial uses” in the lower watersheds.

The CRMP has been in existence for six years. Land management agencies have already implemented projects within the Spring Creek watershed and future efforts are imminent. The support and participation of the private landowners in this area have been minimal and are essential to promote a successful watershed management plan. This project, in conjunction with other local CALFED proposals, is supported by Proposition 204 Steering Committee with the ultimate goal of maintaining and propagating a healthy watershed.

#### **F. Monitoring and Data Evaluation**

Within the Spring Creek watershed, approximately half of the area is under the management of the U.S. Forest Service, BLM, and State Parks. A combination of professional efforts will be used to monitor and evaluate the proposed project.

Monitoring within the Spring Creek watershed will occur in three general categories:

- 1.) Collect baseline data:
  - A.) Resource trends;
  - B.) Stream flow;
  - C.) Sediment discharge.
- 2.) Document the effectiveness of the specific implementation measures:
  - A.) Photo points of before and after;
  - B.) Tons of fuels load removed;
  - C.) Percentage of acres considered to be healthy forest stands by using tree spacing, density, and composition as indicators.
- 3.) Measure the erosion and sedimentation processes:
  - A.) Identify and rank critically eroding areas;
  - B.) Measure erosion rates through the use of a sediment trough/trap.

#### **G. Implementability**

The project will incorporate the efforts of the Nevada County Resource Conservation District, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the California Department of Fish and Game, the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management Board, and the Yuba Watershed Institute.

The project is supported by a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) between the local organizations and agencies, as well as the Proposition 204 Steering Committee (See attachments).

**V. COSTS AND SCHEDULE TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSED PROJECT**

**A. Project Budget Analysis**

<b>Project Phase</b>	<b>Private Land Owner Cost-Share</b>	<b>Direct Salary and Benefits</b>	<b>Overhead Labor (General Admin. and fee)</b>	<b>Service Contracts</b>	<b>Materials</b>	<b>Miscellaneous and other Direct Costs</b>	<b>Total cost</b>
Forest Stand Improvement: 500 acres	\$87,500.00	\$0.00	\$16,250.00	\$162,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$178,750.00
Brush Management: 554 acres	\$101,566.00	\$0.00	\$30,470.00	\$304,700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$335,170.00
Range Planting: 135 acres	\$10,662.00	\$0.00	\$1,066.00	\$1,012.00	\$9,650.00	\$0.00	\$11,728.00
Riparian Corridor Enhancement: 50 acres	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,500.00
Firebreak: 45 acres	\$8,250.00	\$0.00	\$2,475.00	\$24,750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,225.00
Community Outreach and Education	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00
<b>Total Project Budget</b>							<b>\$774,351.00</b>
<b>Total Land Owner Cost Share</b>							<b>\$207,978.00</b>
<b>Total CALFED Funds Requested</b>							<b>\$566,373.00</b>

There are 3,100 acres of private land and 2,340 acres of federal land within the Spring Creek Watershed. The U.S. Forest Service has begun implementing conservation practices on federal land throughout the watershed. The CALFED funds requested for this projects will be used to support cost-share programs to encourage the private landowners to assist in the restoration of the Spring Creek Watershed. The cost share commitments will be secured through a contract with each private land owner to address the appropriate issues for their land. The subcontract bids will be accepted and each evaluated for each phase of the project by the grant administrators, in order to achieve the highest quality of work.

## **B. Scheduled Milestones**

Project work will begin immediately following the notification of proposal funding, and continuing for two years.

*Month 1:* Begin Service Contract bidding process, and establish a priority ranking for all cost share program applicants. Begin community outreach and education component that will extend through the two years of funding.

*Month 2:* Select bid for 139 days of Brush Management on the 277 acres selected for first year funding, and begin project implementation. Payments to landowners will be made as soon as the project is completed.

*Month 4:* Select bid for Forest Stand Improvement, and begin project implementation on 250 acres selected for first year funding. Payments to landowners will be made as soon as the project is completed.

*Month 6:* Schedule and begin Range Planting to be completed on 135 acres, during the appropriate planting season.

*Month 8:* Fire Break Construction

*Month 10:* Complete brush management component of first year projects.

*Month 12:* Completion of all first year funded projects.

*Month 13:* Select bid for 139 days of Brush Management on the 277 acres selected for second year funding, and begin project implementation. Payments to landowners will be made as soon as the project is completed.

*Month 15:* Select bid for Forest Stand Improvement, and begin project implementation on 250 acres selected for second year funding. Payments to landowners will be made as soon as the project is completed.

*Month 16:* Begin 50 acres of Riparian Corridor Enhancement project work.

*Month 22:* Complete brush management component of second year projects.

*Month 24:* Completion of all proposed projects.

## **C. Third Party Impacts**

There will be many third party impacts derived from the proposed projects. To ensure economic development within the community all service contracts will be selected from local businesses. The proposed projects will change the land use on 1270 acres of private land within the Spring Creek watershed. Through range planting the forage for cattle and wildlife will be dramatically increased. Following the planting the education component of this project will encourage proper long term management of the newly planted pastures. The brush removal and forest stand improvement projects will ensure long term timber production, also contributing to the long term economic development of the local community. The construction of the fire break will aid in protecting the residents of the watershed against the economic loss due to a wildland fire. The third party benefits from the projects that will be implemented using CALFED funding will increase the ecosystem quality of the Spring Creek watershed, ultimately enhancing the restoration efforts of the Bay-Delta.

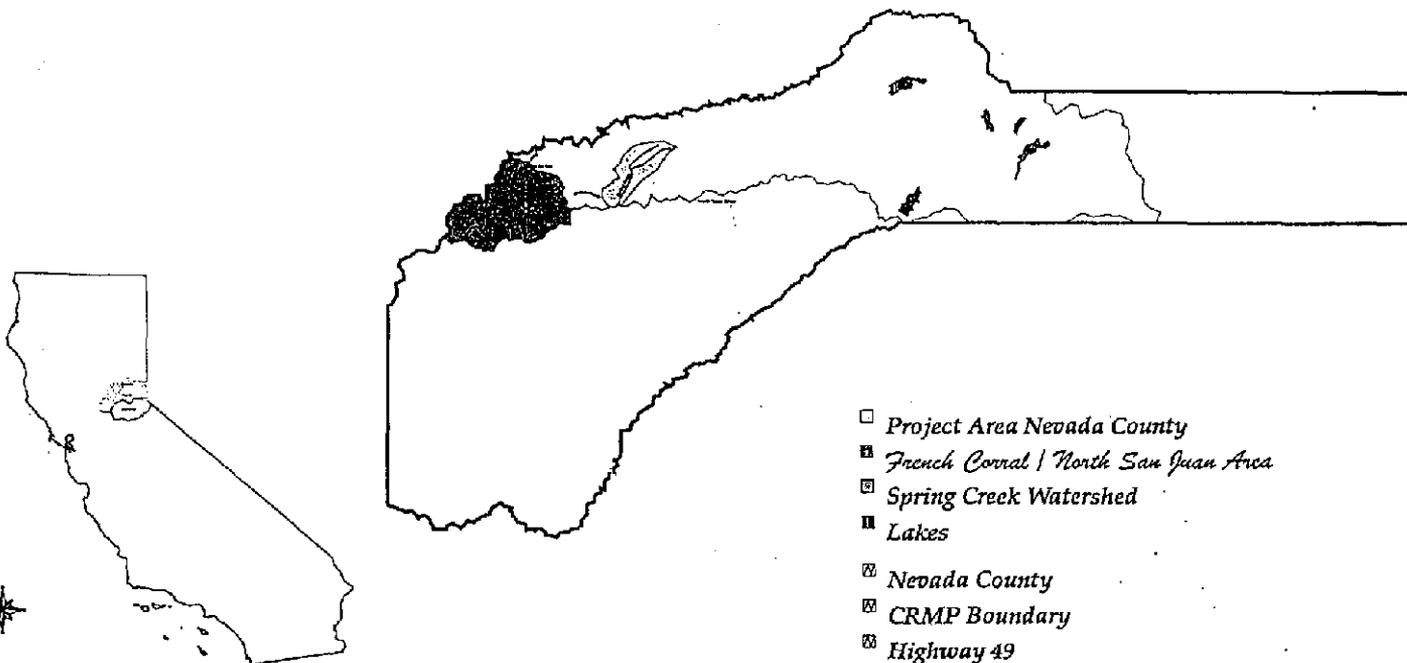
## **VI. APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS**

The Nevada County Resource Conservation District will be implementing the proposed project. In cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Services Grass Valley Field Office, the District currently provides assistance to the private land owners throughout Nevada County and the western half of Sierra County to address soil erosion, water quality, forest health, and other ecosystem concerns. The Resource Conservation District is currently participating in memorandums of understanding with the Proposition 204 Steering Committee, the 49er Fire Safe Project, and the San Juan Ridge Coordinated Resource Management Plan (see attachment). The accomplishments of the CRMP include community education concerning the natural role of fire in the ecosystem and the need for the reduction of fuel volumes within the watershed.

The Nevada County Resource Conservation District has a wide diversity of resource qualifications, with educational backgrounds in environmental biology, wildlife management, and natural resources planning. The office has administered many grants to implement conservation practices on the private land, as well as providing technical assistance the hundreds of land owners each year. Throughout the project the staff will administer the grant, provide technical assistance, and manage the project.

# Nevada County Geographic Priority Areas Spring Creek Watershed Vegetation Management

1-011196



USDA United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resource Conservation Service

Map Prepared by: J. Lauritsen  
USDA / NRCS Placerette Co.

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SAN JUAN RIDGE  
COORDINATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

DATE OF ADOPTION:

JUN 15 1993

LOCATION OF PLANNING AREA:

The San Juan Ridge Coordinated Resource Management Plan area is loosely defined as those portions of Nevada County being bordered by the crest of the Sierra Nevada on the east; by the middle fork of the Yuba River on the north; by the Yuba-Nevada county line to the west; and by the South<sup>1</sup> Fork of the Yuba River to near Spaulding Reservoir and henceforth along Interstate 80 to the crest of the Sierra Nevada at Donner Summit to the south (Figure 1).

AREA INVOLVED:

Private	108,000 acres
Public	
Tahoe National Forest	87,700
Bureau of Land Management	6,000
State Parks	5,200
TOTALS	
Public ownership	98,900
Private ownership	108,000
	TOTAL 206,900 acres

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AREA:

The San Juan Ridge CRMP planning area includes about 206,900 acres or 323 square miles of land. Elevations of the area range from about 9300 feet along the crest of the Sierra Nevada to about 500 feet at Englebright Reservoir. The mix of public and private ownership is checkerboarded within the eastern half of the area and primarily private with BLM and State Parks owning small, scattered parcels to the west.

Nearly all west slope Sierra Nevada habitat types are represented within the CRMP planning area and include: Subalpine Conifer, Red Fir, Lodgepole Pine, Sierran Mixed Conifer, White Fir, Ponderosa Pine, Aspen, Montane Hardwood-Conifer, Montane Hardwood, Blue Oak-Digger Pine, Montane Riparian, Valley Foothill Riparian, Montane Chaparral, Mixed Chaparral, Annual Grassland, Wet Meadow, Fresh Emergent Wetland, Riverine, and Lacustrine. Wildlife is equally varied.

Human habitation occurs within and adjacent to the communities of French Corral, North San Juan, North Columbia and Graniteville. Parcels range from about one acre to mostly 10-40 acres within these developed areas. Many scattered homesites occur throughout the planning area but primarily within the western half.

#### RESOURCE USES IN THE PLANNING AREA:

Varied use occurs in the planning area and includes rural homesites, summer and winter recreational activities, timber management, grazing, and mining.

#### PLANNING PARTICIPANTS

U.S. Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest (TNF)  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Folsom District  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF)  
California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), Region 2  
U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS)  
Northern Sierra Air Quality Management Board (NSAQMD)  
Yuba Watershed Institute

#### RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The principle focus of this CRMP is to use fire by prescription to accomplish a variety of objectives. Fire is known to be a natural process and factor in the ecology of west slope Sierra Nevada vegetative types. Suppression efforts, although well meaning and often necessary, have resulted in a significant buildup of fuels and a modification of vegetative types that may not be representative of a more natural condition. The CRMP area is not in a natural state with large portions having been modified by man. The area exemplifies many of the problems associated with the urban wildland interface. Conflagration, as occurred within about 35,000 acres of the planning area in 1988 (the 49'er Fire), to some extent, is a result of efficient fire suppression techniques.

The principle objective is to use fire, under controlled conditions, as a cost effective tool that will accomplish a variety of tasks. These tasks include: fuels reduction, thus potentially decreasing the risk of wildfire to urban and rural homesites and valuable standing timber, restoring the health and vigor of native plant communities, improving range forage conditions, and enhancing wildlife habitat for all successional species.

This CRMP will allow these tasks to be more efficiently accomplished. Burning is often difficult to accomplish when property boundaries, rather than vegetative types, are used to determine project boundaries; cost per unit area can be reduced when property boundaries are not used to determine project boundaries; air and soil issues can be cumulatively reduced through fire by prescription rather than by uncontrolled wildfire.

Additionally the CRMP may and should allow the opportunity for employment to be generated within the planning area and for information collection and public education.

Public participation may add to or alter these issues.

Other techniques which complement prescribed burning and are appropriate to meet the overall objectives may be incorporated into this CRMP. These may include mechanical treatment, planting and seeding, fencing, road closure and obliteration, land trades and acquisition, water development or other methods of vegetation management.

The following is a listing of each agencies' objectives for the CRMP area:

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF):

To use controlled burning to reduce the vegetative material produced by forests and range in select areas. Reduction of these fuels by burning will reduce the potential for large conflagrations for a period of time into the future in the area treated. Coordination within the CRMP will allow burning to be accomplished across agency and private land boundaries with common goals being considered.

Soil Conservation Service (SCS):

The Grass Valley office of the Soil Conservation Service is responsible for coordination of soil, water, and resource conservation projects with landowners and ranchers in this area and for providing technical assistance.

The use of controlled fire and other methods can decrease the potential of destructive wildfire and thus decrease the potential for serious erosion, sedimentation and resource and property loss while potentially increasing water yield and improving wildlife habitat, range and timber conditions.

The SCS can provide technical assistance in preparing certain practice standards and specification. SCS can help prepare implementation plans within landowners and work within them during implementation. SCS can also evaluate the practices for their effect on erosion control and resource conditions, as well as their impact on management. SCS may be able to provide certain funds for plant materials or provide seed and plants. SCS can also coordinate with Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) and landowners within federally funded conservation practices and use of special project funds.

Tahoe National Forest (TNF):

Participation within this CRMP will allow the TNF to become actively involved in meeting many of the Goals as identified within the Tahoe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Specifically, the CRMP meets goal as identified in the following

sections: Wildlife and Fish, Protection, Air Quality, Lands, Soil and Water, Forage and Wood Resources, Recreation and Interpretive Services. The program will allow close coordination between public and private lands thus increasing the opportunity to more effectively meet TNF goals.

California Department of Fish and Game (DFG):

Participation within this CRMP will allow the DFG to more closely and carefully fulfill objectives to protect, conserve and manage wildlife habitat and wildlife populations. The ability to restore native plant communities and to manage wildlife habitat on both public and private lands will greatly enhance the DFG's ability to assure the health and vigor of native plant and animal communities.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM):

The CRMP area falls into the Nevada City Unit of the BLM Management Frameworks Plan (MFP). Under the direction of the MFP the BLM will "Manage and perpetuate woodlands for the production of multiple resource values and to provide a permanent source of wood products for future generations." Public lands will be managed for the protection and enhancement of sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered species. In addition, the protection of archaeological, mineral and recreational values in the area would be considered as a goal. Prescribed burning shall be used to improve timber production, reduce fuel hazards, and improve wildlife habitat. "A portion of these lands, the Inimim Forest, is managed under a Cooperative agreement with local residents; the agreement provides for active local participation in all phases of stewardship."

Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD):

The Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District is the primary local agency responsible for the management of air pollution in Nevada, Sierra, and Plumas Counties from all non-mobile sources, including open burning. Because open burning represents a significant source of air pollution in our region the NSAQMD will continue in its efforts to monitor and control open burning with permits and enforcement at the local level. As a tool to better manage the use of prescribed fire in our area, and facilitate communications between CRMP members and future participants, the NSAQMD wholeheartedly supports the development of this document. As a means of combining agency resources to better support a prescribed fire campaign, the NSAQMD will lend assistance when possible. Finally, the NSAQMD will be working to accurately assess the air quality impacts of prescribed fire in the future, and just as importantly, developing information and assistance programs to promote alternatives to prescribed fire as open burning becomes less tenable in the future.

Yuba Watershed Institute (YWI)

The YWI is a citizens group organized as a non-profit corporation (501-C3). Our objectives in supporting this CRMP are as follows:

1) To maintain and create a late seral (old growth) forest component on the San Juan Ridge as well as all naturally occurring wild life habitats. To achieve this we must prevent large scale stand replacing fires and reintroduce the approximate natural fire regime.

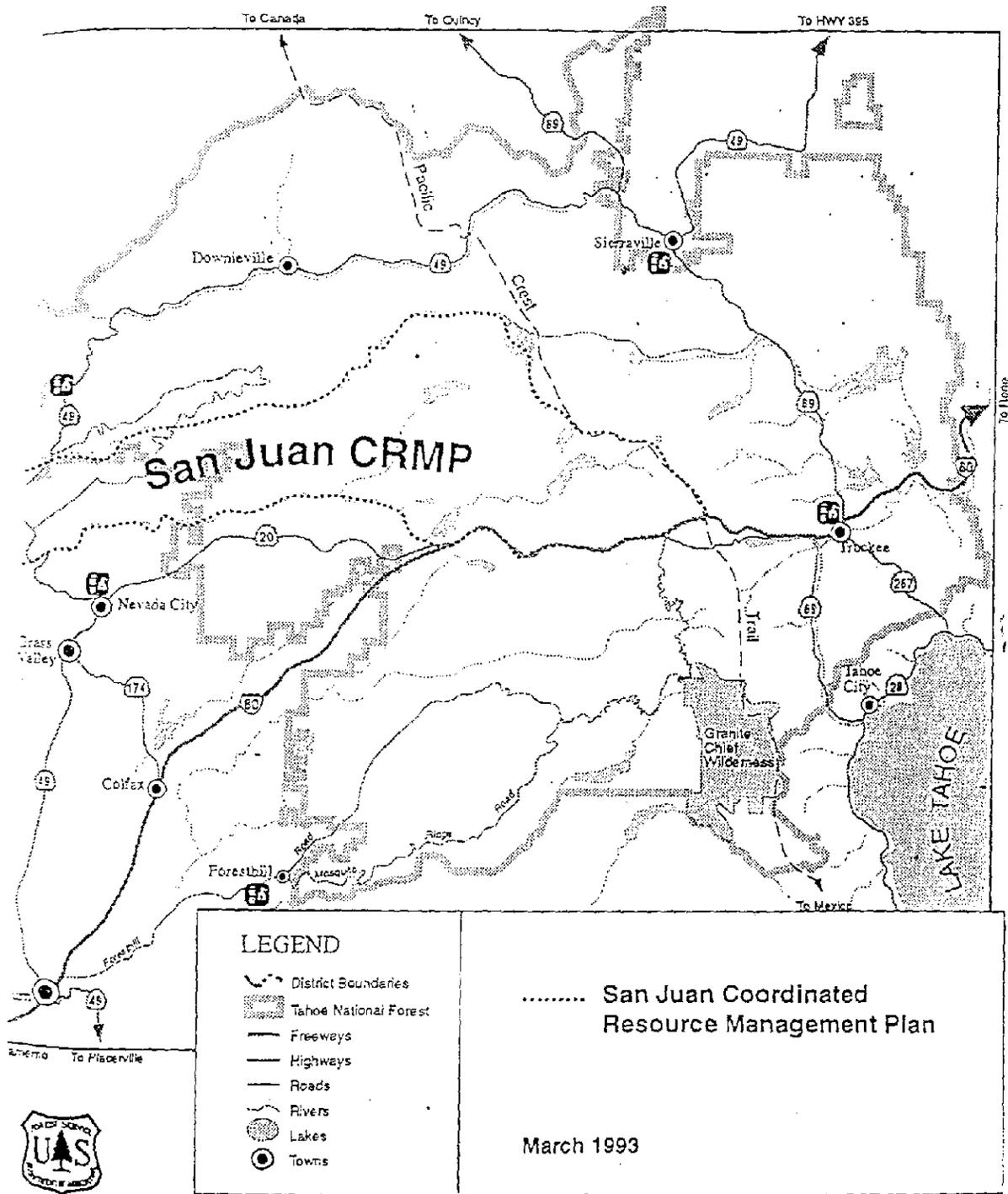
2) To recognize the interrelatedness and continuity of wildlife habitat, water, and other natural processes. This management reality involves private as well as public landowners. Working in cooperation with the North San Juan Volunteer Fire Department, neighborhood groups, and the Twin Ridges School District we will work towards educating people as to the role of fire as a natural ecological process and the use of prescribed burning for fuels management.

4A

PLANNING OBJECTIVES and IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

1. Solicit public participation  
Actions proposed
  - a. Press releases.
  - b. Develop mailing list of all interested individuals.
2. Develop a list of funding sources  
Actions proposed
  - a. Technical committee to meet and develop potential sources and amounts.
3. Identify current projects within the plan area where fire is being used to meet some or all of stated issues.  
Actions proposed
  - a. Technical committee to meet and develop list.
4. Develop a fire history of the area.  
Actions proposed
  - a. Technical committee to develop based on file search.
  - b. Develop a reference section.
  - c. Develop a fire history map.
5. Develop a prioritized list of projects to be implemented  
Actions proposed
  - a. Develop a process whereby projects are ranked according to timing and opportunity, benefits, costs, risks and funding sources.
  - b. Technical committee to develop list based on ranking.
6. Develop monitoring techniques and strategies  
Actions proposed
  - a. Technical committee to develop scientifically acceptable methodology that can be consistently applied as funding and resources allow.
  - b. Solicit input from the local community and encourage grant proposals.
  - c. Develop a data base to monitor longterm trends.
  - d. Centralize files.
7. Encourage coordination and communication of all agencies for each proposed project  
Actions proposed
  - a. Drafts of all significant burns will be sent to each signator

# Tahoe National Forest



We the undersigned, have participated in the development of the San Juan Ridge Coordinated Resource Management Plan, concur with the plan, and will act to implement it to the best of our ability.

An annual meeting for the review of this plan by the participants will be scheduled and organized each year by the technical committee. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss problems, make revisions and adjustments in the plan, summarize accomplishments and to set priorities for implementation of planned items.

Name	Title	Representing
<u>John H. Kimer</u>	<u>Forest Supervisor</u>	Tahoe National Forest
<u>Paul A. ...</u>	<u>Area Conservationist</u>	Soil Conservation Service
<u>Frank ...</u>	<u>Ranger Unit Chief</u>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
<u>... ..</u>	<u>Air Pollution Control Officer</u>	Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
<u>... ..</u>	<u>Regional Manager</u>	California Department of Fish and Game
<u>... ..</u>	<u>Area Manager</u>	Bureau of Land Management
<u>... ..</u>	<u>President</u>	Yuba Watershed Institute

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between the

Nevada County Resource Conservation District, County of Nevada, US Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, California State Parks, Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District, North San Juan Fire Protection District, Yuba Watershed Institute, South Yuba River Citizens League, City of Nevada City, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office, Friends of Deer Creek.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into between the above signatories.

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a framework upon which the parties may cooperatively plan mutually beneficial work projects and activities envisioned by the State of California Proposition 204, California Water Code, Division 24, Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Act, Article 5, Delta Tributary Watershed Program.

## II. INTRODUCTION

WHEREAS, all parties have a mutual interest in developing watershed rehabilitation projects to protect regional water quality and corresponding watershed properties for the public good; and

WHEREAS, all parties have the public responsibility to identify and take corrective actions where water quality may become degraded; and

WHEREAS, all parties administer properties that are eligible for grants provided under the Delta Tributary Watershed Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the above premises, the parties hereto agree as follows:

## III. PARTIES AGREE TO

1. Actively pursue opportunities for mutually beneficial work projects or activities that fit under the Delta Tributary Watershed Program.
2. Enter into supplemental agreements or other legal instruments with each other to implement any grant funding received under the auspices of this program.

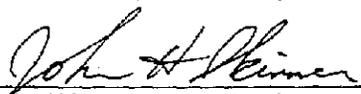
#### IV. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. This agreement is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties to this instrument will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures including those for Government procurement. Such endeavors will be outlined in separate agreements that shall be made in writing by representatives of the parties and shall be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This instrument does not give that authority.
2. Modifications within the scope of this instrument shall be made by the issuance of a bilaterally executed modification prior to any changes being performed.
3. This instrument in no way restricts any signatory party from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations and individuals.
4. Any signatory party, in writing, may request termination of their participation at any time before the date of expiration.

This instrument is executed as of the last date shown below and will expire on September 30, 2001, at which time it will be subject to review, renewal, or expiration.

  
12/18/97  
Kerry Arnett, President  
Nevada County Resource Conservation District

  
1/6/98  
Rene Antonson, Chairman, Sam Dardick  
Nevada County Board of Supervisors

  
12/19/97  
John Skinner, Forest Supervisor  
US Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest

  
12-22-97  
Ron Zinke, District Conservationist  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Jim Marchio 12-18-97  
Jim Marchio, Unit Chief  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

J. Ray Patton  
J. Ray Patton, Park Superintendent  
California State Parks

Rodney A. Hill 12/15/97  
Rodney A. Hill, Air Pollution Control Officer -  
Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District

Charlotte Killigrew 12/16/97  
Charlotte Killigrew, Chairperson, Board of Directors  
North San Juan Fire Protection District

Bob Erickson 12/17/97  
Bob Erickson, President, Yuba Watershed Institute

Roger Hicks 12/24/97  
Roger Hicks, President, Board of Directors  
South Yuba River Citizens League

Harry Stewart 12/17/97  
Harry Stewart, Mayor, City of Nevada City

Deane Swickard 12/21/97  
Deane Swickard, Field Manager  
Bureau of Land Management

Terence McAteer 12/18/97  
Terence McAteer, Superintendent of Schools, Nevada County

Mary Anne Kreshka 12/16/97  
Mary Anne Kreshka, Chairperson, Friends of Deer Creek



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

Grass Valley Service Center  
113 Presley Way, Suite 1  
Grass Valley, CA 95945  
(530)272-3417

July 1, 1998

To: CALFED - Watershed Management

Subject: Proposal - Assessment of the South Yuba River Category III Program

The Proposition 204 Steering Committee for Nevada County supports this Category III Proposal to improve water quality in the Spring Creek watershed.

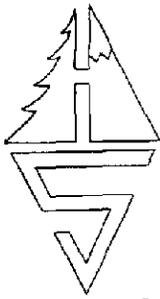
The Nevada County Resource Conservation District has dedicated its efforts to improving conditions in the watershed, and therefore water quality, which will benefit the Bay Delta. Much of this watershed effort involves improving forest and range land uses by encouraging landowners to implement proper resource conservation practices.

This project, in conjunction with other local CALFED proposals, is supported by the Proposition 204 Steering Committee with the ultimate goal of maintaining and propagating a healthy watershed. The Nevada County Proposition 204 Steering Committee also voted to support the long-term project goal of developing a coordinated watershed management and implementation plan for the South Yuba River, with input and involvement by the MOU group.

Ron Zinke  
District Conservationist and Committee Chair

Attachment

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibitions apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).  
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HIGH SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT AREA

251 AUBURN RAVINE ROAD, SUITE 201, AUBURN, CALIFORNIA 95603

TELEPHONE: (916) 823-5687

July 2, 1998.

To: CALFED - Watershed Management

Subject: Support of Proposal, Category III Program  
Spring Creek Watershed Fuel Management Project

The High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council supports Nevada County Resource Conservation District (RCD) proposal for the Spring Creek Watershed project.

The Spring Creek Watershed is in mixed ownership - Federal, State and private, and has been identified as having a serious wildfire hazard condition. Spring Creek is a tributary to the South Fork of the Yuba River, and a catastrophic wildfire in this watershed would seriously impact water quality in the Yuba River.

The Spring Creek project will serve as a model in coordination of forest health/fuel management between public and private landowners. We request your support and approval of this grant proposal.

Betty Riley  
President, High Sierra RC&D Council