

Trinity County Grants Program Proposal Grant Application

1. **Project Name**
Trinity River Watershed Coordinator

2. **Sponsoring Organization or Agency**
Trinity County Resource Conservation District
EIN: 68-0191522

3. **Date of submission of project proposal**
December 1, 2003

4. **Contact Person**
Pat Frost, District Manager
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5. **Project Location**

This project will cover the tributaries and watersheds of Trinity River Watershed, as described in the watershed component of the Trinity River Record of Decision of December 2000 (Trinity River ROD). See the attached map for a depiction of project location.

6. **Project Description**

This project will provide local expertise to lead coordination among BLM, USFS, TRRP, NRCS, RCD, TC, USGS and local communities/landowners in the watershed planning assessment and restoration efforts in the tributaries of the Trinity River Watershed under the framework and direction of the Trinity River ROD. This project includes providing a liaison between the US Forest Service and the Trinity River Restoration Program and others in the development of a Rush Creek Watershed Analysis, assistance in development of a Trinity River Watershed Restoration Strategic Plan, providing education and outreach to landowners and stakeholders in the watershed about restoration needs and methods in the tributaries, coordinating with public and private landowners in providing technical advice and developing and prioritizing watershed restoration needs, and the ability to track and secure significant matching grant funding to implement these restoration projects that will improve fishery habitat in the Trinity River downstream of Lewiston Dam.

7. **Background and Current Status of Proposed Project**

Since the construction of the Trinity River portion of the Central Valley Project in 1963, up to 90% of the Trinity River flows have been diverted from the River for other uses, eliminating the flushing flows capable of removing large quantities of fine sediment that impair fisheries reproduction in the River.

Even with ROD flows, source control of fine sediment is critical to achieve the stated mandate of the 19 December, 2000 Record of Decision (ROD), the goals and objectives of the Trinity River Restoration Program, and the Trinity River Sediment TMDL.

This project supports the implementation of the watershed component of the ROD. The project is beneficial to the TRRP, because it utilizes local expertise to coordinate and manage watershed improvement while allowing TRRP staff to focus on other mainstem objectives. This project will improve the watershed component of the ROD with assistance in planning, funding and implementation based on ongoing work by the Trinity County Resources Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Fish and Game, US Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, Trinity County and others.

8. Goals and Objectives of Proposed Project

The goal to be met by funding this proposal is to provide local expertise in the coordination of planning and implementation of watershed restoration needs and efforts in the tributaries of the Trinity River. This project will provide local expertise to reduce the rate of sedimentation into the Trinity River in order to accelerate the effectiveness of fish and wildlife restoration in the River as well as to assist private and private landowners with their resource concerns and prepare them to address sediment reduction targets established in the Trinity River TMDL.

There will be benefits to resources other than fisheries resulting from this work. These include creation of local jobs and wildlife habitat improvement. The aesthetics and overall quality of life within the Trinity River basin will be improved. Involvement of other agencies and landowners will provide a positive image of multi-organization cooperation. Finally, the local economy will benefit from this work.

This project will coordinate efforts to rehabilitate and maintain Trinity River watersheds below Lewiston Dam and addresses objectives within the watershed element of the Trinity River Record of Decision.

The following objectives will combine to accomplish the goal outlined above:

- a. Coordinate efforts and act as a liaison between the Trinity River Restoration Program, USGS and the US Forest Service for the Rush Creek Watershed Analysis
- b. Facilitate private landowner contact for restoration projects involving fisheries and/or watershed restoration
- c. Submit at least three grant proposals to various agencies for fisheries enhancement or other watershed restoration work
- d. Educate landowners and publicize information about effective restoration practices
- e. Lead development of the watershed element of the Trinity River Restoration Strategic Plan with input from TRRP, BLM, USFS, NRCS, USGS and others.
- f. Implement small demonstration watershed restoration project(s) on private lands between Lewiston Dam and the North Fork by attracting matching funds.

Deliverables:

1. Co-present a watershed analysis, planning and implementation strategy for fine sediment source control at the Sediment Symposium February 2004
2. Submit at least 3 grant proposals for fisheries enhancement, or other watershed work on private lands based on contracts and projects developed under this proposal.
3. Demonstrate contact with at least 10 private landowners with known sediment control issues between Lewiston and the North Fork of the Trinity River.
4. Schedule and facilitate up to 4 meetings with representatives from TRRP, USFS, BLM, TC, TCRCD, USGS, NRCS to reach consensus on watershed planning and analysis approaches.
5. Draft of the watershed element of the Trinity River Restoration Strategic Plan, including estimated 3-5 yr funding needs.

9. **Statement of Work/Methods**

Trinity County Resource Conservation District will provide local expertise to coordinate and implement watershed planning and restoration with public and private landowners within the Trinity River Watershed (from Lewiston Dam to the North Fork Trinity River). District staff will coordinate efforts between the Trinity River Restoration Program and the US Forest Service in the development of the Rush Creek Watershed Analysis, ensuring that concerns of all parties and interests are addressed. The District Manager and his staff will set up and facilitate watershed planning and strategy development meetings.

The District will also provide a local source of restoration education and outreach. With the completion of the Trinity River TMDL in 2001, landowners should be provided with information about how best to meet the indicator targets established to better prepare them for the Implementation Plan. This will be done through brochures, displays, meetings, a newsletter and newspaper articles.

District staff will also work with private and public landowners to assess potential projects for landowner assistance based on each project's benefit to fishery habitat. The District has significant experience in assessing and treating road-related sediment problems and streambank stabilization projects. The District will contact landowners with known fine sediment source control issues and discuss and document potential project alternatives.

The District's Grant Coordinator will research potential grant programs to locate potential funding sources for restoration projects that have been identified within the watershed and prepare at least three proposals to submit to various agencies for fisheries enhancement or other restoration work. This will enable local employees and contractors to implement the restoration work. \$10,000 from this grant will be available to provide at least a 50% match for small watershed/sediment reduction demonstration project(s) on private lands in the watershed downstream of Lewiston Dam, but upstream of the North Fork confluence.

10. **Literature Reviewed for Project Development:**

Bureau of Land Management. March 1995. Trinity River Watershed Analysis.

US Fish and Wildlife Service, October 2000, Final Trinity River Mainstem Fishery Restoration Environmental Impact Statement and Report (EIS/EIR)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, December 2001, Trinity River Total Maximum Daily Load

11. Time Frame

Proposed project will take place from January 2004 through December 2004.

Quarterly reports would be submitted to the Trinity County beginning April 15, 2004 and every three months thereafter until project completion. A final report will be completed by January 31, 2005.

12. Project Costs

a) Personnel Services: The RCD employs a District Manager to review and oversee the work, a Project Manager to meet with private landowners and to review and assess landowner concerns as well as to implement necessary restoration projects, a Grants Coordinator to prepare and submit proposals to implement watershed restoration projects, and an Office Manager to prepare educational information for brochures, displays, landowner meetings, and a meeting facilitator to coordinate watershed planning and strategy meetings between the partner agencies.

b) Vehicle and fuel expense: It is estimated that one RCD vehicles will be used to assess and implement private landowner projects. These vehicles will be billed at actual costs.

c) Printing costs include brochures, displays, and newsletter articles to disseminate information to landowners and watershed stakeholders.

d) Postage, Phone, Fax: Costs to contact landowners for coordination efforts via mail, phone, and fax.

e) Support Services/Administration: The proposed work will require the assistance of support personnel for accounting and business administration, budgeting, grants compliance, record keeping and preparation of the quarterly, annual and final reports as well as ongoing education and outreach.

f) Report writing and publication will be prepared by the District Manager and/or Grants Coordinator. This includes quarterly and final reports for the project.

g) Indirect costs will consist of office rent, internet access, district oversight, a homepage, utilities, office supplies, copies and items necessary to conduct the day-to-day business of the District.

h) The cost of this proposal is \$ 50,000.

i) \$10,000 for implementation of demonstration projects, including materials, labor and/or equipment.

Line Item Budget

Personnel Costs

	<u>Hours/Rate</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>In-kind</u>
District Manager	400 hrs @ \$29.29/hr	\$11,716	
Grant Coordinator	400 hrs @ \$24.20/hr	\$ 9,680	
Office Manager	110 hrs @ \$25.80/hr	\$ 2,838	
Project Manager	60 hrs @ \$27.20/hr	\$ 1,632	
Restoration Technicians	96 hrs @ \$14.00/hr	\$ 1,344	
NRCS-Project Engineer	60 hrs @ \$30.00/hr		\$ 1,800
NRCS-District Conservationist	100 hrs @ \$35.00/hr		\$ 3,500
NRCS Fisheries Biologist	30 hrs @ \$30.00/hr		\$ 900
Benefits (48%)		\$13,061	\$ 2,976

Personnel Total **\$40,271** **\$ 9,176**

Materials & Supplies

Vehicle and Fuel Expense	\$ 673	\$ 500
Printing & Postage	\$ 500	\$ 500
Demonstration Project Costs (equipment/materials)	\$ 2,035	

Material & Supply Total **\$ 3,208** **\$ 1,000**

Subtotal **\$43,479** **\$10,176**
Overhead

(15%) \$ 6,521

Total **\$ 50,000** **\$10,176**

13. Other Potential Funding Sources

Sources of other potential funding include the Department of Conservation through their Watershed Coordinator Grant Program (although this programs' source of money is CALFED and the Trinity River watershed is not considered in their "Solution Area"). Funding sources to implement fisheries habitat enhancement of high priority watershed restoration work include California Department of Fish and Game, Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee, State Water Resources Control Board, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service's EQIP Program, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. This project will enable the District to seek the funding necessary to implement restoration work in the tributary watersheds.

14. Potential Problems

Landowners may be more or less receptive to implementing watershed restoration projects. Required permits may be difficult to obtain. Agencies and landowners may have differing ideas about what is necessary or has higher priority. Resolving differences of opinion and overcoming any lack of trust that has developed over the years may prove challenging. Access may prove to be too difficult in some areas of the watershed.

15. Can You Do the Work Proposed?

Trinity County Resource Conservation District has extensive experience in providing locally-led watershed coordination and has an outstanding record of achievement with many projects in the Trinity River Basin, including development of cooperative efforts among landowners, timber interests, various government agencies and the general public. The District has been involved in implementing several watershed restoration elements for the Trinity River Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program since 1993 in the Grass Valley Creek watershed and the South Fork Trinity River watershed to reduce sediment delivery and enhance fisheries habitat in the Trinity River.

Funding has been obtained by TCRCD for various other watershed restoration and fuels reduction projects from US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, State Water Resources Control Board, Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee, Sacramento Regional Foundation, and Bureau of Land Management. The experience and proven capability of the District will be beneficial in providing locally-led watershed coordination. The TCRCD has been a very active participant in the South Fork Trinity River Coordinated Resource Management Planning group (CRMP) since its inception in 1994, has participated in several Watershed Analysis reports with the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, and has conducted sediment inventories in many watersheds. District staff assists with the facilitation of the Trinity County Fire Safe Council. It has also had significant experience in contracting with consultants and contractors in a timely manner as necessary.

The TCRCD focuses attention on land, water, and related resource problems, develops programs to resolve them, and enlists and coordinates assistance from all public and private sources that can contribute in accomplishing the District's goals. In addition, it works toward furthering conservation education in the community, coordinating educational programs, and serving as a community-clearing house for information and services. The TCRCD has the experience necessary to ensure that this project will be completed to the benefit of the fish and wildlife habitat of the Trinity River Watershed and its tributaries.