

# #299 Watershed Education Initiative

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*Truckee River Fund- Spring 2025*

## *Sierra Nevada Journeys*

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Audrey Bergmann  
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Reno, NV 89501

O: 775-355-1688

## *Audrey Bergmann*

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# Application Form

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## *Truckee River Fund Grant Priorities*

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) recommends that the Truckee River Fund (TRF) Advisory Committee (the "Committee") give preference to well-supported, clearly drafted grant requests that consider substantial benefits to TMWA customers for projects and programs that mitigate substantial threats to water quality and the watershed, particularly those threats upstream or nearby water treatment and hydroelectric plant intakes.

- **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):** Projects/Programs that support the prevention or control of aquatic invasive species in the mainstem Truckee River, Lake Tahoe, other tributaries and water bodies in the Truckee River system.
- **Watershed Improvements:** Projects that reduce erosion or sediment, suspended solids, or total dissolve solids (TDS) discharges, nutrients, industrial contaminants, or bacterial pollutants to the River. Projects or programs that are located within 303d (impaired waters) and total maximum daily load (TMDL) sections of the River should be considered, both in California and Nevada. Innovative techniques should be encouraged. The following link identifies impaired sections of the river and its tributaries: <https://mywaterway.epa.gov/>.
- **Local Stormwater Improvements:** Projects that demonstrably mitigate storm water run-off due to urbanization of the local watershed. Priority should be given to those improvement projects in close proximity to TMWA's water supply intakes and canals and which will improve the reliability and protect the quality of the community's municipal water supply.
- **Re-Forestation and Re-Vegetation Projects:** Projects to restore forest and upland areas damaged by fire and historical logging operations, and to improve watershed resiliency in drought situations. Projects/programs in this category should be given a high priority due to urbanization of the watershed and increased susceptibility of the urban and suburban watershed to wildfire.
- **Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses:** Projects to support water quality improvement in creeks and tributaries to the Truckee River.
- **Stewardship and Environmental Awareness:** Support to clean-up programs and the development and implementation of educational programs relative to water, water quality and watershed protection that do not fall clearly into the one of the above-mentioned categories.

### Notes:

- For proposals related to weed control/eradication, contact Lauren Renda at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada for additional criteria at [lrenda@nevadafund.org](mailto:lrenda@nevadafund.org).
- For proposals in the Lake Tahoe Basin, the Truckee River Fund (TRF) typically only funds proposals related to Priority I and VI.

## *Grantee Requirements*

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### GRANTEE REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for funding, grantees must adhere to the following requirements:

- Funds are to be used and/or disbursed exclusively for the charitable uses and purposes.
- The Fund shall be used exclusively for projects that protect and enhance water quality or water resources of the Truckee River, or its watershed.

- Grantees may include 501(c)(3) organizations and governmental entities. Any grants to governmental entities must be made exclusively for public benefit purposes.
- All grantees will be required to sign a grant agreement stipulating their agreement to all applicable terms, conditions, and reporting requirements.
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- All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25 percent** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services.

#### **TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION**

For each proposal submitted and recommended by the Committee the TMWA Board of Directors has absolute discretion to:

- Accept or reject any proposal;
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- Determine whether proposals satisfactorily meet the evaluation criteria set out in this RFP;
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#### **PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES**

To maintain eligibility to receive grant funds, each Charitable Beneficiary must comply at all times with the following requirements:

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- Must submit quarterly reports.
- Must not use any Fund distributions for political contributions or political advocacy;
- Must either implement the projects, activities, and/or programs for which they received Fund distributions within six months of the date in which such distributions are received or by date(s) as agreed upon in the grant acceptance agreement, or must return all such distributions to the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada forthwith;
- Must provide the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada a report detailing the completion of their projects, activities, and/or programs; and
- Must sign an agreement regarding their compliance with the qualifications hereof.

## ***Project Evaluation Criteria***

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### **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Applications are evaluated according to the following criteria and in order of priority. If the grant applicant does not meet the "Grantee Requirements", the application will not be considered.

### 1. RELEVANCE OF PROPOSAL TO THE TRF PROGRAM

- Address TRF grant priorities – Does the project address at least one of the TRF grant priorities, as described at the beginning of the RFP?
- Meet multiple objectives – Does the project meet multiple grant priorities?
- Public benefit of the project – Does the project help TMWA protect its sources of drinking water?
- Benefit to TMWA customers – Is there a direct benefit to TMWA customers?
- Project location – Is the project located upstream of one of TMWA's water treatment plants?

### 2. QUALITY OF PROJECT DESIGN

- Appropriateness of selected project methods – Do the proposed project strategies make sense to address the watershed and/or water quality concern(s) outlined by the applicant?
- Thoroughness of project design – Is the project design adequately detailed to ensure the desired outcome(s)?
- Sustainability of project – Will the benefits of the project continue after the grant funds are expended?
- Project longevity – If ongoing operation & maintenance (O&M) is required to maintain benefits, is it funded?
- Consideration of existing research – Does the project consider existing research, planning efforts, or assessments related to the Truckee River watershed?

### 3. MEASURABILITY OF PROJECT SUCCESS

- Identification of project benchmarks or milestones – Has the applicant described the steps necessary to complete the project?
- Demonstrated ability to measure the results of the project – Does the project have adequate measurable outcomes to evaluate project success?
- Benefits expected from a successful project – Are there clear goals that will be obtained on project completion?
- Readiness to begin project – Is the grant applicant ready to undertake and complete the project?

### 4. EFFECTIVENESS OF ORGANIZATION

- Qualifications of applicant for the proposed project – Does the applicant have adequate experience and credentials to perform the work described in the application?
- Collaborative efforts – Are there partner organizations supporting or benefiting from the project?
- Demonstrated ability of applicant to manage and complete the project – Has the applicant successfully completed projects similar to the one proposed? If previously funded by TRF, has the applicant met performance requirements and completed projects successfully?

### 5. ADEQUACY OF PROPOSED BUDGET

- Availability and status of matching funds – Does the project provide a minimum of 25 percent match in cash and/or in-kind services? If the project is downstream of the USGS Vista gage, is the 25 percent match requirement met using cash match?
- Total project cost relative to benefits – Is the project cost reasonable given the expected project outcome(s)?

- Appropriateness of budget – Are the costs presented in the budget adequately detailed and do they seem reasonable? Is the project under the 25 percent indirect/overhead expense limit?

## *Project Information*

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### **Project Title\***

Name of Project.

#299 Watershed Education Initiative

### **Amount Requested\***

\$31,699.00

### **Project Start Date\***

02/01/2025

### **Project End Date\***

06/13/2025

### **This funding will be used to:\***

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

With our Classrooms Unleashed program, we will provide 700 students in the Reno area with watershed education. This will include one classroom lesson, one field day at a site with access to the local watershed, and additional teacher resources and extension lessons.

### **This project is on:\***

Check all that apply

Public land

### **Are government permits or decision documents needed for the project?\***

No

### **If so, are those permits and decision documents already secured?**

*If permits and decision documents are needed but not yet secured, in #4 of the Narrative Requirements provide a list of permits and documents needed and a schedule for securing them.*

## *Organization Information*

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### **Organization Name\***

Sierra Nevada Journeys

**Organization Type\***

501(c)(3) Nonprofit

**EIN**

If the organization is a 501c3, please include the EIN#.

01-0881587

**Director of Organization\***

Sean Hill

**Project Contact Name\***

Audrey Bergmann

**Project Contact Postion/Title\***

Advancement Manager

**Project Contact Email\***

audreyb@sierranevadajourneys.org

**Project Contact Phone Number\***

7753551688

**Organization Mission\***

At Sierra Nevada Journeys, our mission is to deliver innovative outdoor, science-based education programs for youth to develop critical thinking skills and to inspire natural resource stewardship.

***Previous Funding from Truckee River Fund***

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**Has your organization received other grants from the Truckee River Fund?\***

Yes

**If yes, please include the following information for all previously funded projects:**

- *Date awarded*
- *Project # and Title*
- *Amount of award*

*Please attach additional pages as needed to list ALL previously funded projects.*

09/18/2024, TRF #293 Watershed Education Initiative, \$31,699  
 04/18/2024, TRF #285 Watershed Education Initiative, \$35,933  
 09/20/2023, TRF #280 Watershed Education Initiative, \$35,933  
 03/22/2023, TRF #271 Watershed Education Initiative, \$32,891  
 09/26/2022, TRF #267 Watershed Education Initiative for the Urban Truckee River Corridor, \$30,542  
 03/22/2022, TRF #258 Watershed Education Initiative, \$30,055  
 09/16/2021, TRF #251 Watershed Education Initiative, \$30,055  
 03/17/2021, TRF #245 Watershed Education Initiative for the Urban Truckee River Corridor, \$31,035  
 09/18/2020, TRF #236 Watershed Education Initiative for the Urban Truckee River Corridor, \$32,041  
 04/13/2020, TRF #230 Watershed Education Initiative for the Urban Truckee River Corridor, \$30,912  
 10/02/2019, TRF #223 Watershed Education Initiative, \$37,200  
 03/26/2019, TRF #214 Watershed Education Initiative, \$36,207  
 10/04/2018, TRF #205 Watershed Education Initiative, \$36,207  
 03/30/2018, TRF #195 Watershed Education Initiative, \$46,376  
 10/03/2017, TRF #190 Watershed Education Initiative, \$35,065  
 03/16/2017, TRF #184 Watershed Education Initiative, \$32,998  
 09/23/2016, TRF #179 Watershed Education Initiative, \$28,446  
 04/19/2016, TRF #167 Watershed Education Initiative, \$33,041  
 10/22/2015, TRF #158 Watershed Education Initiative, \$28,484  
 09/05/2014, TRF #145 Watershed Education Initiative, \$23,900  
 03/21/2014, TRF #140 Sierra Nevada Journeys' Watershed Education Initiative, \$23,750  
 Fall 2013, TRF #??? Sierra Nevada Journeys' Watershed Education Initiative, \$24,200  
 Spring 2013, TRF #??? Sierra Nevada Journeys' Watershed Education Initiative, \$16,050

\* It is possible that this list is incomplete. I have answered this question to the best of my ability based on our Development team's records.

## Previous Funding continued

## *Narrative Requirements*

### 1.) Specific project goals and measurable outcomes and how you will measure and report them.\*

*All projects are required to have measurable outcomes.*

Sierra Nevada Journeys (SNJ) proposes an innovative, culturally relevant program for Washoe County area youth, including a comprehensive approach to watershed education through the Watershed Education Initiative (WEI). Thanks to the generous and ongoing support of the Truckee River Fund, the WEI has been a component of our programming since 2011.

Through WEI, students can touch, feel, and experience their watershed, providing a foundation of interest and understanding as they continue their education and their lives. WEI will successfully meet the following objectives:

#### Outputs:

- Deliver WEI to 700 K-8th grade students within the Truckee River Watershed
- All students receive first-hand experience with the local watershed through a field study on the Truckee River or one of its tributaries.
- Provide 26 teachers with WEI extension lessons

#### Outcomes:

- 100% of students participating in "Hands in the River" will draw and describe the Truckee River Watershed
- 100% of students participating in the "Hands in the River" curriculum will complete water quality testing/on the Truckee River to assess the health of their local watershed
- 100% of students participating in "Hands in the River" will identify the function of storm drains and trace the path of pollution from a storm drain to the watershed.
- 80% of students will demonstrate improvement from pre- to post-assessment
- 40% average improvement or gain in score from pre- to post-assessment
- 80% of students will feel comfortable in nature following their field study.
- 90% of teachers will report that the program is helping to build critical thinking skills among their students.

Methods to measure outcomes: To accurately measure program success and content proficiency, Sierra Nevada Journeys' instructors administer pre- and post-assessments to all students. This method of measurement models end-of-year state testing for schools, which is used to measure national expectations for learning. In addition to student pre- and post-assessments, classroom teachers are given surveys.

Methods to measure outputs: The Sierra Nevada Journeys' Education Team manages an internal database that tracks details on participating students, schools, parents, and volunteers.

## 2.) Describe the project location.\*

*Include site map and aerial photos if applicable/possible as an attachment.*

The classroom component of WEI will take place at schools within the Washoe County School District. The program's field sites are located within and downstream of the urban corridor of the Truckee River, such as Oxbow Nature Study Area, Galena Creek Regional Park, and the McCarran Ranch Preserve. Field site locations are convenient and close to home for local students, increasing their sense of ownership, place, awareness, and comfort in these natural areas. The program highlights regions along the Truckee River impacted by urban growth and development.

## Map/Photo attachments

### 3.) Project Description\*

Sierra Nevada Journeys' Watershed Education Initiative is a dynamic education program intentionally crafted to build an understanding of student's local watershed, including human impacts on the watershed, water quality, and issues surrounding watershed protection. The program occurs over two sessions. After a brief orientation, our educators go into classrooms and teach a lesson designed to foster students' interest in science by using hands-on activities like creating a watershed model.

The program culminates with a 3-hour field study at a local nature site, where students apply what they've learned in a real-world context. Field sites for the Watershed Education Initiative include Oxbow Nature Study Area, Galena Creek Regional Park, and the Nature Conservancy's McCarran Ranch Preserve. Students explore, assess, and collect data about the health of the Truckee River Watershed by observing the river (including surrounding flora and fauna and evidence of weathering and erosion), collecting macroinvertebrate species for study, and discussing how we can use the data to make a decision on overall river health. The program also embeds opportunities to build critical thinking skills and social-emotional learning.

While in-class and field-based lessons reach students, WEI's additional outreach components support teachers, engage families, and reach community volunteers. Through extension lessons, Sierra Nevada Journeys supports teachers in getting their students back on track after distance learning and extending watershed learning beyond the Sierra Nevada Journeys-led learning experiences. Classroom teachers receive additional materials covering watershed exploration and strategies that deepen student learning. We also engage parents as chaperones during our field trips to support student learning and bolster family

engagement and excitement about learning objectives.

Sierra Nevada Journeys believes that science and nature are for everyone. We prioritize partnerships with schools primarily serving youth who have historically been denied access to high-quality science education and outdoor learning experiences. With this funding, Sierra Nevada Journeys will serve 700 students in approximately 26 classrooms in the Truckee River Watershed. Students served with this grant will be those who have the highest financial and learning needs, ensuring we address the science and outdoor equity gap.

In summary, the Watershed Education Initiative includes:

- The school-based component includes one in-class lesson. Students participate in hands-on lessons incorporating the Truckee River watershed, point and non-point source pollution, invasive species, sources and impacts of erosion, water conservation, and stewardship.
- The field-based component includes one day of outdoor science education as students hike along the Truckee River Watershed. Students seek clues about the health of the watershed and determine water quality by making visual observations, collecting and identifying macro-invertebrates or conducting chemical tests such as pH, dissolved oxygen, or turbidity. Students use evidence to draw conclusions about the health of the Truckee River Watershed.
- SNJ provides five ready-to-use classroom extension lessons for teachers that help students prepare for and review learning objectives, as well as extend and reinforce each SNJ-directed lesson.
- The volunteer component of the program builds our capacity to involve the local community and broadens accessibility to our programming for low-income schools by helping to keep costs low.

#### 4.) Grant priorities\*

*Explain how the proposed project advances the TRF's specific grant priorities.*

WEI is an education program that addresses water, water quality and watershed protection for K-8th grade students, directly aligning with grant priority VI: Stewardship and Environmental Awareness. Students gain first-hand experience determining water quality, explore human impacts on their water source, and obtain skills, knowledge and a field experience to connect them to their local river. The overall long-term program impacts include:

- Students understand important science concepts related to the Truckee River watershed and can articulate how their actions affect the Truckee River watershed and local ecosystems.
- Teachers use extension lessons and implement more hands-on exploration of the watershed. Parents and community members engage in watershed education directly through WEI volunteer opportunities.
- Health of the Truckee River watershed and local ecosystems improves as students and their families adopt environmental stewardship practices that help reduce water pollution and human impacts.

#### 5.) Permitting\*

*Provide a permitting schedule for your project along with your plan for getting the required permits and decision documents. Be sure to include the cost of permitting/decision documents as a line item in your budget.*

N/A

#### 6.) Future Land Use\*

*List any known or foreseeable zoning, land use, or development plans that may affect your proposed project.*

N/A

## 7.) If future phases of the project will be needed, identify anticipated sources of funding.\*

N/A

## 8.) Identify the principals involved in leading or coordinating the project or activity.\*

SNJ staff and science educators will be directly responsible for coordination and delivery of watershed education programs. Olive Schillo, Program Director, is a former Montessori preschool director and holds a Bachelor of Science in Parks, Recreation and Tourism with a concentration in Adventure and Outdoor programs from the University of Salt Lake City, UT.

## 9.) Number of staff positions involved in project.\*

*Identify how many staff will be full-time and how many will be part-time.*

*“Fulltime” means 100% of their staff position will be dedicated to this project; “part-time” means only a portion of their staff position will be dedicated to this project.*

Fulltime: 5, Part-time: 4

## 10.) Number of volunteers involved in project and an estimated number of volunteer hours.\*

Approximately 50 volunteers (including parent volunteers), and an estimated 250 hours of volunteer time.

## 11.) Timeline of Project\*

*List key dates and include project milestones. Note: Be realistic in your estimate of dates and milestones. List any factors that may cause a delay in implementing and/or completing the project.*

*\*\*Note: Funding will not be provided for work performed prior to grant approval.*

**Recruitment/Scheduling:** SNJ outreach efforts are continuous. Outreach and scheduling are now underway for the fall semester. SNJ targets schools that participated in watershed programming in the past and new schools that have not received WEI.

**Program Delivery:** SNJ instructors will deliver engaging watershed education lessons to 700 students through school-based and field-based programs beginning in February and running through mid-June.

**Evaluation:** SNJ staff will compile student assessment data throughout the grant period. These results will inform any changes to the curriculum to ensure effective programming in the future. Evaluations will begin in late June and data will be compiled by early July.

**Final Report:** Submit the final report to the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada. This report will include a summary of the work completed, student assessment data, and a budget update. A final report will be drafted in June 2025 and ready to submit by the deadline.

## 12.) What factors will indicate a successful project?\*

Success will be found through the delivery of the Watershed Education Initiative to 700 students in grades K-8th. All students receive first-hand experience with the local watershed through a field-study on the Truckee

River or one of its tributaries. Provide 26 teachers with WEI extension lessons. Through the Watershed Education Initiative, students will:

- Be able to draw and describe the Truckee River Watershed;
- Complete water quality testing at/on the Truckee River to assess the health of their local watershed;
- Be able to identify the function of storm drains and name three ways they can help reduce the amount of pollution entering the storm drain;
- Feel more comfortable in nature following their field study; and
- Report that the program is helping to build critical thinking skills among their students.

### 13.) Collaboration\*

*List partnerships or collaborations with other entities in relation to your proposal, if any. Grantees are encouraged to seek other funds prior to requesting money from the Truckee River Fund. Please explain what other funding opportunities were sought and if any other funds have been awarded.*

We routinely share ideas and partner with organizations for curriculum and program development. We collaborate with Better Environmental Education, Teaching, Learning & Expertise Sharing (BEETLES) methodology through the Lawrence Hall of Science at UC Berkeley, for training in outdoor science education best practices. We also partner with Project Learning Tree, Project WET, NatureBridge, and the Mountain Maidu Tribe for curriculum and program development, and we collaboratively share ideas with the Desert Research Institute, and the University of Nevada, Nevada Teach program.

Additionally, several other partner agencies make our field experiences possible like The Nature Conservancy, Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space, the City of Reno, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

### Grant Match

All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25 percent** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services.

For larger grant requests, priority will be given to projects that significantly leverage the grant with funding from other sources.

For grant requests for projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25 percent match requirement must be met using **cash match**.

### Total grant match to be provided.\*

*Total Match = Cash + In-Kind*

\$10,567.00

### Cash

\$10,567.00

## For the cash portion, is the funding already being held by the applicant for this project?

Yes

### In-Kind

**\*\*Note:** Provide an itemized breakdown of volunteer match in your budget with rationale.

### Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.\*

\$10,567 from Patagonia.

## Attachments

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### Project Budget\*

Provide detail on each line-item expenditures and show which funds are committed and which have been requested to be paid for by the Truckee River Fund grant, and which will be paid for with in-kind services. Other sources of funding should be provided. Explain status of other funding if not in hand. If project is to be implemented in phases, please separate budget into each phase. **Please contact Lauren Renda at [lrenda@nevadafund.org](mailto:lrenda@nevadafund.org) for a sample budget template, or download one here.**

#### **\*\*Notes:**

- Indirect/overhead expenses cannot exceed 25 percent; TRF may fund indirect/overhead up to 25% based on availability of funds.
- Applicants should be prepared to provide reduced budgets during the review of applications by the TRF Advisory Committee when funds are limited.
- Grants from the Truckee River Fund are paid on a reimbursable basis for actual expenditures only. Craft your budget in such a way that requests for reimbursement correspond to the original budget.

TRF Program Budget.pdf

### Supplemental Attachments

Please attach any additional attachments here.

## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- TRF Program Budget.pdf

**Program Budget for Classrooms Unleashed – Watershed Education Initiative**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Per Student Expense</b>	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>SNJ Match 25%*</b>	<b>Total Request</b>
<b>Compensation &amp; Related Expenses</b>	Includes Education Personnel like Instructors, Program Directors and Coordinators	\$45.68	\$31,975	\$7,994	\$23,981
<b>Program Costs</b>	Direct program expenses, such as: magnifying glasses, water containers, field day health supplies, printing and paper, uniforms, etc.	\$6.28	\$4,396	\$1,099	\$3,297
<b>Outside Contract Services</b>	External evaluation services, DEI consultant, etc.	\$1.80	\$1,260	\$315	\$945
<b>Occupancy Expenses</b>	Rent and utilities	\$2.73	\$1,911	\$478	\$1,433
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	Such as office supplies, postage/shipping, telephone, internet, equipment rental and maint., licenses and membership dues	\$3.15	\$2,205	\$551	\$1,654
<b>Other Misc Expenses</b>	Staff recruitment, advertising/marketing expense, banking fees, merchant proc. fees	\$0.74	\$518	\$130	\$389
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$60.38</b>	<b>\$42,266</b>	<b>\$10,567</b>	<b>\$31,699</b>

## #300 River Stewards

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*Truckee River Fund- Spring 2025*

### ***The Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality***

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Benjamin Castro  
2095 Arcane Ave.  
Reno, NV 89503

O: 775-412-8325

### ***Benjamin Castro***

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# Application Form

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- Meet multiple objectives – Does the project meet multiple grant priorities?
- Public benefit of the project – Does the project help TMWA protect its sources of drinking water?
- Benefit to TMWA customers – Is there a direct benefit to TMWA customers?
- Project location – Is the project located upstream of one of TMWA's water treatment plants?

### 2. QUALITY OF PROJECT DESIGN

- Appropriateness of selected project methods – Do the proposed project strategies make sense to address the watershed and/or water quality concern(s) outlined by the applicant?
- Thoroughness of project design – Is the project design adequately detailed to ensure the desired outcome(s)?
- Sustainability of project – Will the benefits of the project continue after the grant funds are expended?
- Project longevity – If ongoing operation & maintenance (O&M) is required to maintain benefits, is it funded?
- Consideration of existing research – Does the project consider existing research, planning efforts, or assessments related to the Truckee River watershed?

### 3. MEASURABILITY OF PROJECT SUCCESS

- Identification of project benchmarks or milestones – Has the applicant described the steps necessary to complete the project?
- Demonstrated ability to measure the results of the project – Does the project have adequate measurable outcomes to evaluate project success?
- Benefits expected from a successful project – Are there clear goals that will be obtained on project completion?
- Readiness to begin project – Is the grant applicant ready to undertake and complete the project?

### 4. EFFECTIVENESS OF ORGANIZATION

- Qualifications of applicant for the proposed project – Does the applicant have adequate experience and credentials to perform the work described in the application?
- Collaborative efforts – Are there partner organizations supporting or benefiting from the project?
- Demonstrated ability of applicant to manage and complete the project – Has the applicant successfully completed projects similar to the one proposed? If previously funded by TRF, has the applicant met performance requirements and completed projects successfully?

### 5. ADEQUACY OF PROPOSED BUDGET

- Availability and status of matching funds – Does the project provide a minimum of 25 percent match in cash and/or in-kind services? If the project is downstream of the USGS Vista gage, is the 25 percent match requirement met using cash match?
- Total project cost relative to benefits – Is the project cost reasonable given the expected project outcome(s)?

- Appropriateness of budget – Are the costs presented in the budget adequately detailed and do they seem reasonable? Is the project under the 25 percent indirect/overhead expense limit?

## *Project Information*

---

### **Project Title\***

Name of Project.

#300 River Stewards

### **Amount Requested\***

\$180,404.40

### **Project Start Date\***

04/01/2025

### **Project End Date\***

03/31/2026

### **This funding will be used to:\***

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

The funding will be used to hire one Program Manager and 4 Part-Time Contractors to decrease pollution in the areas within 100 feet on either side of the Truckee River. Expenses will include salaries, fringe benefits, and program supplies.

### **This project is on:\***

Check all that apply

Public land

### **Are government permits or decision documents needed for the project?\***

No

### **If so, are those permits and decision documents already secured?**

*If permits and decision documents are needed but not yet secured, in #4 of the Narrative Requirements provide a list of permits and documents needed and a schedule for securing them.*

## *Organization Information*

---

### **Organization Name\***

The Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality

**Organization Type\***

501(c)(3) Nonprofit

**EIN**

If the organization is a 501c3, please include the EIN#.

45-5617917

**Director of Organization\***

Benjamin Castro

**Project Contact Name\***

Benjamin Castro

**Project Contact Postion/Title\***

Executive Director

**Project Contact Email\***

ben@renoinitiative.org

**Project Contact Phone Number\***

7754128325

**Organization Mission\***

Our initiative is to cultivate a greater sense of dignity and humility by providing equal access to shelter, knowledge, and opportunity. We seek to create a stronger community through the use of shared resources and mutual aid.

***Previous Funding from Truckee River Fund***

---

**Has your organization received other grants from the Truckee River Fund?\***

Yes

**If yes, please include the following information for all previously funded projects:**

- *Date awarded*
- *Project # and Title*
- *Amount of award*

*Please attach additional pages as needed to list ALL previously funded projects.*

2/16/2024  
TRF #287 River Stewards  
\$226,503.20

## Previous Funding continued

### *Narrative Requirements*

---

#### 1.) Specific project goals and measurable outcomes and how you will measure and report them.\*

*All projects are required to have measurable outcomes.*

A Source Water Protection Area (SWPA) is a locally established management area surrounding a surface water or ground water resource that supplies water for public consumption. An SWPA provides a buffer around the Truckee River, as well as perennial tributaries. This buffer zone will be impacted by this project.

Specific goals:

- 1.) To decrease pollution in the areas within 100 feet on either side of the Truckee River by significantly reducing the amount of trash in these areas;
- 2.) To reduce pollutants that end up in the river from non-point source pollution as a result of keeping the SWPA cleared of trash and biohazards;
- 3.) To improve the aesthetic value and potential for increased recreational use by the public, including hiking, bicycling, fishing and other water sports by enhancing the appearance of the Truckee River Watershed, including the public parks and trails in the area; and
- 4.) To provide employment opportunities for our unsheltered neighbors.

Measurable outcomes:

- 1.) Track and record the number of bags of trash collected from the SWPA;
- 2.) Record the number of staff employed by this project, including the number of unsheltered individuals.

#### 2.) Describe the project location.\*

*Include site map and aerial photos if applicable/possible as an attachment.*

Reno-Tahoe Truckee River Trail with specific focus on encampments identified by the Reno Clean and Safe Team and other Outreach Service Providers.

### Map/Photo attachments

#### 3.) Project Description\*

The Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality seeks to renew the River Stewards Project which was successful in significantly reducing the amount of trash in the Truckee River watershed as well as the river itself. The presence of trash along the riverbanks poses a serious threat to water quality, and a threat to the health of the entire community. The proposed project site includes an upstream urban area, which is also located in close proximity to the TMWAA Water Treatment Plant.

From May 2024 -December 2024, the River Stewards produced the following outcomes:

- 2,593 forty-two gallon bags of trash collected and removed from the river bank

- \$7,693.16 donated from RISE in Waste Management transfer station fees
- \$38,272 in donated Peer Support Services to support the River Stewards contractors
- 12 unhoused neighbors employed. Two have moved inside and are pursuing other employment, one has moved into a Domestic Violence shelter, and one is actively pursuing sobriety and reviewing housing options. Five contractors remain that we are currently employing and engaging with.

The River Stewards Project will consist of ongoing trash removal, including removal of animal and biohazard waste, in areas along the Truckee River that are beautifully landscaped and designed for recreational use. Current and formerly unsheltered individuals will be hired on a contract basis at a livable wage as cleanup crew members. Crew members will receive comprehensive training from the Program Manager and other staff. The training will include instruction in community outreach to unsheltered individuals, consistent with the RISE organizational mission.

River Stewards crew members will:

- 1.) Participate in daily trash cleanup
- 2.) Assist in outreach efforts and provide support to unsheltered individuals in the area
- 3.) Help to educate all river users about the importance of protecting the Truckee River and its surrounding areas.

The annual Point In Time Count, required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is conducted every year on one day in late January for the purpose of tracking the total number and identifying characteristics of individuals experiencing homelessness in cities throughout the U.S. According to the most recent Point In Time Count conducted on January 26th, 2023, a total of 1690 homeless individuals were counted in Washoe County. This included 329 people living unsheltered (sleeping in tents, cars, on the street, or in makeshift shelters). The River Stewards project will offer opportunities for some to earn an income while working in a supportive environment and performing an invaluable service to our community.

The project will provide multiple benefits to the community, including the creation of a more desirable outdoor environment for the public to enjoy. While many areas along the Truckee River have aesthetic value, the potential for recreational use has not been fully realized. The Truckee River Path, a scenic hiking/walking trail, includes more than six public parks in the city of Reno alone, and offers access to the Tahoe-Pyramid Trail, a popular bicycle thoroughfare, as well as access points for fishing, kayaking and other water sports. Keeping these areas free of trash offers multiple environmental, health and safety benefits to the entire community.

We believe that when community members observe intensive cleanup efforts along the river, they will likely be inspired to be mindful of the area's natural beauty, and motivated to reduce their ecological footprint. This conservation mindset will help protect the river for all of us, as well as for future generations.

#### 4.) Grant priorities\*

*Explain how the proposed project advances the TRF's specific grant priorities.*

The River Stewards Project fits the TRF priority category Stewardship and Environmental Awareness by supporting a cleanup program and offering community education directly connected to preserving and protecting the local environment and enhancing water quality.

The project will also contribute to improving the local watershed by decreasing the total maximum daily load (TMDL) through the reduction of non-point source pollution in and around the Truckee River. The project's work will occur in upstream urban areas that are close to TMWAA's water treatment facility.

**5.) Permitting\***

*Provide a permitting schedule for your project along with your plan for getting the required permits and decision documents. Be sure to include the cost of permitting/decision documents as a line item in your budget.*

No Permits Necessary.

**6.) Future Land Use\***

*List any known or foreseeable zoning, land use, or development plans that may affect your proposed project.*

N/A

**7.) If future phases of the project will be needed, identify anticipated sources of funding.\***

RISE currently contracts with the City of Reno's Clean and Safe Team to provide outreach services to our unsheltered neighbors and with One Truckee River to provide janitorial services to the Portland Loos located at both Brodhead Park and John Champion Park. Once the viability of the River Stewards Project has been fortified, the partners previously mentioned are potential sources of funding to continue the project's maintenance.

**8.) Identify the principals involved in leading or coordinating the project or activity.\***

The project will require one Program Manager who will report directly to the Executive Director. The Program Manager will recruit, train, and direct four part-time River Stewards. The Program Manager will also work closely with the RISE Outreach Team to provide peer support services to the River Stewards recruits and broker resources to increase the likelihood of stable income and permanent housing.

**9.) Number of staff positions involved in project.\***

*Identify how many staff will be full-time and how many will be part-time.*

*"Fulltime" means 100% of their staff position will be dedicated to this project; "part-time" means only a portion of their staff position will be dedicated to this project.*

One Full-Time Program Manager, 4 Part-time River Stewards, and 2 Part-Time Peer Support Specialists provided In-Kind by the RISE Outreach Team.

**10.) Number of volunteers involved in project and an estimated number of volunteer hours.\***

This project will not be reliant on volunteers.

**11.) Timeline of Project\***

*List key dates and include project milestones. Note: Be realistic in your estimate of dates and milestones. List any factors that may cause a delay in implementing and/or completing the project.*

*\*\*Note: Funding will not be provided for work performed prior to grant approval.*

April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026

## 12.) What factors will indicate a successful project?\*

Factors indicating the success of River Stewards include:

- 1.) A significant decrease in the amount of trash in public areas within 100 feet on either side of the Truckee River;
- 2.) A significant drop in the number of pollutants in the local water supply as measured by TMWAA staff;
- 3.) Evidence of a change in the attitude of residents and visitors toward protecting the Truckee River and its surrounding area. If people routinely experience a clean and well-maintained area, they are more likely to act more responsibly and to value a clean and safe environment.

## 13.) Collaboration\*

*List partnerships or collaborations with other entities in relation to your proposal, if any. Grantees are encouraged to seek other funds prior to requesting money from the Truckee River Fund. Please explain what other funding opportunities were sought and if any other funds have been awarded.*

RISE currently has partner relationships with several government agencies and community-based non-profit organizations, including: Washoe County Human Services Agency, which contracts with RISE to manage and operate OUR Place Shelter for women and families; One Truckee River (OTR), the non-profit organization involved with the original River Stewards project and partners with RISE to maintain the public restrooms along the Truckee River; Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB), the non-profit organization that organizes community cleanup events along the river and throughout the area, utilizing hundreds of community volunteers; and the City of Reno, which contracts with RISE for the management and operation of a city-wide outreach program that offers a variety of services to individuals living unsheltered.

## Grant Match

All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25 percent** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services.

For larger grant requests, priority will be given to projects that significantly leverage the grant with funding from other sources.

For grant requests for projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25 percent match requirement must be met using **cash match**.

## Total grant match to be provided.\*

*Total Match = Cash + In-Kind*

\$47,840.00

## Cash

For the cash portion, is the funding already being held by the applicant for this project?

## In-Kind

*\*\*Note: Provide an itemized breakdown of volunteer match in your budget with rationale.*

\$47,840.00

## Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.\*

RISE will provide 1 FTE Peer Support Specialist to work directly with the River Stewards recruits to broker public resources and increase the likelihood of stable income and permanent housing.

## Attachments

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### Project Budget\*

*Provide detail on each line-item expenditures and show which funds are committed and which have been requested to be paid for by the Truckee River Fund grant, and which will be paid for with in-kind services. Other sources of funding should be provided. Explain status of other funding if not in hand. If project is to be implemented in phases, please separate budget into each phase. **Please contact Lauren Renda at [lrenda@nevadafund.org](mailto:lrenda@nevadafund.org) for a sample budget template, or download one here.***

#### **\*\*Notes:**

- *Indirect/overhead expenses cannot exceed 25 percent; TRF may fund indirect/overhead up to 25% based on availability of funds.*
- *Applicants should be prepared to provide reduced budgets during the review of applications by the TRF Advisory Committee when funds are limited.*
- *Grants from the Truckee River Fund are paid on a reimbursable basis for actual expenditures only. Craft your budget in such a way that requests for reimbursement correspond to the original budget.*

River Stewards Budget.xlsx

## Supplemental Attachments

*Please attach any additional attachments here.*

## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- River Stewards Budget.xlsx

<b>Detailed Proposed Budget</b>	
<b>Category</b>	
<b>1. Salaries</b>	
	Salaries Subtotal
<b>2. Fringe</b>	
	Fringe Subtotal
<b>3. Contractual</b>	
	Contractual Subtotal
<b>4. Supplies and Equipment</b>	
	Supplies and Equipment Subtotal
<b>5. Administrative</b>	
	Administrative subtotal
<b>Total Cost</b>	

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**River Stewards**


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**April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026**


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Details of Expected Expenses		
	FTE	Hourly
Program Manager	1.0	\$ 30.00
Peer Support Specialist - In-Kind Service Provided by RISE Outreach	1.0	\$ 23.00
Fringe benefits @ 16%		
Contracted River Stewards	2.0	\$ 20.00
Insurance - Liability		
Insurance - Workman's Comp		
Trash Bags and Gloves		
Administrative Costs @10%		

Project Duration	Total
\$ 62,400.00	
<b>\$ 47,840.00</b>	
	\$ 62,400.00
\$ 9,984.00	
	\$ 9,984.00
\$ 83,200.00	
\$ 3,600.00	
\$ 2,520.00	
	\$ 89,320.00
\$ 2,300.00	
	\$ 2,300.00
	\$ 16,400.40
	<b>\$ 180,404.40</b>

## #301 Youth Watershed Education and Protection Projects on the Truckee River

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*Truckee River Fund- Spring 2025*

### ***Great Basin Outdoor School***

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Sue Jacox  
1000 Bible Way #53  
Reno, NV 89502

O: 775-324-0936

### ***Derik Knak***

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1000 Bible Way #53  
Reno, NV 89502

development@greatbasin-os.org  
O: 530-949-4975

# Application Form

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## *Truckee River Fund Grant Priorities*

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) recommends that the Truckee River Fund (TRF) Advisory Committee (the "Committee") give preference to well-supported, clearly drafted grant requests that consider substantial benefits to TMWA customers for projects and programs that mitigate substantial threats to water quality and the watershed, particularly those threats upstream or nearby water treatment and hydroelectric plant intakes.

- **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):** Projects/Programs that support the prevention or control of aquatic invasive species in the mainstem Truckee River, Lake Tahoe, other tributaries and water bodies in the Truckee River system.
- **Watershed Improvements:** Projects that reduce erosion or sediment, suspended solids, or total dissolve solids (TDS) discharges, nutrients, industrial contaminants, or bacterial pollutants to the River. Projects or programs that are located within 303d (impaired waters) and total maximum daily load (TMDL) sections of the River should be considered, both in California and Nevada. Innovative techniques should be encouraged. The following link identifies impaired sections of the river and its tributaries: <https://mywaterway.epa.gov/>.
- **Local Stormwater Improvements:** Projects that demonstrably mitigate storm water run-off due to urbanization of the local watershed. Priority should be given to those improvement projects in close proximity to TMWA's water supply intakes and canals and which will improve the reliability and protect the quality of the community's municipal water supply.
- **Re-Forestation and Re-Vegetation Projects:** Projects to restore forest and upland areas damaged by fire and historical logging operations, and to improve watershed resiliency in drought situations. Projects/programs in this category should be given a high priority due to urbanization of the watershed and increased susceptibility of the urban and suburban watershed to wildfire.
- **Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses:** Projects to support water quality improvement in creeks and tributaries to the Truckee River.
- **Stewardship and Environmental Awareness:** Support to clean-up programs and the development and implementation of educational programs relative to water, water quality and watershed protection that do not fall clearly into the one of the above-mentioned categories.

### Notes:

- For proposals related to weed control/eradication, contact Lauren Renda at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada for additional criteria at [lrenda@nevadafund.org](mailto:lrenda@nevadafund.org).
- For proposals in the Lake Tahoe Basin, the Truckee River Fund (TRF) typically only funds proposals related to Priority I and VI.

## *Grantee Requirements*

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### GRANTEE REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for funding, grantees must adhere to the following requirements:

- Funds are to be used and/or disbursed exclusively for the charitable uses and purposes.
- The Fund shall be used exclusively for projects that protect and enhance water quality or water resources of the Truckee River, or its watershed.

- Grantees may include 501(c)(3) organizations and governmental entities. Any grants to governmental entities must be made exclusively for public benefit purposes.
- All grantees will be required to sign a grant agreement stipulating their agreement to all applicable terms, conditions, and reporting requirements.
- Organizations or entities sponsoring proposals are prohibited from ex parte communications with members of the Committee regarding such proposals while those proposals are pending before the Committee, and such communications may be grounds for rejecting a proposal.
- All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25 percent** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services.

#### **TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION**

For each proposal submitted and recommended by the Committee the TMWA Board of Directors has absolute discretion to:

- Accept or reject any proposal;
- Accept a proposal on the condition that certain modifications be made;
- Assess proposals as they see fit, without in any way being obligated to select any proposal;
- Determine whether proposals satisfactorily meet the evaluation criteria set out in this RFP;
- Reject proposals with or without cause, whether based on the evaluation criteria set out above or otherwise.

#### **PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES**

To maintain eligibility to receive grant funds, each Charitable Beneficiary must comply at all times with the following requirements:

- Must be exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code;
- Shall use all Fund distributions toward projects that are appropriate and legal public expenditures;
- Must provide financial details and/or reports of their organizations upon request;
- Must submit quarterly reports.
- Must not use any Fund distributions for political contributions or political advocacy;
- Must either implement the projects, activities, and/or programs for which they received Fund distributions within six months of the date in which such distributions are received or by date(s) as agreed upon in the grant acceptance agreement, or must return all such distributions to the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada forthwith;
- Must provide the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada a report detailing the completion of their projects, activities, and/or programs; and
- Must sign an agreement regarding their compliance with the qualifications hereof.

## ***Project Evaluation Criteria***

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### **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Applications are evaluated according to the following criteria and in order of priority. If the grant applicant does not meet the "Grantee Requirements", the application will not be considered.

### 1. RELEVANCE OF PROPOSAL TO THE TRF PROGRAM

- Address TRF grant priorities – Does the project address at least one of the TRF grant priorities, as described at the beginning of the RFP?
- Meet multiple objectives – Does the project meet multiple grant priorities?
- Public benefit of the project – Does the project help TMWA protect its sources of drinking water?
- Benefit to TMWA customers – Is there a direct benefit to TMWA customers?
- Project location – Is the project located upstream of one of TMWA's water treatment plants?

### 2. QUALITY OF PROJECT DESIGN

- Appropriateness of selected project methods – Do the proposed project strategies make sense to address the watershed and/or water quality concern(s) outlined by the applicant?
- Thoroughness of project design – Is the project design adequately detailed to ensure the desired outcome(s)?
- Sustainability of project – Will the benefits of the project continue after the grant funds are expended?
- Project longevity – If ongoing operation & maintenance (O&M) is required to maintain benefits, is it funded?
- Consideration of existing research – Does the project consider existing research, planning efforts, or assessments related to the Truckee River watershed?

### 3. MEASURABILITY OF PROJECT SUCCESS

- Identification of project benchmarks or milestones – Has the applicant described the steps necessary to complete the project?
- Demonstrated ability to measure the results of the project – Does the project have adequate measurable outcomes to evaluate project success?
- Benefits expected from a successful project – Are there clear goals that will be obtained on project completion?
- Readiness to begin project – Is the grant applicant ready to undertake and complete the project?

### 4. EFFECTIVENESS OF ORGANIZATION

- Qualifications of applicant for the proposed project – Does the applicant have adequate experience and credentials to perform the work described in the application?
- Collaborative efforts – Are there partner organizations supporting or benefiting from the project?
- Demonstrated ability of applicant to manage and complete the project – Has the applicant successfully completed projects similar to the one proposed? If previously funded by TRF, has the applicant met performance requirements and completed projects successfully?

### 5. ADEQUACY OF PROPOSED BUDGET

- Availability and status of matching funds – Does the project provide a minimum of 25 percent match in cash and/or in-kind services? If the project is downstream of the USGS Vista gage, is the 25 percent match requirement met using cash match?
- Total project cost relative to benefits – Is the project cost reasonable given the expected project outcome(s)?

- Appropriateness of budget – Are the costs presented in the budget adequately detailed and do they seem reasonable? Is the project under the 25 percent indirect/overhead expense limit?

## ***Project Information***

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### **Project Title\***

Name of Project.

#301 Youth Watershed Education and Protection Projects on the Truckee River

### **Amount Requested\***

\$11,750.90

### **Project Start Date\***

03/11/2025

### **Project End Date\***

07/25/2025

### **This funding will be used to:\***

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

Funding from the Truckee River Fund will support the planning and delivery of a Truckee River Snapshot Day water sampling event at Mountain View Montessori School and advancing critical watershed education for elementary and middle school-aged students at Spring and Summer Adventure Day Camps, encompassing eight weeks of day camp programs.

### **This project is on:\***

Check all that apply

Public land

Private land

### **Are government permits or decision documents needed for the project?\***

No

### **If so, are those permits and decision documents already secured?**

*If permits and decision documents are needed but not yet secured, in #4 of the Narrative Requirements provide a list of permits and documents needed and a schedule for securing them.*

No

## *Organization Information*

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### **Organization Name\***

Great Basin Outdoor School

### **Organization Type\***

501(c)(3) Nonprofit

### **EIN**

If the organization is a 501c3, please include the EIN#.

88-0396516

### **Director of Organization\***

Emily Baldwin

### **Project Contact Name\***

Derik Knak

### **Project Contact Postion/Title\***

Development Coordinator/Lead Naturalist Educator

### **Project Contact Email\***

development@greatbasin-os.org

### **Project Contact Phone Number\***

5309494975

### **Organization Mission\***

To ignite children's passion for learning and foster cooperation, respect, and responsibility through hands-on discovery in the outdoor classroom.

## *Previous Funding from Truckee River Fund*

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### **Has your organization received other grants from the Truckee River Fund?\***

Yes

## If yes, please include the following information for all previously funded projects:

- *Date awarded*
- *Project # and Title*
- *Amount of award*

*Please attach additional pages as needed to list ALL previously funded projects.*

February 2024, TRF #288, "Youth Watershed Education and Protection Projects," \$9,279.60

March 2023, TRF #270, "Youth Watershed Education and Protection Projects," \$10,411.00

July 2021, TRF #249, "Lower Truckee Snapshot Day, Spring & Summer Day Camp Watershed Education Initiative," \$11,896.06

## Previous Funding continued

*[Unanswered]*

## Narrative Requirements

### 1.) Specific project goals and measurable outcomes and how you will measure and report them.\*

*All projects are required to have measurable outcomes.*

Through educational programs, Great Basin Outdoor School will introduce about 270 Reno area students to aquatic science and projects in the spring and summer of 2025. These programs will excite students about STEM topics and inspire stewardship with exploration in the outdoor classroom and learning activities.

The organization will hold a Truckee River Snapshot Day water sampling event at Mountain View Montessori School for a third consecutive year. Great Basin Outdoor School will invite 40 fourth- and fifth-grade students into a broad consortium of community members to sample and collect streamwater data for Whites Creek, a class 2 tributary of the Truckee River. Data collected during the event will be included in the Tahoe-Truckee Snapshot Day Annual Report and used for future mitigation projects impacting the Truckee River watershed. Great Basin Outdoor School will recruit five volunteers from its pool of professional educator volunteers and students from Bishop Manogue Catholic High School's Green Club to lead demonstrations and activities. Students and high school volunteers will be actively engaged as citizen scientists to assist naturalist educators with water sampling and testing activities and gain an appreciation of the Truckee River watershed as a critical resource of northern Nevada, in addition to pursuing further STEM learning. Snapshot Day water data and event photos will be shared in quarterly and final reports.

Great Basin Outdoor School also seeks support to deliver watershed education at Adventure Day Camps taking place at Reno's River School Farm and Mayberry Park, reaching 50 students in two weeks of Spring Adventure Day Camp and 180 students across six weeks of Summer Adventure Day Camp for a total of 230 students. Each student will be engaged for 35 hours in week-long sessions of outdoor contact time at the River School Farm, Mayberry Park, and nearby trails for a total of 8,050 outdoor program contact hours. The number of students reached will be recorded and reported in quarterly and final reports. In addition to watershed-themed activities and demonstrations, students will collect and audit litter from Mayberry Park with photos and weekly audits to be provided in grant reporting. Naturalist educators and directorial staff will measure curricular success by administering pre- and post-program survey assessments to students that seek to capture both STEM and social learning outcomes. Great Basin Outdoor School's day camp director will track assessment data and include the results of survey assessments in final reporting. At least 75% of responding students will indicate knowledge gain, excitement towards STEM learning, understanding of point

and non-point source pollution, and commitment to protecting their local watershed on survey assessments. In addition to program reach and survey assessment results, photos and student quotes will be shared in grant reporting to additionally document these educational outcomes.

## 2.) Describe the project location.\*

*Include site map and aerial photos if applicable/possible as an attachment.*

The Truckee River Snapshot Day water sampling event will be held on the campus of Mountain View Montessori School on Zolezzi Lane in Reno, where staff and volunteers will set up activity and water testing stations along the streambank of Lower Whites Creek. Lower Whites Creek is a major tributary of Steamboat Creek and a source of drainage for the North Carson Range according to the Environmental Protection Agency Office of Water's Watershed Assessment, Tracking & Environmental Results System (WATERS). Sampling points at downstream positions will be mapped and positioned to emphasize the mixed-use development of southwest Reno and the effects on streamwater quality and ecology, including the dissolved oxygen saturation, presence of suspended solids, and nitrate pollution.

Adventure Day Camps will occur at the River School Farm adjacent to Mayberry Park along the Truckee River off West 4th Street in Reno. The River School Farm is a sustainable farm and event space that offers a variety of open green spaces for activities, crafts, and demonstrations. This venue provides direct access to the Truckee River and is effectively used to deliver watershed education incorporated into the day camp curriculum, including macroinvertebrate dip netting and kid-friendly water sampling and testing activities. Direct service projects at Mayberry Park and the banks of the Truckee River will help students understand the frequency of litter in public parks and the Truckee River watershed. Such activities are also complemented by the mixed-use development of west Reno, including opportunities to identify point and non-point sources of pollution and their effects on the riparian ecology.

## Map/Photo attachments

GBOS 2025 TRF Maps with photos.pdf

## 3.) Project Description\*

With support from the Truckee River Fund, Great Basin Outdoor School will host a Truckee River Snapshot Day water sampling event on the campus of Mountain View Montessori School in Reno that is scheduled for May 30, 2025. Since 2023, the organization has partnered with Mountain View Montessori School, a PreK-8 school in southwest Reno that promotes sustainability through its curriculum and student maintenance of an organic farm located on campus. The school is located on the south bank of Whites Creek, a second-order tributary of the Truckee River that originates in the Mount Rose Wilderness Area and flows through commercial and residential areas of southwest Reno before draining into Steamboat Creek near Damonte Ranch. The lead naturalist educator and volunteers will lead water sampling and testing demonstrations, in addition to activities with emphases on the hydrology and geography of watersheds.

Great Basin Outdoor School hosts week-long day camp programs at the River School Farm and Mayberry Park in Reno to promote active learning throughout the year that may be punctuated by school breaks. The River School Farm's location provides an accessible stretch of the Truckee River for watershed educational activities. Students are divided by age into trail groups led by professionally trained naturalist educators who lead demonstrations and activities that emphasize the importance of the Truckee River watershed and its security as northwestern Nevada's primary source of water. Educational and recreational activities in small trail groups help like-minded students form peer relations and learn to collaboratively work together. Great Basin Outdoor School's day camp curriculum will leverage activity-planning resources from Project Water Education Today (WET) to select themed activities, games, and demonstrations for a K-7 demographic. Students will use dip nets to search for benthic macroinvertebrates, or aquatic organisms that are large

enough to be visible without a microscope and act as bioindicators for streamwater health. Educational activities are supplemented by guest presentations from entities invested in remediating local watersheds and long-time partners, including the City of Reno's Utility Services Department, Walker Basin Conservancy, and Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful. Direct service projects at Mayberry Park will allow students to make a difference by removing and auditing various types of litter from the Truckee River, helping to establish a sense of place and a need to protect public natural spaces. Through assessment results, students will indicate newfound knowledge of the Truckee River and brainstorm ways to protect their local watershed.

#### 4.) Grant priorities\*

*Explain how the proposed project advances the TRF's specific grant priorities.*

Great Basin Outdoor School's educational programs will advance Truckee River Fund's grant priority to build a sense of stewardship and expand environmental education opportunities for students. Funding will be utilized to organize the Truckee River Snapshot Day event and continue to include students as citizen scientists to assist with water testing and sampling activities. Students will learn more about the ecological health of their neighboring creek and will be equipped to protect their watershed through interactive demonstrations led by Great Basin Outdoor School's educators and volunteers. Topics such as water security, watershed management, and pollution of local waterways will be greatly emphasized to give context to Whites Creek and the upstream development that affects the streamwater quality. Data and samples collected by students will be submitted for inclusion in the Tahoe-Truckee Snapshot Day Annual Report, which may in turn assist the consortium and environmental agencies in watershed improvement and remediation projects.

Support is also requested for the incorporation of watershed education and protection projects at Great Basin Outdoor School's Adventure Day Camps that will likewise promote the values of stewardship and benefits of environmental education. Day camp programs build awareness of educational and stewardship opportunities through a curricular emphasis on aquatic science that is enriched with direct service projects and guest presentations. Demonstrations and field studies allow students to not only grasp basic concepts of aquatic science but also observe the subject matter in an active and collaborative learning environment. For example, students will use tarps to construct watershed models and simulate the downward flow of water across various topographies to better understand the geography of watersheds. Through direct service projects, students will learn about the different sources of point and non-point source pollution as they relate to the health of the riparian ecosystem and build initiatives to help restore public green spaces. By participating in a sustainability-themed day camp curriculum, students gain full perspectives of regional issues facing the Truckee River watershed and will apply stewardship principles in their lifestyles.

#### 5.) Permitting\*

*Provide a permitting schedule for your project along with your plan for getting the required permits and decision documents. Be sure to include the cost of permitting/decision documents as a line item in your budget.*

All activities to be implemented during Truckee River Snapshot Day and school break day camps will not require local or federal permitting.

#### 6.) Future Land Use\*

*List any known or foreseeable zoning, land use, or development plans that may affect your proposed project.*

There are no foreseeable zoning, land use, or development plans that would impact the implementation of the Truckee River Snapshot Day or the delivery of watershed education and protection projects during Adventure Day Camps.

## 7.) If future phases of the project will be needed, identify anticipated sources of funding.\*

All events and programs requesting support from Truckee River Fund will be held on a recurring annual basis with partial funding support from the Nevada State Parks – Recreational Trails Program and other grants, donations, and student program fees.

## 8.) Identify the principals involved in leading or coordinating the project or activity.\*

Great Basin Outdoor School Development Coordinator and Lead Naturalist, Derik Knak, will serve as the principal staff member in planning and coordinating the Truckee River Snapshot Day event with assistance from board president, Sue Jacox, board member and former Truckee Meadows Water Authority steering committee member Jerry Wager, and City of Sparks environmental control supervisor, Cody McDougall. Derik is experienced in hosting events with school groups, including both 2023 and 2024 Snapshot Day events, in addition to serving as a junior member of the Nevada Water Environment Association. Activities at the Snapshot Day event will be led by staff and volunteers from Great Basin Outdoor School's board, supporters, and students from Bishop Manogue Catholic High School Green Club. The project principal for Snapshot Day will be responsible for recruiting and training volunteers, in addition to coordinating with Bishop Manogue Green Club director Craig DeRuyter and Mountain View Montessori School staff.

Great Basin Outdoor School Day Camp Director Kit Huntington will serve as the project principal overseeing the incorporation of watershed education in Adventure Day Camps. Kit brings experience from Tree Frog Treks and Wander Yonder Wild School to manage the Adventure Day Camp program and develop its curriculum. She will train naturalist educators in delivering aquatic science content, enlist guest presenters with backgrounds in hydrology, and track survey assessment data for Truckee River Fund grant reporting. Activities emphasizing watersheds and aquatic science will be led by naturalist educator staff and guest presenters.

## 9.) Number of staff positions involved in project.\*

*Identify how many staff will be full-time and how many will be part-time.*

*“Fulltime” means 100% of their staff position will be dedicated to this project; “part-time” means only a portion of their staff position will be dedicated to this project.*

One lead naturalist, two naturalists, and five volunteers will host Snapshot Day event. Delivery of watershed education at Day Camp will involve one full-time day camp director, one part-time lead naturalist, and three full-time naturalist educators.

## 10.) Number of volunteers involved in project and an estimated number of volunteer hours.\*

Snapshot Day will recruit five volunteers for 20 in-kind volunteer hours, including two-hour training and two-hour event. Day camps will recruit one water-themed guest presenter each week for eight weeks for 16 hours. Total estimate of 60 hours.

## 11.) Timeline of Project\*

*List key dates and include project milestones. Note: Be realistic in your estimate of dates and milestones. List any factors that may cause a delay in implementing and/or completing the project.*

*\*\*Note: Funding will not be provided for work performed prior to grant approval.*

January-March 2025: Recruitment of guest presenters and educator staff for Spring Adventure Day Camp

March 2025: Truckee River Snapshot Day volunteer recruitment campaign on Constant Contact and coordination with Bishop Manogue Catholic High School

March 11-14, 2025: Spring Adventure Day Camp staff training incorporating watershed education

March 17-21, 24-28, 2025: Spring Adventure Day Camp

May-June 2025: Recruitment of guest presenters and educator staff for Summer Adventure Day Camp

May TBD, 2025: Truckee River Snapshot Day instrument calibration and volunteer training at Lower Whites Creek Trailhead

May 30, 2025: Truckee River Snapshot Day event at Mountain View Montessori School

June 2-5, 2025: Summer Adventure Day Camp staff training incorporating watershed education

June 9-13, 16-20, 23-27, July 7-11, 14-18, 21-25, 2025: Summer Adventure Day Camp

## 12.) What factors will indicate a successful project?\*

Great Basin Outdoor School will determine project success for the Truckee River Snapshot Day event by successfully reaching 40 fourth- and fifth-grade Mountain View Montessori School students and submitting required streamwater quality data and samples to be included in the Tahoe-Truckee Snapshot Day Annual Report. Planning for the event will require successful coordination with educational volunteers and Bishop Manogue Catholic High School Green Club to increase the variety of water-themed activities and demonstrations, in addition to water sampling and testing. Students will gain an appreciation of their local watershed with the critical context provided by this citizen science opportunity and be equipped to protect local waterways. With past support from Truckee River Fund, Great Basin Outdoor School has led three Snapshot Day events in 2021, 2023, and 2024, and seeks to continue its partnership with Mountain View Montessori School in leading a citizen science event with a school group.

Great Basin Outdoor School will likewise measure the successful delivery of watershed education at Adventure Day Camps through its program attendance and the results of survey assessments. The organization will seek to reach 25 students per week through Spring Adventure Day Camp and 30 students per week for Summer Adventure Day Camp. Great Basin Outdoor School anticipates a total reach of 230 students for Adventure Day Camps in 2025. By participating in day camp programs, students will indicate knowledge gain of their local watershed and aquatic science by completing pre- and post-program survey assessments to be administered by naturalist educators and tracked by the day camp director. The successful delivery of education will not only reflect in survey assessments but also the potential to inspire positive and sustainable lifestyle changes beyond attending day camp.

## 13.) Collaboration\*

*List partnerships or collaborations with other entities in relation to your proposal, if any. Grantees are encouraged to seek other funds prior to requesting money from the Truckee River Fund. Please explain what other funding opportunities were sought and if any other funds have been awarded.*

Both the Truckee River Snapshot Day event and delivery of watershed education at Spring and Summer Adventure Day Camps will recruit volunteers and partners to assist Great Basin Outdoor School staff in implementing watershed education initiatives.

Great Basin Outdoor School will join the Tahoe-Truckee Snapshot Day consortium to lead a water sampling site at Whites Creek. Site-based planning for the Snapshot Day will be coordinated with Mountain View Montessori School staff. The lead naturalist educator will collaborate with the City of Sparks Environmental Control Section to acquire kid-friendly testing supplies and field data sheets to maximize the involvement of students in water testing and sampling activities. In addition, he will recruit volunteers from the organization's base of supporters and students from the Bishop Manogue Catholic High School Green Club.

The day camp director will recruit guest presenters with various backgrounds in water education or management to supplement aquatic-themed activities at Adventure Day Camps, including City of Reno Utility Services Department, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, and Walker Basin Conservancy, and reach new entities for presentations. The organization receives annual support from the Nevada State Parks - Recreational Trails Program, including partial coverage for staff salaries and site fees to host programs. Desert Research Institute is providing pending support to deliver microplastics education at Adventure Day Camps. Support from the Reno Aces is directed toward partial scholarships for students in need to attend Summer Adventure Day Camp. Great Basin Outdoor School is fortunate for its long-standing partnership with the River School Farm to host school break day camps in an immersive learning environment with nearby access to recreational opportunities.

## ***Grant Match***

All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25 percent** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services.

For larger grant requests, priority will be given to projects that significantly leverage the grant with funding from other sources.

For grant requests for projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25 percent match requirement must be met using **cash match**.

### **Total grant match to be provided.\***

*Total Match = Cash + In-Kind*

\$10,120.34

### **Cash**

\$9,450.54

**For the cash portion, is the funding already being held by the applicant for this project?**

No

### **In-Kind**

*\*\*Note: Provide an itemized breakdown of volunteer match in your budget with rationale.*

\$669.80

### **Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.\***

Great Basin Outdoor School will match support from the Truckee River Fund through grants, donations, and enrollment fees generated by the organization's year-round programs, in addition to in-kind volunteer time dedicated to planning and hosting Truckee River Snapshot Day.

## Attachments

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### Project Budget\*

*Provide detail on each line-item expenditures and show which funds are committed and which have been requested to be paid for by the Truckee River Fund grant, and which will be paid for with in-kind services. Other sources of funding should be provided. Explain status of other funding if not in hand. If project is to be implemented in phases, please separate budget into each phase. **Please contact Lauren Renda at [lrenda@nevadafund.org](mailto:lrenda@nevadafund.org) for a sample budget template, or download one here.***

#### **\*\*Notes:**

- *Indirect/overhead expenses cannot exceed 25 percent; TRF may fund indirect/overhead up to 25% based on availability of funds.*
- *Applicants should be prepared to provide reduced budgets during the review of applications by the TRF Advisory Committee when funds are limited.*
- *Grants from the Truckee River Fund are paid on a reimbursable basis for actual expenditures only. Craft your budget in such a way that requests for reimbursement correspond to the original budget.*

2025 GBOS TRF Budget.pdf

### Supplemental Attachments

*Please attach any additional attachments here.*

GBOS 2025 TRF Photos + Letter of Support.pdf

## File Attachment Summary

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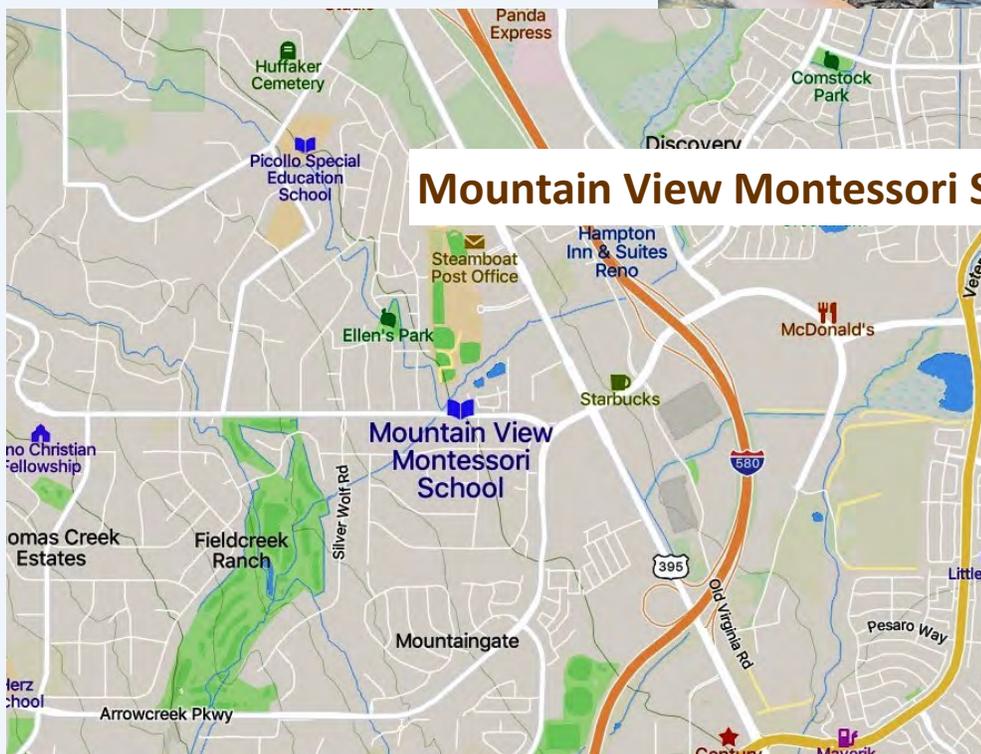
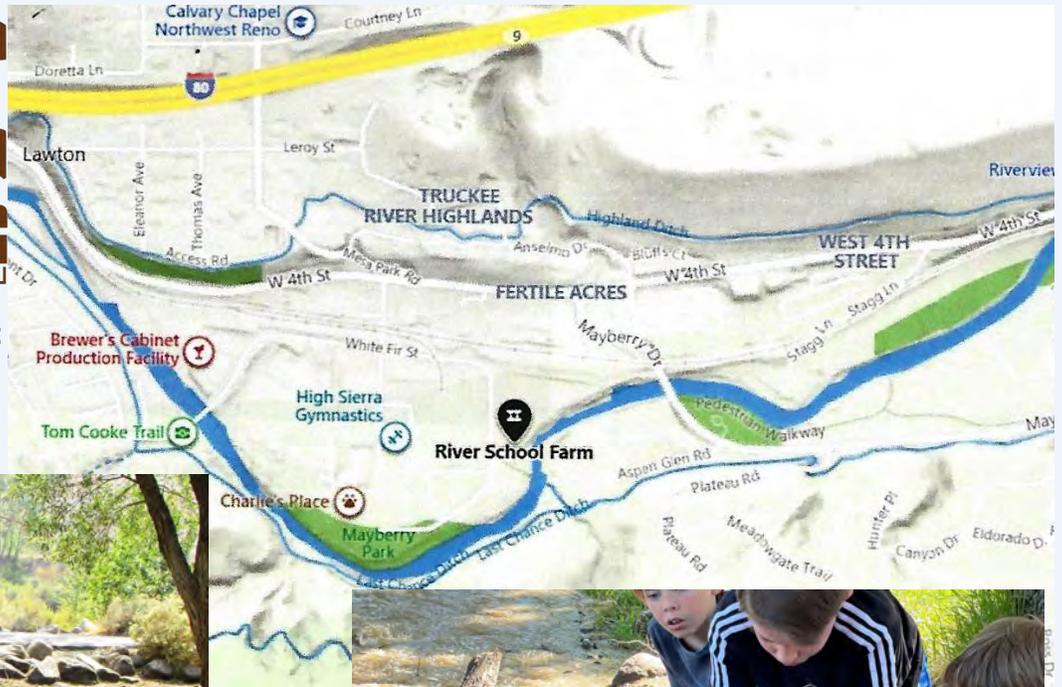
### *Applicant File Uploads*

- GBOS 2025 TRF Maps with photos.pdf
- 2025 GBOS TRF Budget.pdf
- GBOS 2025 TRF Photos + Letter of Support.pdf

# MAPS: River School Farm Adventure Day Camp site on the Truckee River and Mountain View Montessori Snapshot Day site



Day camp students collect and audit litter along the Truckee River in Mayberry Park in Reno.



## Mountain View Montessori Snapshot Day site



**Project Budget:**

**“Youth Watershed Education and Protection Projects”**

Truckee River Fund, January 2025

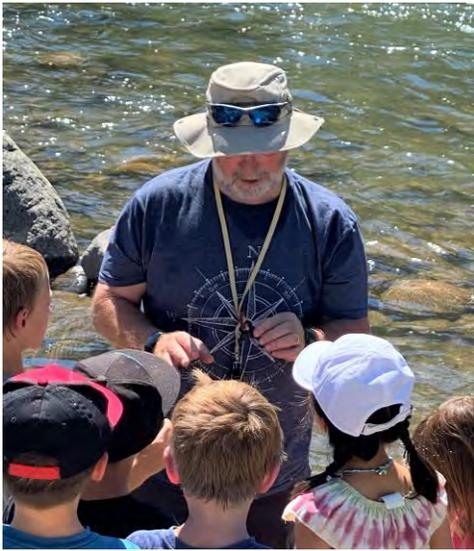


**Budget Narrative:** Support from the Truckee River Fund will be applied to staff time for Great Basin Outdoor School’s role in Snapshot Day in May, an annual water quality event, in which students will become citizen scientists and learn about our watershed through hands-on sampling and testing. Data collected during the event will inform future restoration and water protection projects.

We also seek staff support for watershed education and projects for local youth along the Truckee River during Spring and Summer Adventure Day Camps in 2025. Match for staff time will come from grants, donations, student program fees collected during year-round programs and in-kind volunteer labor for Snapshot Day.

Budget Item Description	Calculation	Amount Requested from TRF	Cash Match	In-Kind Match	Total
Truckee River Snapshot Day Labor Costs: educator hours spent planning, preparing, training, hosting, and wrapping up.	Lead Naturalist 3 days prep x \$170/day + Event day = 1 day/\$170 day + Wrap Up = 1 day/\$170 day	<b>\$850.00</b>			<b>\$850.00</b>
	2 Naturalists 0.5 day prep x \$130/day + Event day = 0.5 day/\$130 day  5 Volunteers = 20 hours x \$33.49/hour	<b>\$260.00</b>		<b>\$669.80</b>	<b>\$260.00</b>
33% of Educator Labor Costs for School Break Spring and Summer Day Camps on the Truckee River for Watershed Education & Projects	Director \$170/day x 40 days x 33%	<b>\$2,244.00</b>	<b>\$2,244.00</b>		<b>\$4,488.00</b>
	Lead Naturalist \$170/day x 40 half-days x 33%	<b>\$1,122.00</b>	<b>\$1,122.00</b>		<b>\$2,244.00</b>
	3 Naturalists \$130/day x 40 days x 33%	<b>\$5,148.00</b>	<b>\$5,148.00</b>		<b>\$10,296.00</b>
<b>Educator Labor Total</b>		<b>\$9,624.00</b>	<b>\$8,514.00</b>	<b>\$669.80</b>	<b>\$18,138.00</b>
Fringe	11% for FICA, UI, Workers Comp, etc.	<b>\$1,058.64</b>	<b>\$936.54</b>		<b>\$1,995.18</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$10,682.64</b>	<b>\$9,450.54</b>		<b>\$20,133.18</b>
Indirect Expenses	10% x subtotal of total column	<b>\$1,068.26</b>			<b>\$2,013.32</b>
		<b>\$11,750.90</b>	<b>\$9,450.54</b>	<b>\$669.80</b>	<b>\$22,146.50</b>

<b>TOTAL</b>					
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Observing aquatic life from river



Snapshot Day dip netting at Whites Creek



## Youth Watershed Education and Protection Projects on the Truckee River

Collecting and auditing litter along the river



Water testing at Snapshot Day

Learning at Adventure Day Camp on the Truckee River



Activity on river sediment deposition



August 24, 2023

To whom it may concern

For the past few years, the Great Basin Outdoor School has held summer, autumn and winter camps here at the River School Farm. During that time, we observed a caring and knowledgeable staff work with the children who attended the camps. We always enjoyed the professional way the programs have been administered.

The River School Farm is an ideal location for teaching about our natural environment. Our farming operation includes a composting facility, farm animals, fruit trees, grape vines, herbs, a productive worm bed, and vegetables. Our location along the Truckee River provides opportunities to learn about our water shed, riparian vegetation, and river wildlife. Our facilities include many sustainable elements including both PV and solar thermal, using recycled materials, and collecting rainwater. Our grounds include a wide range of flowering plants that provide native and honeybee pollinators nectar and pollen.

GBOS and River School Farm have been strong partners. We look forward to many more years of providing a quality program for children in a beautiful place.

We think this would be an excellent venue to introduce low-income children to the wonders of nature.

Best regards,

Tom and Iris Stille  
Owner of River School Farm

# #302 Restoring Truckee River's Ecological Health through Solid Waste Removal and Cottonwood Recruitment

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*Truckee River Fund- Spring 2025*

## ***Indigenous Peoples Council on Biocolonialism***

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Autumn Harry  
PO Box 411  
Nixon, NV 89424

O: 775-857-9432

## ***Autumn Harry***

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PO Box 76  
Nixon, NV 89424

autumnharry24@gmail.com  
O: 775-857-9432

# Application Form

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## *Truckee River Fund Grant Priorities*

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) recommends that the Truckee River Fund (TRF) Advisory Committee (the "Committee") give preference to well-supported, clearly drafted grant requests that consider substantial benefits to TMWA customers for projects and programs that mitigate substantial threats to water quality and the watershed, particularly those threats upstream or nearby water treatment and hydroelectric plant intakes.

- **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):** Projects/Programs that support the prevention or control of aquatic invasive species in the mainstem Truckee River, Lake Tahoe, other tributaries and water bodies in the Truckee River system.
- **Watershed Improvements:** Projects that reduce erosion or sediment, suspended solids, or total dissolve solids (TDS) discharges, nutrients, industrial contaminants, or bacterial pollutants to the River. Projects or programs that are located within 303d (impaired waters) and total maximum daily load (TMDL) sections of the River should be considered, both in California and Nevada. Innovative techniques should be encouraged. The following link identifies impaired sections of the river and its tributaries: <https://mywaterway.epa.gov/>.
- **Local Stormwater Improvements:** Projects that demonstrably mitigate storm water run-off due to urbanization of the local watershed. Priority should be given to those improvement projects in close proximity to TMWA's water supply intakes and canals and which will improve the reliability and protect the quality of the community's municipal water supply.
- **Re-Forestation and Re-Vegetation Projects:** Projects to restore forest and upland areas damaged by fire and historical logging operations, and to improve watershed resiliency in drought situations. Projects/programs in this category should be given a high priority due to urbanization of the watershed and increased susceptibility of the urban and suburban watershed to wildfire.
- **Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses:** Projects to support water quality improvement in creeks and tributaries to the Truckee River.
- **Stewardship and Environmental Awareness:** Support to clean-up programs and the development and implementation of educational programs relative to water, water quality and watershed protection that do not fall clearly into the one of the above-mentioned categories.

### **Notes:**

- For proposals related to weed control/eradication, contact Lauren Renda at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada for additional criteria at [lrenda@nevadafund.org](mailto:lrenda@nevadafund.org).
- For proposals in the Lake Tahoe Basin, the Truckee River Fund (TRF) typically only funds proposals related to Priority I and VI.

## *Grantee Requirements*

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### **GRANTEE REQUIREMENTS**

To be eligible for funding, grantees must adhere to the following requirements:

- Funds are to be used and/or disbursed exclusively for the charitable uses and purposes.
- The Fund shall be used exclusively for projects that protect and enhance water quality or water resources of the Truckee River, or its watershed.

- Grantees may include 501(c)(3) organizations and governmental entities. Any grants to governmental entities must be made exclusively for public benefit purposes.
- All grantees will be required to sign a grant agreement stipulating their agreement to all applicable terms, conditions, and reporting requirements.
- Organizations or entities sponsoring proposals are prohibited from ex parte communications with members of the Committee regarding such proposals while those proposals are pending before the Committee, and such communications may be grounds for rejecting a proposal.
- All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25 percent** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services.

#### **TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION**

For each proposal submitted and recommended by the Committee the TMWA Board of Directors has absolute discretion to:

- Accept or reject any proposal;
- Accept a proposal on the condition that certain modifications be made;
- Assess proposals as they see fit, without in any way being obligated to select any proposal;
- Determine whether proposals satisfactorily meet the evaluation criteria set out in this RFP;
- Reject proposals with or without cause, whether based on the evaluation criteria set out above or otherwise.

#### **PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES**

To maintain eligibility to receive grant funds, each Charitable Beneficiary must comply at all times with the following requirements:

- Must be exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code;
- Shall use all Fund distributions toward projects that are appropriate and legal public expenditures;
- Must provide financial details and/or reports of their organizations upon request;
- Must submit quarterly reports.
- Must not use any Fund distributions for political contributions or political advocacy;
- Must either implement the projects, activities, and/or programs for which they received Fund distributions within six months of the date in which such distributions are received or by date(s) as agreed upon in the grant acceptance agreement, or must return all such distributions to the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada forthwith;
- Must provide the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada a report detailing the completion of their projects, activities, and/or programs; and
- Must sign an agreement regarding their compliance with the qualifications hereof.

## ***Project Evaluation Criteria***

### **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Applications are evaluated according to the following criteria and in order of priority. If the grant applicant does not meet the "Grantee Requirements", the application will not be considered.

### 1. RELEVANCE OF PROPOSAL TO THE TRF PROGRAM

- Address TRF grant priorities – Does the project address at least one of the TRF grant priorities, as described at the beginning of the RFP?
- Meet multiple objectives – Does the project meet multiple grant priorities?
- Public benefit of the project – Does the project help TMWA protect its sources of drinking water?
- Benefit to TMWA customers – Is there a direct benefit to TMWA customers?
- Project location – Is the project located upstream of one of TMWA's water treatment plants?

### 2. QUALITY OF PROJECT DESIGN

- Appropriateness of selected project methods – Do the proposed project strategies make sense to address the watershed and/or water quality concern(s) outlined by the applicant?
- Thoroughness of project design – Is the project design adequately detailed to ensure the desired outcome(s)?
- Sustainability of project – Will the benefits of the project continue after the grant funds are expended?
- Project longevity – If ongoing operation & maintenance (O&M) is required to maintain benefits, is it funded?
- Consideration of existing research – Does the project consider existing research, planning efforts, or assessments related to the Truckee River watershed?

### 3. MEASURABILITY OF PROJECT SUCCESS

- Identification of project benchmarks or milestones – Has the applicant described the steps necessary to complete the project?
- Demonstrated ability to measure the results of the project – Does the project have adequate measurable outcomes to evaluate project success?
- Benefits expected from a successful project – Are there clear goals that will be obtained on project completion?
- Readiness to begin project – Is the grant applicant ready to undertake and complete the project?

### 4. EFFECTIVENESS OF ORGANIZATION

- Qualifications of applicant for the proposed project – Does the applicant have adequate experience and credentials to perform the work described in the application?
- Collaborative efforts – Are there partner organizations supporting or benefiting from the project?
- Demonstrated ability of applicant to manage and complete the project – Has the applicant successfully completed projects similar to the one proposed? If previously funded by TRF, has the applicant met performance requirements and completed projects successfully?

### 5. ADEQUACY OF PROPOSED BUDGET

- Availability and status of matching funds – Does the project provide a minimum of 25 percent match in cash and/or in-kind services? If the project is downstream of the USGS Vista gage, is the 25 percent match requirement met using cash match?
- Total project cost relative to benefits – Is the project cost reasonable given the expected project outcome(s)?

- Appropriateness of budget – Are the costs presented in the budget adequately detailed and do they seem reasonable? Is the project under the 25 percent indirect/overhead expense limit?

## ***Project Information***

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### **Project Title\***

Name of Project.

#302 Restoring Truckee River's Ecological Health through Solid Waste Removal and Cottonwood Recruitment

### **Amount Requested\***

\$106,931.00

### **Project Start Date\***

04/01/2025

### **Project End Date\***

03/30/2025

### **This funding will be used to:\***

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

Our goals are to focus on restoring ecological health to the Truckee River with cottonwood recruitment initiated with active planting, solid waste removal, and work with partners to develop a draft ordinance to ban single-use plastic bags in Washoe County. We also aim to generate participation and collaboration to expand funding sources for long-term success of cottonwood recruitment, which would provide benefits to reducing the seasonal temperatures, assist in the reduction of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) exceedances and improve habitat and water quality.

### **This project is on:\***

Check all that apply

Public land

### **Are government permits or decision documents needed for the project?\***

No

### **If so, are those permits and decision documents already secured?**

*If permits and decision documents are needed but not yet secured, in #4 of the Narrative Requirements provide a list of permits and documents needed and a schedule for securing them.*

## *Organization Information*

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### **Organization Name\***

Indigenous Peoples Council on Biocolonialism

### **Organization Type\***

501(c)(3) Nonprofit

### **EIN**

If the organization is a 501c3, please include the EIN#.

88-0425570

### **Director of Organization\***

Debra Harry

### **Project Contact Name\***

Autumn Harry

### **Project Contact Postion/Title\***

Executive Director

### **Project Contact Email\***

autumnharry24@gmail.com

### **Project Contact Phone Number\***

7758579432

### **Organization Mission\***

Healing Waters Institute (HWI) is an Indigenous-led organization, fiscally sponsored by Indigenous Peoples Council on Biocolonialism (IPCB).

Our mission is to engage with Indigenous communities and focus on the continued Nation building of water and land protection. HWI will focus on reaffirming connections to water for communities in Pyramid Lake and Reno/Sparks through education, mutual aid projects, and helping with access to activities on the land and water. Growing from this on-the-ground-engagement, we will collectively advocate on local policy issues that relate to preserving and enhancing water throughout the Truckee River system and throughout the Great Basin.

## *Previous Funding from Truckee River Fund*

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**Has your organization received other grants from the Truckee River Fund?\***

Yes

**If yes, please include the following information for all previously funded projects:**

- *Date awarded*
- *Project # and Title*
- *Amount of award*

*Please attach additional pages as needed to list ALL previously funded projects.*

TRF #275 (2023-2024): \$97,718

TRF #292 (2024-2025): \$87,220

## Previous Funding continued

## *Narrative Requirements*

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### **1.) Specific project goals and measurable outcomes and how you will measure and report them.\***

*All projects are required to have measurable outcomes.*

For the 2025 fiscal year, our focus for the Healing Waters Institute (HWI) is to continue River Justice through sustainable projects that benefit the ecological health of the river through solid waste removal.

The proposal includes the submission of the following four projects supported by Truckee River Fund (TRF):

1) Encouraging Truckee Meadow communities to share the responsibility of bringing health to the river by solid waste removal, cottonwood sapling cutting/planting and collaborating with universities and colleges to secure funding for long-term projects to provide vegetation/canopy coverage for the next 20 years. We aim to complete eight cleanups with volunteers and community partners. These partners may be non-profit organizations, Tribal, Federal, State, County and local municipalities. HWI aims to partner with groups who will share the work and help with the success in reducing solid waste accumulations within the riparian corridor.

2) The successful long-term planning to restore cottonwood canopy coverage along the riparian corridor of the Truckee River has benefited from managed flows (Rood et al 2003). The ecosystem flow regimes for Truckee River began to be implemented in the early 2000's and that were included in TROA have led to improved cottonwood recruitment. Aerial imagery comparisons and analyses from 1938 provided a percentage that cottonwood and vegetative coverage along the river has decreased by 80%. The decline in cottonwood forest that occurred during the latter half of the 19th century had begun to be reversed based on the last available survey conducted in 2013. We propose to update the cottonwood forest survey for the Truckee River using aerial imagery collected by NAIP (National Agriculture Imagery Program) during 2022. By hosting a learning seminar at the University or institute, we would request training by ecological and biological experts. We will seek collaborative assistance with academia and organizations to share research, educate volunteers, find funding to develop cottonwood and river restoration, obtain direction from river ecologists, obtain knowledge from aerial and ground mapping, as well as bird surveys. We would also use aerial imagery, and drone flights to determine areas with cottonwood density. The project will be scheduled in the fall when flows are low. Root growth and survival will be maintained through manual watering cycles

or sprinklers. This would allow established root systems to benefit from TROA's minimum 100 cfs flow. We will survey other areas where sapling growth is dense and cut saplings, move them to selected areas of transplant, and use natural processes of the river to benefit active planting. Five-foot saplings will be transplanted from areas along the river that have high density and moved to areas with low vegetative coverage. Our project would be guided by academic and ecological experts located within the Great Basin.

3) We commit to scheduling successful quarterly meetings to work with partners to reduce solid, municipal, industrial and toxic waste that could further impact water quality, endangered Cui-ui (Kooyooe), and the threatened

Lahontan cutthroat trout (Agi). This helps to expand solidarity of over 1000+ River Justice volunteers and encourages the public's commitment to river ecological health.

4) River Justice would help build and develop a series of stakeholder meetings to understand keystone species like the Lahontan cutthroat trout and Cui-ui. These species are important to the Sierra Nevada and Great Basin ecosystems. It is understood that keystone species could cause drastic impacts to other species if their populations change. We commit to develop successful partnerships with the University of Nevada, Reno, Desert Research Institute, Patagonia, Keep Tahoe Blue, City of Reno/Sparks and Washoe County. Our next overall mission is to help find funding for the Truckee River and work to develop positive solutions in reducing water pollution, diverse riverine habitat, and solid waste management within the river corridor. These partnerships will help us develop a draft ordinance to ban single-use paper bags within Washoe County. Our commitment to reducing plastic bag use is to minimize environmental harm to downstream communities while improving habitat and water quality, and a sustainable, vibrant ecosystem.

## 2.) Describe the project location.\*

*Include site map and aerial photos if applicable/possible as an attachment.*

This grant supports stewardship and assists partnerships from Lake Tahoe to the terminus of Pyramid Lake. The majority of our work will be within the Cities of Reno and Sparks, the Lower Truckee River, and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation.

## Map/Photo attachments

### 3.) Project Description\*

Healing Waters Institute (HWI) is submitting this grant in pursuit of the third year of a successful River Justice program. Within the past year, HWI has organized large-scale River Justice clean-ups, hosted two drone trainings, hired two interns to assist with goals, broaden organizational partnerships, excelled in documenting over 1,000 volunteers at events, and engaged local community members in water protection efforts. A large focus of this past fiscal year (2024-2025) was hosting three public meetings to gain input from community members. These meetings included how to further achieve solidarity with River Justice, on an organizational and individual level.

Throughout settler history, we understand anthropogenic and extractive impacts have altered the freshwater and pristine condition of surface waters. Municipal, industrial, toxic, chemical, solid, and increased nutrients enter the Truckee River from the Cities of Reno/Sparks, Interstate 80, the Tahoe Regional Industrial Center, and other upstream communities. Much of this pollution flows downstream to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation and the Lower Truckee River, which threatens the keystone species such as the federally endangered Cui-ui (*Chasmistes cujus*), and threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi*).

Keystone species are defined as species that define a region and influence the health and populations of other species. Indigenous Peoples including the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

continue to protect their cultural and traditional connections to land and water. Indigenous Peoples advocate for environmental justice to prevent their homelands from contamination, extraction, and exploitation. Indigenous communities struggle to maintain traditional, cultural, and spiritual connections to land, air, and water. This grant will support the above projects to achieve the long-term health of the waters, wildlife, and communities of the lower Truckee River. Further, it will promote the necessary work for the Truckee Meadows Water Authority and the Truckee River Fund to find solutions to the problems of restoring the health to the river. This project is positive and commits to being a stronger steward in environmental protection and developing strategies with Indigenous Peoples.

#### Project Tracking and Monitoring River Health

Surveying and use of drones is a needed tool to monitor the progress of riparian corridor health. In our second grant year, we had one drone training to increase tribal capability and to support the skills of Tribal members, volunteers and partners. The DJI Mavic drone training helps in monitoring river health and produces tracking for Truckee River Fund grant. We plan to schedule one training to assist surveying and monitoring River Justice cleanups. All Truckee River drone footages are uploaded with quarterly reports.

Our data and survey methods are specifically designed to align with the Truckee River Dashboard, currently being developed by One Truckee River. We are committed to work as partners to deliver data more efficiently through the submittal of google forms and spreadsheets. Trash removed from the river and added to the solid waste database will help track the dynamics of solid waste trends.

River Justice must be an ongoing program and is committed to engage more partners each year. We value that HWI will bring attention to aquatic invasive weeds, noxious weeds, erosion, sediment discharges, and restoration, revegetation, and other stewardship needs along the lower Truckee River, all of which will help the PLPT and other stakeholders identify and plan for future work to improve river health. HWI continues to develop in-person meetings to see how our efforts could be more sustainable. We often collaborate with mutual aid programs to decrease food waste, use reusable/compostable dinnerware, and solidarity partners to plan their own independent cleanups. This enables us to all share the costs and labor of solid waste reduction. We are solution-oriented and develop a focus to meet frequently with potential and loyal partners. Mutual aid groups are effectively strategizing efforts to reduce litter and solid waste within the Truckee Meadows.

#### Site Clean Ups

During the spring and fall of 2025, a reconnaissance team will identify four clean-up sites along the Truckee River and four sites on the shorelines of Pyramid Lake. This will involve coordination with Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF), Washoe County, Cities of Reno/Sparks, and River Justice partners and volunteers to further plan for the success of waste removal. We have been in coordination with Washoe County to acquire 30-yard dumpsters to be utilized during our clean-ups. Our focus is to continue data collection, keep track of the number of volunteers, the waste removed (cubic yards), cost of supplies, disposal fees, transportation costs, site location, tracking in-kind, etc. This data will be collected for every clean-up and stewardship event.

#### Cottonwood Recruitment and Increasing Tree Canopy Coverage

The proposed grant will help plan and implement plantings of cottonwood trees as a step towards bringing the coverage of riparian canopy back to the extent present more than a century ago prior to colonization by European settlers. The cottonwood planting efforts will support HWI's goal to build an Indigenous-led stewardship program, to address the needs of the lower Truckee River, and to foster stronger relationships and coordination between the PLPT and other stakeholders managing the river. Our commitment is to continue to educate all those who drink, bathe, recreate, work, eat, and pollute upstream, so we can all work together to heal and sustain a healthy Truckee River.

#### 4.) Grant priorities\*

*Explain how the proposed project advances the TRF's specific grant priorities.*

Our monitoring program will help identify challenges such as:

- Continue to increase habitat and water quality with waste removal. Since 2021, our River Justice initiative has removed 300 tons of waste from the riparian zone. The River Justice program continues to credit the Truckee River Fund with the success and education we have achieved.
- Within our work, our priority is always the protection of Indigenous communities and threatened/endangered species downstream. The increase in cottonwood recruitment will assist with stabilizing streambanks through their root systems, providing shade to moderate water temperatures, create better habitat for fish, trap sediment, and enhance the overall health of the riparian ecosystem.
- Our commitment is to find partners who can seek funding for the restoration of the Truckee River. Our success in building a volunteer response is an exceptional model to share our vision with network partners. Continue to recruit partners to provide stewardship and adding their organizational commitments to the Watershed.

#### 5.) Permitting\*

*Provide a permitting schedule for your project along with your plan for getting the required permits and decision documents. Be sure to include the cost of permitting/decision documents as a line item in your budget.*

No permits will be required for any work supported by this grant.

#### 6.) Future Land Use\*

*List any known or foreseeable zoning, land use, or development plans that may affect your proposed project.*

This grant will not be affected by any future changes in land use, zoning, or jurisdiction.

#### 7.) If future phases of the project will be needed, identify anticipated sources of funding.\*

Until upstream industries and communities stop polluting the Truckee River and learn to respect its life-giving waters, habitats, and downstream communities, this program will need to continue. Future funding will be necessary. This grant will help HWI build an Indigenous-led program and culture of reciprocity and stewardship in the Truckee River watershed by strengthening and deploying the leadership, wisdom, and traditional knowledge of the Northern Paiute People of Pyramid Lake. It will allow Indigenous leaders to guide HWI's initiatives and work.

Indigenous Peoples Council on Biocolonialism has been our fiscal sponsor for the past two years. Their sponsorship will continue to support HWI's mission to receive future funding from the federal government, the State of Nevada, local municipalities, charitable foundations, and individual donors.

#### 8.) Identify the principals involved in leading or coordinating the project or activity.\*

The founding members of HWI and principals responsible for fulfilling this grant are Autumn and Beverly Harry. The list of Board of Directors and Board Chair are Jolie Varela (Numu/Yokuts), Deb Harry (Numu), and Mary Gibson (Newe). HWI is an Indigenous-led organization based on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation.

We plan to obtain nonprofit 501(c)(3) status by Fall 2024. Until that time, HWI is submitting this application under the fiscal sponsorship of the Indigenous Peoples Council on Biocolonialism (EIN: 88-0425570).

### 9.) Number of staff positions involved in project.\*

*Identify how many staff will be full-time and how many will be part-time.*

*“Fulltime” means 100% of their staff position will be dedicated to this project; “part-time” means only a portion of their staff position will be dedicated to this project.*

This grant supports 2 part-time staff positions at 0.40 FTE each at \$37,440 and one Volunteer coordinator/data manager funded in a contract for \$4,000 and to contract \$1,000 for a Journalist to write the documentary narrative with TRF and HWI.

### 10.) Number of volunteers involved in project and an estimated number of volunteer hours.\*

We conservatively estimate we will recruit 450 volunteers to our river clean ups; ~ 350 of whom will come from Reno/Sparks; ~ 100 will come from Indigenous communities.

### 11.) Timeline of Project\*

*List key dates and include project milestones. Note: Be realistic in your estimate of dates and milestones. List any factors that may cause a delay in implementing and/or completing the project.*

*\*\*Note: Funding will not be provided for work performed prior to grant approval.*

A 2025-26 River Justice Management Plan will be developed for the grant period will be March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2026

Complete 6 Clean-ups before Spring 2026

Spring 2025: Develop River Justice Meeting to educate and work towards waste reduction campaigns

May 2025: Schedule meetings with Desert Research Institute and UNR/Biological Sciences

Summer 2025: Schedule a 1-day Summer seminar

October 2025: Design a Fall Strategic Plan for the Cottonwood Recruitment cutting and active planting

December 2025: Host one drone training  
April 15, 2026: Submit viewing of River Justice Documentary at Community Foundation

### 12.) What factors will indicate a successful project?\*

For cottonwood recruitment, long-term aerial imagery will be a strong indicator of success. However, for this first year's project, we can utilize mapping and gps coordinates to show where cottonwoods are being planted. In collaboration with local scientists, we are hopeful this project can expand into larger efforts to re-vegetate different sections of the Truckee River.

Since February 2021 when we began our work with River Justice, our volunteer efforts have grown substantially. We are dedicated to continuing to provide watershed education to participants, expand our efforts with local organizations, and combine vegetation health with solid waste removal.

HWI has a track record of producing amazing results with recruiting partners and stakeholders, completing grant deliverables and submitting on-time reports. HWI will share a final grant report to Truckee River Fund, including metrics, link to the completed database, River Justice before/after photos and drone footage.

### 13.) Collaboration\*

*List partnerships or collaborations with other entities in relation to your proposal, if any. Grantees are encouraged to seek other funds prior to requesting money from the Truckee River Fund. Please explain what other funding opportunities were sought and if any other funds have been awarded.*

The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Pyramid Lake Fisheries, Reno Sparks Indian Colony, University of Nevada, Reno, Desert Research Institute, Patagonia, Keep Tahoe Blue, City of Reno/Sparks and Washoe County, Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility, Lahontan Audobon Society, Great Basin Bird Observatory, One Truckee River, Kooyoee Pa'a Guides, and Fly Ranch.

### Grant Match

All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25 percent** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services.

For larger grant requests, priority will be given to projects that significantly leverage the grant with funding from other sources.

For grant requests for projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25 percent match requirement must be met using **cash match**.

### Total grant match to be provided.\*

*Total Match = Cash + In-Kind*

\$29,000.00

### Cash

\$0.00

**For the cash portion, is the funding already being held by the applicant for this project?**

### In-Kind

*\*\*Note: Provide an itemized breakdown of volunteer match in your budget with rationale.*

\$29,000.00

### Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.\*

Throughout our River Justive events, we estimate 40 people in attendance although more than 70 people attend meetings and clean-ups. We have been in communication with University academia to discuss possible cottonwood recruitment. Their participation is calculated in this proposal.

## Attachments

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### Project Budget\*

*Provide detail on each line-item expenditures and show which funds are committed and which have been requested to be paid for by the Truckee River Fund grant, and which will be paid for with in-kind services. Other sources of funding should be provided. Explain status of other funding if not in hand. If project is to be implemented in phases, please separate budget into each phase. **Please contact Lauren Renda at [lrenda@nevadafund.org](mailto:lrenda@nevadafund.org) for a sample budget template, or download one here.***

#### **\*\*Notes:**

- *Indirect/overhead expenses cannot exceed 25 percent; TRF may fund indirect/overhead up to 25% based on availability of funds.*
- *Applicants should be prepared to provide reduced budgets during the review of applications by the TRF Advisory Committee when funds are limited.*
- *Grants from the Truckee River Fund are paid on a reimbursable basis for actual expenditures only. Craft your budget in such a way that requests for reimbursement correspond to the original budget.*

TRF2025 Budget.docx

### Supplemental Attachments

*Please attach any additional attachments here.*

Truckee River Aerial Cottonwoods.pdf

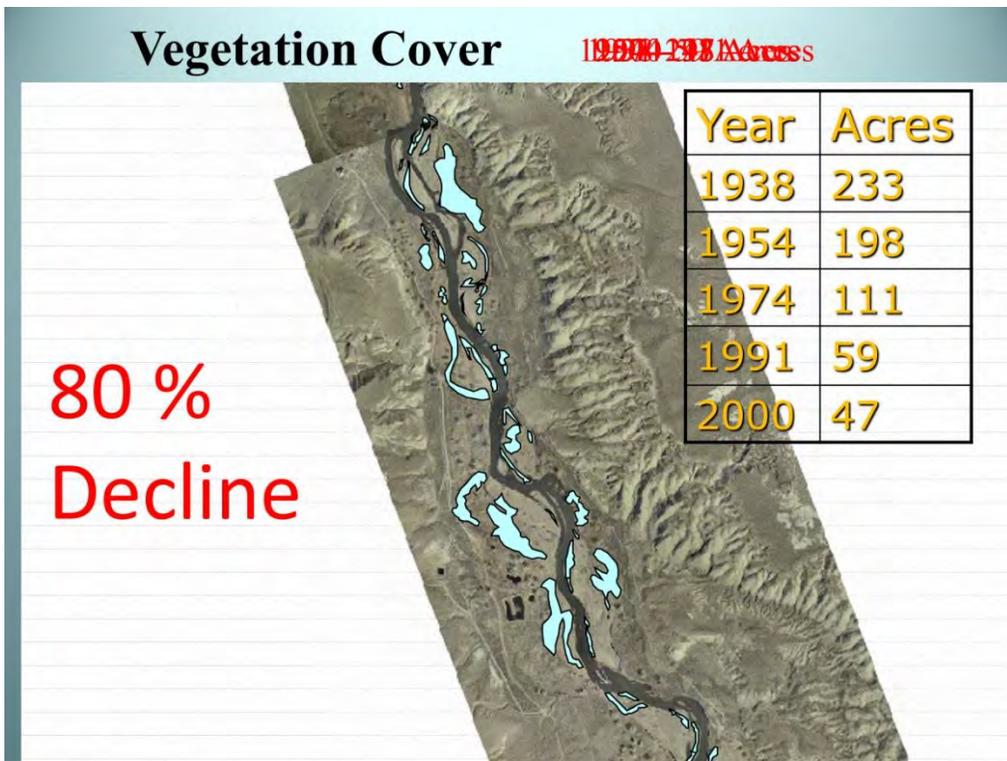
## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- TRF2025 Budget.docx
- Truckee River Aerial Cottonwoods.pdf

Budget Item Description	\$/unit	Quantity	Quantity Type	TRF Funding	Other Funders	Match	Total Cost
<b>Salaries and Wages</b>							
Project Manager (1)	37.50	600	Hours				\$22,500
Program Manager (2)	37.50	600	Hours				\$22,500
Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator	1250						\$1,250
<b>River Justice</b>							
River Justice Supplies	7040	X					\$7,040
Storage Shed Rental/Porta Potties	1500						\$1,500
2 Dumpsters / 30 cubic yd bin @\$910	1820						\$1,820
Meeting Supplies/Food	2800						\$2,850
Vehicle Maintenance	6000						\$6,000
<b>Truckee River Cottonwood Recruitment/Planting</b>							
2-Day Science Seminar at College/University	2000						\$2,000
<b>Project / Program Management</b>							
River Ecologist	40.00	200	Contract				\$8,000
Bird Surveys (2 Reaches)	1000		Contract				\$1,000
Riparian Mapping/Aerial and Ground Surveys	20,750		Contract				\$20,750
<b>SubTotal</b>	97210						\$97,210
<b>In-Kind/25% Match</b>						Total In-Kind	\$29,000
<b>Academia/Educational Resources</b>							
Aerial /Ground Vegetation Survey Seminar	250	20	Hours				\$5,000
Volunteer hours	1200	20	Hours				\$24,000
Subtotal	97210						\$97,210
PCB Admin Fee (10%)	9721						\$9,721
<b>TOTAL BUDGET REQUESTED</b>	106,931						\$106,931



Truckee River – McCarran Ranch Reach



a. Pre-Construction – 16 September 2004



b. 12 Years Post Construction – 11 August 2017

*Figure 2. McCarran Ranch restoration site (a) before major construction efforts and (b) 12 years post-construction. Images courtesy of Google Earth.*



Pre-Construction  
16 September 2004



11 August 2017

## #303 Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Re-seeding 2025

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*Truckee River Fund- Spring 2025*

### *Friends of Nevada Wilderness*

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Shaaron Netherton  
1360 Greg St  
Suite #111  
Sparks, NV 89431

O: 775-324-7667

### *Chris Cutshaw*

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1360 Greg St  
Suite #111  
Sparks, NV 89431

chris@nevadawilderness.org  
O: 775-324-7667

# Application Form

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## *Truckee River Fund Grant Priorities*

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) recommends that the Truckee River Fund (TRF) Advisory Committee (the "Committee") give preference to well-supported, clearly drafted grant requests that consider substantial benefits to TMWA customers for projects and programs that mitigate substantial threats to water quality and the watershed, particularly those threats upstream or nearby water treatment and hydroelectric plant intakes.

- **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):** Projects/Programs that support the prevention or control of aquatic invasive species in the mainstem Truckee River, Lake Tahoe, other tributaries and water bodies in the Truckee River system.
- **Watershed Improvements:** Projects that reduce erosion or sediment, suspended solids, or total dissolve solids (TDS) discharges, nutrients, industrial contaminants, or bacterial pollutants to the River. Projects or programs that are located within 303d (impaired waters) and total maximum daily load (TMDL) sections of the River should be considered, both in California and Nevada. Innovative techniques should be encouraged. The following link identifies impaired sections of the river and its tributaries: <https://mywaterway.epa.gov/>.
- **Local Stormwater Improvements:** Projects that demonstrably mitigate storm water run-off due to urbanization of the local watershed. Priority should be given to those improvement projects in close proximity to TMWA's water supply intakes and canals and which will improve the reliability and protect the quality of the community's municipal water supply.
- **Re-Forestation and Re-Vegetation Projects:** Projects to restore forest and upland areas damaged by fire and historical logging operations, and to improve watershed resiliency in drought situations. Projects/programs in this category should be given a high priority due to urbanization of the watershed and increased susceptibility of the urban and suburban watershed to wildfire.
- **Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses:** Projects to support water quality improvement in creeks and tributaries to the Truckee River.
- **Stewardship and Environmental Awareness:** Support to clean-up programs and the development and implementation of educational programs relative to water, water quality and watershed protection that do not fall clearly into the one of the above-mentioned categories.

### **Notes:**

- For proposals related to weed control/eradication, contact Lauren Renda at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada for additional criteria at [lrenda@nevadafund.org](mailto:lrenda@nevadafund.org).
- For proposals in the Lake Tahoe Basin, the Truckee River Fund (TRF) typically only funds proposals related to Priority I and VI.

## *Grantee Requirements*

### **GRANTEE REQUIREMENTS**

To be eligible for funding, grantees must adhere to the following requirements:

- Funds are to be used and/or disbursed exclusively for the charitable uses and purposes.
- The Fund shall be used exclusively for projects that protect and enhance water quality or water resources of the Truckee River, or its watershed.

- Grantees may include 501(c)(3) organizations and governmental entities. Any grants to governmental entities must be made exclusively for public benefit purposes.
- All grantees will be required to sign a grant agreement stipulating their agreement to all applicable terms, conditions, and reporting requirements.
- Organizations or entities sponsoring proposals are prohibited from ex parte communications with members of the Committee regarding such proposals while those proposals are pending before the Committee, and such communications may be grounds for rejecting a proposal.
- All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25 percent** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services.

#### **TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION**

For each proposal submitted and recommended by the Committee the TMWA Board of Directors has absolute discretion to:

- Accept or reject any proposal;
- Accept a proposal on the condition that certain modifications be made;
- Assess proposals as they see fit, without in any way being obligated to select any proposal;
- Determine whether proposals satisfactorily meet the evaluation criteria set out in this RFP;
- Reject proposals with or without cause, whether based on the evaluation criteria set out above or otherwise.

#### **PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES**

To maintain eligibility to receive grant funds, each Charitable Beneficiary must comply at all times with the following requirements:

- Must be exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code;
- Shall use all Fund distributions toward projects that are appropriate and legal public expenditures;
- Must provide financial details and/or reports of their organizations upon request;
- Must submit quarterly reports.
- Must not use any Fund distributions for political contributions or political advocacy;
- Must either implement the projects, activities, and/or programs for which they received Fund distributions within six months of the date in which such distributions are received or by date(s) as agreed upon in the grant acceptance agreement, or must return all such distributions to the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada forthwith;
- Must provide the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada a report detailing the completion of their projects, activities, and/or programs; and
- Must sign an agreement regarding their compliance with the qualifications hereof.

## ***Project Evaluation Criteria***

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### **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Applications are evaluated according to the following criteria and in order of priority. If the grant applicant does not meet the "Grantee Requirements", the application will not be considered.

### 1. RELEVANCE OF PROPOSAL TO THE TRF PROGRAM

- Address TRF grant priorities – Does the project address at least one of the TRF grant priorities, as described at the beginning of the RFP?
- Meet multiple objectives – Does the project meet multiple grant priorities?
- Public benefit of the project – Does the project help TMWA protect its sources of drinking water?
- Benefit to TMWA customers – Is there a direct benefit to TMWA customers?
- Project location – Is the project located upstream of one of TMWA's water treatment plants?

### 2. QUALITY OF PROJECT DESIGN

- Appropriateness of selected project methods – Do the proposed project strategies make sense to address the watershed and/or water quality concern(s) outlined by the applicant?
- Thoroughness of project design – Is the project design adequately detailed to ensure the desired outcome(s)?
- Sustainability of project – Will the benefits of the project continue after the grant funds are expended?
- Project longevity – If ongoing operation & maintenance (O&M) is required to maintain benefits, is it funded?
- Consideration of existing research – Does the project consider existing research, planning efforts, or assessments related to the Truckee River watershed?

### 3. MEASURABILITY OF PROJECT SUCCESS

- Identification of project benchmarks or milestones – Has the applicant described the steps necessary to complete the project?
- Demonstrated ability to measure the results of the project – Does the project have adequate measurable outcomes to evaluate project success?
- Benefits expected from a successful project – Are there clear goals that will be obtained on project completion?
- Readiness to begin project – Is the grant applicant ready to undertake and complete the project?

### 4. EFFECTIVENESS OF ORGANIZATION

- Qualifications of applicant for the proposed project – Does the applicant have adequate experience and credentials to perform the work described in the application?
- Collaborative efforts – Are there partner organizations supporting or benefiting from the project?
- Demonstrated ability of applicant to manage and complete the project – Has the applicant successfully completed projects similar to the one proposed? If previously funded by TRF, has the applicant met performance requirements and completed projects successfully?

### 5. ADEQUACY OF PROPOSED BUDGET

- Availability and status of matching funds – Does the project provide a minimum of 25 percent match in cash and/or in-kind services? If the project is downstream of the USGS Vista gage, is the 25 percent match requirement met using cash match?
- Total project cost relative to benefits – Is the project cost reasonable given the expected project outcome(s)?

- Appropriateness of budget – Are the costs presented in the budget adequately detailed and do they seem reasonable? Is the project under the 25 percent indirect/overhead expense limit?

## *Project Information*

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### **Project Title\***

Name of Project.

#303 Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Re-seeding 2025

### **Amount Requested\***

\$28,700.00

### **Project Start Date\***

03/01/2025

### **Project End Date\***

12/31/2025

### **This funding will be used to:\***

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

Remove noxious weeds from the Hunter Creek watershed and reseed treated areas with native seeds to protect the water quality of the Truckee River and its watershed. We will host six removal projects, two re-seeding projects, and monitor known weed sites.

### **This project is on:\***

Check all that apply

Public land

### **Are government permits or decision documents needed for the project?\***

No

### **If so, are those permits and decision documents already secured?**

*If permits and decision documents are needed but not yet secured, in #4 of the Narrative Requirements provide a list of permits and documents needed and a schedule for securing them.*

## *Organization Information*

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### **Organization Name\***

Friends of Nevada Wilderness

**Organization Type\***

501(c)(3) Nonprofit

**EIN**

If the organization is a 501c3, please include the EIN#.

88-0211763

**Director of Organization\***

Shaaron Netherton

**Project Contact Name\***

Chris Cutshaw

**Project Contact Postion/Title\***

Stewardship Director

**Project Contact Email\***

chris@nevadawilderness.org

**Project Contact Phone Number\***

775-324-7667 \*205

**Organization Mission\***

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is dedicated to preserving all qualified Nevada public lands as Wilderness, protecting all present and potential Wilderness from ongoing threats, educating the public about the values of and need for wilderness, and improving the management and restoration of wild lands.

***Previous Funding from Truckee River Fund***

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**Has your organization received other grants from the Truckee River Fund?\***

Yes

**If yes, please include the following information for all previously funded projects:**

- *Date awarded*
- *Project # and Title*

- *Amount of award*

*Please attach additional pages as needed to list ALL previously funded projects.*

Date awarded: April 2024

Project title: TRF #290 – Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Re-Seeding 2024

Amount of Award: \$26,951

Date awarded: March 2023

Project title: TRF #276 Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Re-Seeding 2023

Amount of Award: \$26,343

Date awarded: March 2022

Project title: TRF #248 Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Re-seeding #10

Amount of Award: \$23,250

Date awarded: March 2021

Project title: TRF #248 Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Re-seeding #9

Amount of Award: \$16,445

Date awarded: March 2020

Project title: TRF #234 Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Re-seeding #8

Amount of Award: \$28,549

Date awarded: March 2019

Project title: TRF #219- Mt Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring and Treatment #7

Amount of Award: \$24,094

Date awarded: March 2018

Project title: TRF #196- Mt Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring and Treatment #6

Amount of Award: \$23,500

Date awarded: March 2017

Project title: TRF #185- Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring and Treatment #5

Amount of Award: \$22,405

Date awarded: April 2016

Project title: TRF #168- Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring and Treatment #4

Amount of Award: \$21,002

Date awarded: September 2014

Project title: TRF #153- Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring and Treatment #3

Amount of Award: \$15,807

Date awarded: August 2013

Project title: TRF #130 Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring and Treatment #2

Amount of Award: \$10,896

Date awarded: March 2012

Project title: TRF # 111 Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring and Treatment

Amount of Award: \$13,225

## Previous Funding continued

### *Narrative Requirements*

#### 1.) Specific project goals and measurable outcomes and how you will measure and report them.\*

*All projects are required to have measurable outcomes.*

The goal of the 2025 Mount Rose Wilderness Noxious Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Re-seeding project is to eliminate invasive musk thistle from the Hunter Creek watershed and re-seed the affected areas with a native seed mix. This effort aims to enhance water quality, biodiversity, and ecosystem resilience within the larger Truckee River watershed. Our primary focus will be the removal of the noxious musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*), with the support of volunteers. Musk thistle spreads rapidly due to its prolific seed production—up to 120,000 seeds per plant—and can quickly transform a biodiverse area into a monoculture. Over the past 14 years, 957 volunteers have contributed to this project, resulting in significant improvements to meadows that were once dominated by musk thistle. Since the start of the program, we have removed 301,630 musk thistle plants with the support of TRF funding and other funding sources. The Truckee River Fund has been instrumental in this program, making a meaningful impact in both the community and the watershed.

The measurable objectives for this project include conducting three monitoring trips to the Hunter Creek area to assess musk thistle growth and re-seeding efforts, removing at least 15,000 musk thistle plants during six volunteer events across various sites within the watershed, and carrying out two re-seeding projects to restore at least 10 acres with a native seed mix of local grasses and flowers where weeds have been removed. Our project sites have been identified through years of monitoring and guidance from the US Forest Service Carson Ranger District.

Six weed removal projects are planned, each with an average of eight volunteers working approximately six hours, for a total of 288 volunteer hours. For the two re-seeding projects, we expect four volunteers per project, each working around six hours, contributing a total of 48 volunteer hours. In total, the expected volunteer hours for this year's projects are 336 hours.

The timeline for this project involves scouting and monitoring the Hunter Creek area in the spring, followed by the removal of musk thistle in early to mid-summer over six volunteer projects, and re-seeding in late fall. Friends of Nevada Wilderness (FNW) staff will monitor known musk thistle sites in preparation for the volunteer projects, assessing plant growth, identifying target areas, and tracking the outcomes from previous years. In May and June, FNW staff will lead volunteers to the target areas before the plants can go to seed, using shovels and gloves for weed removal. FNW has all the necessary tools to complete these tasks safely. The re-seeding projects will take place before the arrival of rain or snowstorms in late fall, covering 10 acres where musk thistle has been removed. Volunteers will spread a USFS Botanist-approved mix, purchased by FNW, containing pollinator-friendly perennial forbs.

These projects engage local volunteers and offer educational opportunities about the significance of a healthy, biodiverse watershed. We are excited to continue these efforts to slow the spread of musk thistle and restore healthier landscapes through our re-seeding initiatives.

#### 2.) Describe the project location.\*

*Include site map and aerial photos if applicable/possible as an attachment.*

Project locations are within or near the Mount Rose Wilderness, specifically in the Hunter Creek watershed of the Truckee River. All known weed sites are located within 0.5 to 4 miles of the Truckee River, with many near the popular and frequently used Hunter Creek and Steamboat Ditch Trails. Areas of particular concern

for monitoring include the helicopter loading points used by the Carson City Ranger District during the Hunter Falls Fire of 2014 and the Hunter Creek Fire of 2017. These areas will be closely monitored for any further invasive weed growth. Musk thistle seeds can easily be transported by water, so managing these locations to prevent further spread is critical in reducing seed dispersal downstream, thereby protecting the overall health of the watershed.

## Map/Photo attachments

FNW\_TRF\_NoxiousWeeds\_2025-compressed.pdf

### 3.) Project Description\*

FNW staff will visit known musk thistle sites in early spring to assess areas of greatest concern and prioritize locations for volunteer efforts. We will also evaluate the effectiveness of treatments from the previous year. While our primary focus will be the removal of musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*), we will also monitor for other invasive species, including perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*) and medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*), providing additional data to support the Forest Service.

In May and June, FNW staff will guide volunteers to the worksites to remove musk thistle by digging with shovels or pulling by hand. Although our last project typically finishes before the plants have gone to seed, if any viable seeds are present, we will clip the flower heads and carefully pack them out for safe disposal. In the fall, volunteers will return to previously treated sites to hand-spread a native seed mixture. FNW provides snacks, extra water, weed identification and removal training, educational materials, as well as all necessary tools and personal protective equipment for volunteers. For estimated project locations, please refer to the attached map.

### 4.) Grant priorities\*

*Explain how the proposed project advances the TRF's specific grant priorities.*

The proposed projects are in line with multiple grant priorities, specifically Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses, Watershed Improvements, Re-Forestation and Re-Vegetation Projects, and Stewardship and Environmental Awareness.

Noxious weeds, such as musk thistle, pose a significant threat to the long-term health and biodiversity of the Truckee River Watershed. Our proposed volunteer projects aim to directly enhance this area by removing musk thistle and reintroducing native grasses and flowers, thereby improving watershed resilience. All proposed actions align with recommendations from Forest Service botanists and best practices for musk thistle control. By reducing weeds in the Mount Rose Wilderness, we can decrease the spread of seeds downstream, minimize soil erosion, improve water quality, and enhance the overall visitor experience along the Hunter Creek and Steamboat Ditch Trails.

This program not only educates the community about the importance of noxious weed mitigation but also offers hands-on opportunities for individuals to actively participate in weed removal efforts. Volunteers who complete a project with us will gain a deeper understanding of the link between maintaining a healthy watershed and managing invasive species. Engaging with the public fosters a sense of intentional stewardship and raises awareness about the needs of our local watershed and water supply.

## 5.) Permitting\*

*Provide a permitting schedule for your project along with your plan for getting the required permits and decision documents. Be sure to include the cost of permitting/decision documents as a line item in your budget.*

This project does not require any special permits, and we will be taking direction from our Carson Ranger District contacts with the U.S. Forest Service.

## 6.) Future Land Use\*

*List any known or foreseeable zoning, land use, or development plans that may affect your proposed project.*

Our program sites are all within public land managed by the US Forest Service and the majority of the sites are within the Mount Rose Wilderness. There are no foreseeable zoning or development plans that will affect this project.

## 7.) If future phases of the project will be needed, identify anticipated sources of funding.\*

Noxious weed management is most effective when it is done consistently. For instance, at musk thistle sites along the Hunter Creek Trail that FNW staff and volunteers have regularly visited over the years, the number of musk thistle plants has significantly decreased. Annual maintenance visits, often conducted on our way to or from other sites, are all that's needed to keep musk thistle under control and allow the native plants we've seeded to have room to grow.

Musk thistle grows rapidly and thrives in the Mount Rose Wilderness, often outpacing native species in both growth and timing. As it spreads, musk thistle creates dense monocultures that push out native plants and, eventually, native wildlife. This invasive species also degrades soil quality and contributes to increased erosion. A single musk thistle plant can produce up to 120,000 seeds annually, which can remain dormant in the soil for as long as 15 years. Given this long timeline, ongoing annual maintenance and monitoring are essential for effective management.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness has consistently exceeded our goals, effectively leveraging funding from the Truckee River Fund and matching funds from other sources to control invasive weeds at these sites. The volunteers and matching funds, included in the overall budget, enhance the impact and sustainability of the program. Our long-term knowledge of this portion of the watershed is crucial to its continued health. We will continue collaborating with the Forest Service to build on our successes and advance the program. The Truckee River Fund has generously supported these efforts in previous years and, we hope, will remain a key partner in this program for years to come.

## 8.) Identify the principals involved in leading or coordinating the project or activity.\*

Stewardship Director, Chris Cutshaw, will oversee coordination with the Forest Service, planning and scheduling projects, reporting, and staff training.

Stewardship Coordinator, Meg Tait, will be performing much of the monitoring and leading volunteer projects in the field.

Programs Coordinator, Olivia Wolff, will be performing much of the monitoring and leading volunteer projects in the field. She will also be assisting with grant and accomplishment reporting, and print and social media promotion of the work accomplished.

Grants and Operations Director, Nora Richter, will oversee the grant and financial reporting.

We will coordinate with and take direction from the USFS Carson District Recreation Officer, Botanist, and Invasive Weeds Specialist.

### 9.) Number of staff positions involved in project.\*

*Identify how many staff will be full-time and how many will be part-time.*

*“Fulltime” means 100% of their staff position will be dedicated to this project; “part-time” means only a portion of their staff position will be dedicated to this project.*

4 part-time

### 10.) Number of volunteers involved in project and an estimated number of volunteer hours.\*

56 or more volunteers donating at least 336 hours

### 11.) Timeline of Project\*

*List key dates and include project milestones. Note: Be realistic in your estimate of dates and milestones. List any factors that may cause a delay in implementing and/or completing the project.*

*\*\*Note: Funding will not be provided for work performed prior to grant approval.*

Volunteer recruitment will begin as soon as the project is approved. We will start outlining our project schedule in March, with project sign-ups and site monitoring beginning in April. The six volunteer weed removal projects will be scheduled for May and June. The dates for our fall re-seeding projects will depend on weather conditions, as the seed mixes are most effective when spread before rain or snow, with freezing overnight temperatures. These re-seeding projects will be scheduled in November and December, providing volunteers with ample notice to plan. Monitoring will continue in the fall and winter to assess the effectiveness of spring treatments. Final reporting will take place in early 2025.

### 12.) What factors will indicate a successful project?\*

We consider our program successful if we complete deliverables safely, achieve our target weed removal numbers, and ensure that volunteers finish the projects with a clear understanding of the importance of invasive weed management and its connection to the Truckee River Watershed. We will keep the Truckee River Fund committee informed of our successes through written quarterly reports, high-quality photographs, and any press coverage we receive. Additionally, we will communicate the efforts of our volunteers and the funding support from the Truckee River Fund to the public and our 10,000+ supporters through press releases, bi-annual newsletters, monthly e-newsletters, and social media.

### 13.) Collaboration\*

*List partnerships or collaborations with other entities in relation to your proposal, if any. Grantees are encouraged to seek other funds prior to requesting money from the Truckee River Fund. Please explain what other funding opportunities were sought and if any other funds have been awarded.*

Each spring, we partner with KTMB to lead a weed removal project for their Great Community Clean Up (April 2025), where they provide additional shovels and gloves and assist with volunteer recruitment. In 2024, our Hunter Creek site hosted 28 volunteers for the Great Community Clean Up. Other partners who have helped engage volunteers include Patagonia, REI, International Gaming Technologies (IGT), Midtown Rotary, NV Energy, UNR, TMCC, and Arrow Electronics. Local businesses such as Imbib Brewery, Eclipse Pizza, and other national companies have generously donated free or discounted food to support our volunteer appreciation efforts. Additionally, the US Forest Service collaborates with us to help execute these projects, providing valuable guidance, oversight, approval, and ongoing monitoring.

### Grant Match

All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25 percent** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services.

For larger grant requests, priority will be given to projects that significantly leverage the grant with funding from other sources.

For grant requests for projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25 percent match requirement must be met using **cash match**.

### Total grant match to be provided.\*

*Total Match = Cash + In-Kind*

\$9,720.00

### Cash

\$3,000.00

**For the cash portion, is the funding already being held by the applicant for this project?**

Yes

### In-Kind

*\*\*Note: Provide an itemized breakdown of volunteer match in your budget with rationale.*

\$6,720.00

## Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.\*

### Cash Matching Funds:

National Forest Foundation or Unrestricted Funds: \$2,500. Includes funding for payroll to perform complementary work to the work in this proposal.

Individual Donations/Unrestricted Funds: \$500. Will help cover the cost of necessary Wilderness First Aid training for FNW's volunteer coordinators.

### In-Kind:

Volunteer Labor counted at the TRF-approved rate of \$20/hour. Six volunteer weed removal projects with 8 volunteers each for 6 hours at \$20 in-kind/hr; 2 volunteer re-seeding projects with 4 volunteers each for 6 hours at \$20 in-kind/hr. Total of 56 volunteers. Total of 336 volunteer hours at \$20/hr for an in-kind total of \$6,720.

## Attachments

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### Project Budget\*

*Provide detail on each line-item expenditures and show which funds are committed and which have been requested to be paid for by the Truckee River Fund grant, and which will be paid for with in-kind services. Other sources of funding should be provided. Explain status of other funding if not in hand. If project is to be implemented in phases, please separate budget into each phase. **Please contact Lauren Renda at [Irenda@nevadafund.org](mailto:Irenda@nevadafund.org) for a sample budget template, or download one here.***

#### **\*\*Notes:**

- *Indirect/overhead expenses cannot exceed 25 percent; TRF may fund indirect/overhead up to 25% based on availability of funds.*
- *Applicants should be prepared to provide reduced budgets during the review of applications by the TRF Advisory Committee when funds are limited.*
- *Grants from the Truckee River Fund are paid on a reimbursable basis for actual expenditures only. Craft your budget in such a way that requests for reimbursement correspond to the original budget.*

FNW\_TRF 2025 proposal budget.pdf

### Supplemental Attachments

*Please attach any additional attachments here.*

FNW\_Photo Comparison of Musk Thistle Removal and Native Seed Spreading Site.pdf

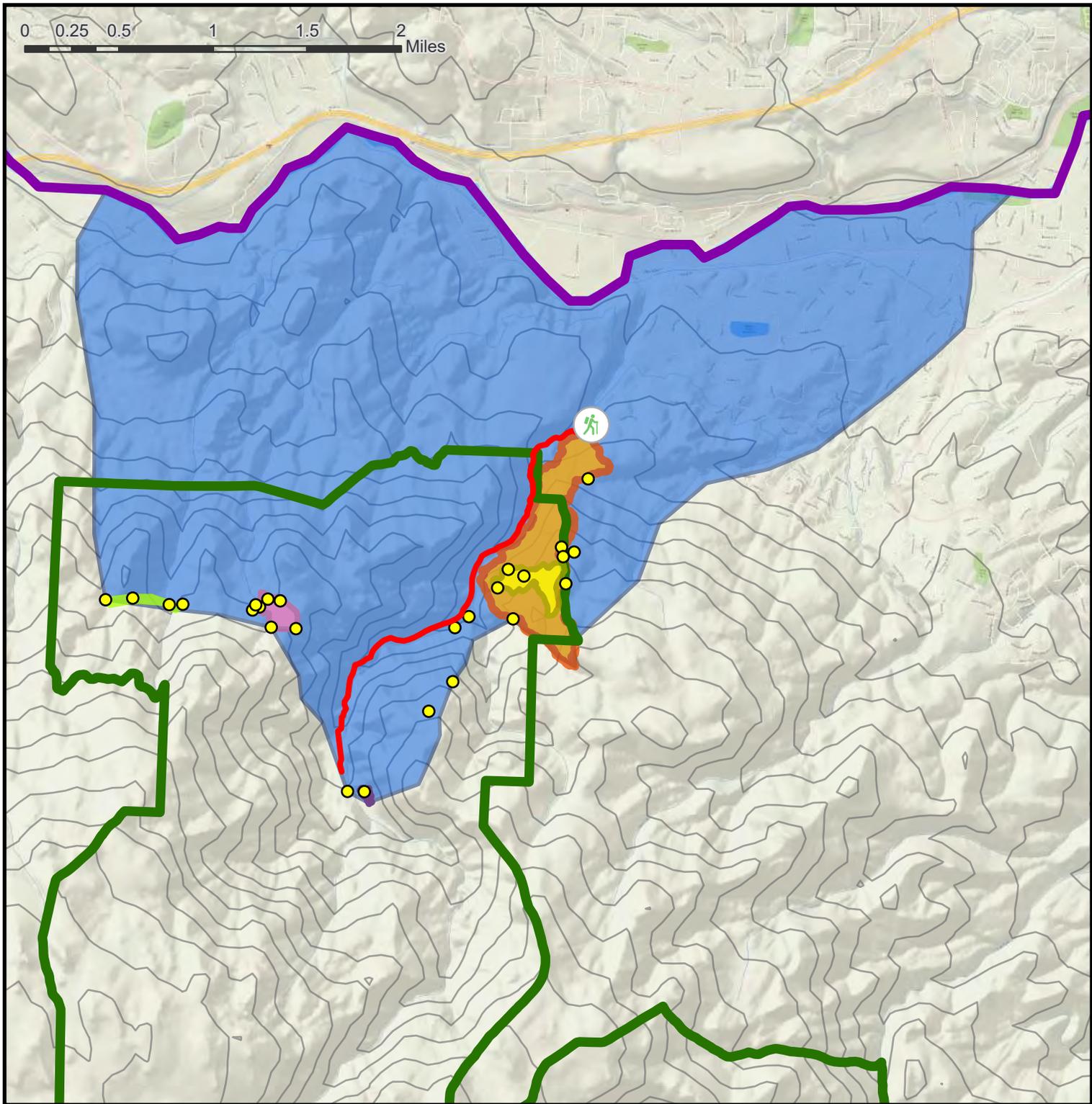
## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- FNW\_TRF\_NoxiousWeeds\_2025-compressed.pdf
- FNW\_TRF 2025 proposal budget.pdf
- FNW\_Photo Comparison of Musk Thistle Removal and Native Seed Spreading Site.pdf

# Mt. Rose Wilderness Noxious Weed Monitoring and Treatment Project: Impacted Watershed



- |                        |                                  |                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Musk Thistle           | East Slope Monitoring Site       | Belli Front West Monitoring Site |
| Hunter Creek Trailhead | Above Waterfall Monitoring Site  | Mt. Rose Wilderness Boundary     |
| Hunter Creek Trail     | Belli Front East Monitoring Site | Hunter Creek Fire                |
| Truckee River          | 200ft Contour                    | Impacted Watershed - 5,582 acres |





FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS

### Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Re-seeding 2025

Budget Item Description	Truckee River Fund	Match Source	Match Amount	Total
Payroll Expenses	\$21,571	National Forest Foundation	\$2,500	\$24,071
Volunteer Labor (336 hrs at \$20/hr)		In-Kind Volunteer Labor	\$6,720	\$6,720
Project Supplies	\$4,250			\$4,250
Training Expenses	\$0	Individual Donations	\$500	\$500
Vehicle Travel (100 miles at \$0.70/mile)	\$70			\$70
Volunteer Food	\$200			\$200
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$26,091</b>		<b>\$9,720</b>	<b>\$35,811</b>
Overhead (at 10%)	\$2,609			\$2,450
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$28,700</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,720</b>	<b>\$38,261</b>

#### Budget Narrative:

*Payroll Expenses:* Payroll expenses include all project planning, facilitation, data entry, program oversight, as well as follow-up, volunteer recruitment, outreach and communications, GIS, and Truckee Meadows Weed Coordinating Group meetings. Match for payroll expenses will be funding from the National Forest Foundation or unrestricted cash in hand for complimentary work.

*Volunteer Labor:* 6 volunteer weed removal projects with 8 volunteers each for 6 hours at \$20 in-kind/hr; 2 volunteer re-seeding projects with 4 volunteers each for 6 hours at \$20 in-kind/hr. Total of 56 volunteers. Total of 336 volunteer hours at \$20/hr for an in-kind total of \$6,720.

*Project Supplies:* Used to purchase native seed mix (averaging \$4000-\$4250). Any additional supply funds will help cover the costs of routine gear replacement for first aid kits, shovel replacement, maintenance, etc.

*Training Expenses:* This will cover relevant classes and conferences, including a portion of the Wilderness First Aid training for our staff. In addition, we will continue to update our invasive weed reference materials for staff/volunteers.

*Vehicle Travel:* This portion accounts for the use of a company vehicle as well as mileage reimbursement for distances driven with personal vehicles. The mileage rate is calculated at the 2025 Federal Rate of \$0.70/mile.

*Volunteer Food:* Accounts for volunteer food such as trail snacks and our end-of-season volunteer appreciation event.

*Overhead:* Our overhead costs are billed across all of our grants at a 10% de minimis rate. These costs are used to pay for rent, utilities, storage costs, small office supplies and subscriptions (Microsoft, Adobe, Google, etc), and safety equipment, such as our Garmin In-Reach service. These costs are essential to the functionality of all of our programs and are not used to pay for any employees or programmatic supplies.

**Friends of Nevada Wilderness**  
**Photos Comparison of Musk Thistle Removal and Native Seed Spreading Site**  
**2015-2024**

**Background:**

Below is an example of one site we have been treating for at least 10 years. When we began at this site, it was just a few volunteers coming out a couple of times a year. In recent years, the number of volunteers and visits has grown. These photos serve as anecdotal evidence of the impact being made at sites throughout the watershed. While there is still a lot of work and maintenance to do, it is great to see the progress.

**Location: Eastern facing slope, perched valley above Hunter Creek**

Lat/Long: 39.480767, -119.901800

*Photo 1 (Taken in late spring 2015)*



The photo above, taken in the late spring of 2015, shows the east-facing slope of a hillside that we have been treating since 2012. Behind the volunteer, you can see a hillside covered in large musk thistle. The cheatgrass is turning red. Not seen are the numerous smaller musk thistle, in their first-year stage, growing low to the ground.

*Photo 2 (Taken mid-spring 2024)*



This photo, taken in the spring of 2024, shows the same hillside from a bit higher up the hill and at a slightly different angle. You can still see some small musk thistles dotting the hillside. The cheat grass is still there, but still green in this photo. We are also seeing the return of bunch grasses and other plants. This hillside is now primarily filled with smaller, first-year musk thistle plants and dotted with some larger second-year plants.

*Photo 2 (taken mid-spring 2024)*



The above photo was taken of the same hillside, but looking the other direction, down from the top. Once again, you can see that the hillside has far fewer, large musk thistles growing. While this area will need continued maintenance to make sure the musk thistle doesn't recover, you can see the changes being made by our efforts over the past 10 years. Not shown in this photo are the two meadows near this one, which still have higher concentrations of musk thistle.

# #304 Invasive Weed Control and Vegetation Management in a Truckee Meadows Urban Tributary

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*Truckee River Fund- Spring 2025*

## ***City of Reno***

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Trina Magoon  
1 E First St  
Reno, NV 89501

O: 775-560-5363

## ***Daniel Moss***

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1307 King James Ct  
Reno, NV 89503

mossd@reno.gov  
O: 775-560-5363

# Application Form

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## *Truckee River Fund Grant Priorities*

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) recommends that the Truckee River Fund (TRF) Advisory Committee (the "Committee") give preference to well-supported, clearly drafted grant requests that consider substantial benefits to TMWA customers for projects and programs that mitigate substantial threats to water quality and the watershed, particularly those threats upstream or nearby water treatment and hydroelectric plant intakes.

- **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):** Projects/Programs that support the prevention or control of aquatic invasive species in the mainstem Truckee River, Lake Tahoe, other tributaries and water bodies in the Truckee River system.
- **Watershed Improvements:** Projects that reduce erosion or sediment, suspended solids, or total dissolve solids (TDS) discharges, nutrients, industrial contaminants, or bacterial pollutants to the River. Projects or programs that are located within 303d (impaired waters) and total maximum daily load (TMDL) sections of the River should be considered, both in California and Nevada. Innovative techniques should be encouraged. The following link identifies impaired sections of the river and its tributaries: <https://mywaterway.epa.gov/>.
- **Local Stormwater Improvements:** Projects that demonstrably mitigate storm water run-off due to urbanization of the local watershed. Priority should be given to those improvement projects in close proximity to TMWA's water supply intakes and canals and which will improve the reliability and protect the quality of the community's municipal water supply.
- **Re-Forestation and Re-Vegetation Projects:** Projects to restore forest and upland areas damaged by fire and historical logging operations, and to improve watershed resiliency in drought situations. Projects/programs in this category should be given a high priority due to urbanization of the watershed and increased susceptibility of the urban and suburban watershed to wildfire.
- **Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses:** Projects to support water quality improvement in creeks and tributaries to the Truckee River.
- **Stewardship and Environmental Awareness:** Support to clean-up programs and the development and implementation of educational programs relative to water, water quality and watershed protection that do not fall clearly into the one of the above-mentioned categories.

### **Notes:**

- For proposals related to weed control/eradication, contact Lauren Renda at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada for additional criteria at [lrenda@nevadafund.org](mailto:lrenda@nevadafund.org).
- For proposals in the Lake Tahoe Basin, the Truckee River Fund (TRF) typically only funds proposals related to Priority I and VI.

## *Grantee Requirements*

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### **GRANTEE REQUIREMENTS**

To be eligible for funding, grantees must adhere to the following requirements:

- Funds are to be used and/or disbursed exclusively for the charitable uses and purposes.
- The Fund shall be used exclusively for projects that protect and enhance water quality or water resources of the Truckee River, or its watershed.

- Grantees may include 501(c)(3) organizations and governmental entities. Any grants to governmental entities must be made exclusively for public benefit purposes.
- All grantees will be required to sign a grant agreement stipulating their agreement to all applicable terms, conditions, and reporting requirements.
- Organizations or entities sponsoring proposals are prohibited from ex parte communications with members of the Committee regarding such proposals while those proposals are pending before the Committee, and such communications may be grounds for rejecting a proposal.
- All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25 percent** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services.

#### **TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION**

For each proposal submitted and recommended by the Committee the TMWA Board of Directors has absolute discretion to:

- Accept or reject any proposal;
- Accept a proposal on the condition that certain modifications be made;
- Assess proposals as they see fit, without in any way being obligated to select any proposal;
- Determine whether proposals satisfactorily meet the evaluation criteria set out in this RFP;
- Reject proposals with or without cause, whether based on the evaluation criteria set out above or otherwise.

#### **PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES**

To maintain eligibility to receive grant funds, each Charitable Beneficiary must comply at all times with the following requirements:

- Must be exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code;
- Shall use all Fund distributions toward projects that are appropriate and legal public expenditures;
- Must provide financial details and/or reports of their organizations upon request;
- Must submit quarterly reports.
- Must not use any Fund distributions for political contributions or political advocacy;
- Must either implement the projects, activities, and/or programs for which they received Fund distributions within six months of the date in which such distributions are received or by date(s) as agreed upon in the grant acceptance agreement, or must return all such distributions to the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada forthwith;
- Must provide the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada a report detailing the completion of their projects, activities, and/or programs; and
- Must sign an agreement regarding their compliance with the qualifications hereof.

## ***Project Evaluation Criteria***

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### **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Applications are evaluated according to the following criteria and in order of priority. If the grant applicant does not meet the "Grantee Requirements", the application will not be considered.

### 1. RELEVANCE OF PROPOSAL TO THE TRF PROGRAM

- Address TRF grant priorities – Does the project address at least one of the TRF grant priorities, as described at the beginning of the RFP?
- Meet multiple objectives – Does the project meet multiple grant priorities?
- Public benefit of the project – Does the project help TMWA protect its sources of drinking water?
- Benefit to TMWA customers – Is there a direct benefit to TMWA customers?
- Project location – Is the project located upstream of one of TMWA's water treatment plants?

### 2. QUALITY OF PROJECT DESIGN

- Appropriateness of selected project methods – Do the proposed project strategies make sense to address the watershed and/or water quality concern(s) outlined by the applicant?
- Thoroughness of project design – Is the project design adequately detailed to ensure the desired outcome(s)?
- Sustainability of project – Will the benefits of the project continue after the grant funds are expended?
- Project longevity – If ongoing operation & maintenance (O&M) is required to maintain benefits, is it funded?
- Consideration of existing research – Does the project consider existing research, planning efforts, or assessments related to the Truckee River watershed?

### 3. MEASURABILITY OF PROJECT SUCCESS

- Identification of project benchmarks or milestones – Has the applicant described the steps necessary to complete the project?
- Demonstrated ability to measure the results of the project – Does the project have adequate measurable outcomes to evaluate project success?
- Benefits expected from a successful project – Are there clear goals that will be obtained on project completion?
- Readiness to begin project – Is the grant applicant ready to undertake and complete the project?

### 4. EFFECTIVENESS OF ORGANIZATION

- Qualifications of applicant for the proposed project – Does the applicant have adequate experience and credentials to perform the work described in the application?
- Collaborative efforts – Are there partner organizations supporting or benefiting from the project?
- Demonstrated ability of applicant to manage and complete the project – Has the applicant successfully completed projects similar to the one proposed? If previously funded by TRF, has the applicant met performance requirements and completed projects successfully?

### 5. ADEQUACY OF PROPOSED BUDGET

- Availability and status of matching funds – Does the project provide a minimum of 25 percent match in cash and/or in-kind services? If the project is downstream of the USGS Vista gage, is the 25 percent match requirement met using cash match?
- Total project cost relative to benefits – Is the project cost reasonable given the expected project outcome(s)?

- Appropriateness of budget – Are the costs presented in the budget adequately detailed and do they seem reasonable? Is the project under the 25 percent indirect/overhead expense limit?

## ***Project Information***

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### **Project Title\***

Name of Project.

#304 Invasive Weed Control and Vegetation Management in a Truckee Meadows Urban Tributary

### **Amount Requested\***

\$15,120.00

### **Project Start Date\***

03/01/2025

### **Project End Date\***

09/15/2029

### **This funding will be used to:\***

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

... implement an aggressive removal and revegetation project to treat highly invasive tall whitetop (perennial pepperweed) within an urban tributary to Chalk Creek, providing public educational opportunities and provide a demonstration model to facilitate discussions on routine vegetation management alternatives. The funds will hire professional landscaper managers, herbicide applicators, land managers, and environmental educators to implement the project, and partially pay for materials and equipment related to herbicide application, mechanical brush removal, a temporary irrigation system, seed mixes and potted shrubs, erosion control, and educational signage.

### **This project is on:\***

Check all that apply

Public land

### **Are government permits or decision documents needed for the project?\***

Yes

### **If so, are those permits and decision documents already secured?**

*If permits and decision documents are needed but not yet secured, in #4 of the Narrative Requirements provide a list of permits and documents needed and a schedule for securing them.*

Yes

## *Organization Information*

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### **Organization Name\***

City of Reno

### **Organization Type\***

Governmental Entity

### **EIN**

If the organization is a 501c3, please include the EIN#.

### **Director of Organization\***

Trina Magoon, Director of Utility Services Department

### **Project Contact Name\***

Daniel Moss, PE

### **Project Contact Postion/Title\***

Project Coordinator

### **Project Contact Email\***

mossd@reno.gov

### **Project Contact Phone Number\***

775-560-5363

### **Organization Mission\***

From the City of Reno Website:

#### Vision

We are a thriving urban center known for our world-class colleges, vibrant culture, diverse outdoor activities, and innovative industries.

#### Mission

Creating a community that people are proud to call home.

#### Strategic Priorities and Goals

The City Council established six overarching goals for the City of Reno.

1. Fiscal Sustainability
2. Public Safety
3. Economic Opportunity, Homelessness, and Affordable Housing
4. Economic and Community Development
5. Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Environmental Sustainability

## 6. Arts, Parks, and Historical Resources

***Previous Funding from Truckee River Fund*****Has your organization received other grants from the Truckee River Fund?\***

Yes

**If yes, please include the following information for all previously funded projects:**

- *Date awarded*
- *Project # and Title*
- *Amount of award*

*Please attach additional pages as needed to list ALL previously funded projects.*

TRF #281 - Lake Park Watershed Project (Floating Wetlands and Pollinator Revegetation Project; Awarded 9/20/23; Amount: \$30,832.00

The City of Reno has received numerous prior TRF grants over the years, providing funding for several Departments:

Grant #207

Second Truckee River Cleanup Crew. (\$23,472) - City of Reno, 2018

Grant #183

Truckee River Cleanup Crew – Year 3. (\$28,694) - City of Reno, 2017

Grant #169

Truckee River Cleanup Crew – Year 2. (\$47,787) - City of Reno, 2016

Grant #166

Virginia Lake Water Quality Improvements. (\$100,000) - City of Reno, 2015

Grant #164

Cemetery Drain Water Quality, Erosion Control and Drainage Project. (\$77,500) - City of Reno, 2015

Grant #157

Truckee River Cleanup Crew. (\$104,235) - City of Reno, 2015

Grant #151

Virginia Lake Water Quality Improvement Project Monitoring and Public Education. (\$18,820) - City of Reno Public Works, 2014

Grant #144

Reducing Non-Point Source Pollution to TMWA's Highland Canal. (\$329,000) - City of Reno Public Works, 2014

Grant #134

Reducing Non-Point Source Pollution to the Highland Canal. (\$400,000) - City of Reno, 2013

Grant #120

Truckee River Bank Stabilization at Crooked Mile. (\$30,615) - City of Reno, 2013

Grant #119

Hazardous Tree Removal at Oxbow Park. (\$32,250) - City of Reno, 2013

Grant #83

Livestock Event Center Treatment System-Phase 2. (\$97,500) - City of Reno Public Works, 2011

Grant #73

Livestock Events Center Drainage Treatment System. (\$75,000) - City of Reno, 2009

Grant #60

McKinley Arts and Cultural Center/ LID Demonstration Project. (\$115,500) - City of Reno Public Works, 2008

## Grant #59

Chalk Creek Watershed TDS/Sulfate Reducing Wetland Pilot Project. (\$163,000) - City of Reno Public Works, 2008

## Grant #52

Truckee River Bank Stabilization at Oxbow Park. (\$207,750) - City of Reno, 2008

## Grant #48

Truckee River Watershed Map Web Tool. (\$80,000) - City of Reno Public Works, 2008

## Grant #30

Downtown Eco-Channel Construction. (\$370,000) - City of Reno Public Works and Sanitary Engineering, 2007

## Grant #29

Chalk Creek Watershed Management for Water Quality to Minimize Non-Point Source Pollution from Reaching the Truckee River. (\$250,000) - City of Reno Public Works, 2007

## Grant #28

Restoration of Riparian Vegetation in a Channel at Sapphire Ridge in Chalk Creek Watershed. (\$18,375) - City of Reno Public Works, 2007

## Grant #13

Urban Storm Water Quality Improvements. (\$66,000) - City of Reno, 2006

## Grant #11

Lower Steamboat Creek Restoration. (\$86,000) - City of Reno, 2006

## Grant #10

Watershed protection for the drinking water source of the Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant. (\$211,000) - City of Reno, 2006

## Grant #2

Chalk Creek TDS Loading to Truckee River Study: Possible TDS mitigation and pollution trade for TMWRF on Truckee River TDS TMDL. (\$25,000) - City of Reno, 2005

## Previous Funding continued

## Narrative Requirements

### 1.) Specific project goals and measurable outcomes and how you will measure and report them.\*

*All projects are required to have measurable outcomes.*

Goal 1: Significantly reduce the presence of tall whitetop to 10% or less of its original coverage within the project treatment area, after approximately 1.5 years from initial treatment work. Revegetate the project treatment area to 70% of the native background vegetative cover for the area, while keeping tall whitetop presence at 10% or less or less, after approximately 3 years from initial treatment work.

Metric of evaluation/reporting: Photo-documentation and industry-approved visual inspections will be used to estimate the total coverage before and after treatment. Reports will be compiled.

Goal 2: Provide STEM-based signage and education opportunities for local residents.

Lead and coordinate the design, fabrication, and installation of two STEM-based signs along the walking path adjacent and near the project treatment area, and perform direct outreach to local residents and schools. The educational signs installed will support local schools, groups, and the general public to learn more about ecological and watershed topics. Signage will have a stewardship message for everyone to take responsible actions to protect our local watershed. One Truckee River will mail all residents and schools within approximately one mile of the area to describe the project goals and outcomes.

Metric of evaluation/reporting:

This will be tracked by providing a QR code on signs to City of Reno and TMstormwater.com websites by the counted clicks from the QR link. The quality of education can be evaluated through a visitor feedback box or using a web form. Mailers will be evaluated by the number mailed and the number of responses from the

mailer. The target metric is 200 individuals reading the signs in the first full year after installation, and at least two classroom field trips to the park to view the STEM signage and explore the wetlands/riparian information.

Goal 3: Facilitate management-level discussions about alternative Vegetation Management techniques that benefit riparian ecosystems. These discussions would consider the differences between the expensive and time-consuming practices needed to maintain pathways and storm drains alongside lush natural vegetation growth, versus the most efficient and lower-cost maintenance practices of herbicidal spraying and mowing, used elsewhere.

Metric of evaluation/reporting: Hold at least two meeting involving a majority of the following entities (City of Reno Parks and Rec/Maintenance and Operations/Utility Services Departments, the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation, Nevada Department of Agriculture, Friends of Valley Wood Park, One Truckee River), and create a draft alternatives analysis and workplan for implementing vegetation management techniques that enhance riparian habitat and watershed health.

## 2.) Describe the project location.\*

*Include site map and aerial photos if applicable/possible as an attachment.*

The project treatment area is located within a tributary to the western branch of Chalk Creek, on City of Reno property, approximately 400 ft southeast of Valley Wood Park. The drainageway is undeveloped but hosts a popular paved pedestrian path. The treatment area encompasses a 275 ft x 50 ft stretch of primarily north-facing drainageway slope, as well a small strip adjacent to the pathway, and excludes a 15-ft strip around the drainageway wetlands area. One sign will be installed adjacent to the path at the northwest end of the treatment area, and the other will replace an existing sign 70 ft southeast of the treatment area.

## Map/Photo attachments

Vegetation Mgmt Project\_Area Map\_final.pdf

## 3.) Project Description\*

Vegetation Mgmt Project\_Site Map\_final.pdf

Background: Tall Whitetop

Tall whitetop (perennial pepperweed) is a notoriously invasive weed that has transformed countless Truckee Meadows riparian areas and meadows into a near-monoculture over the past few decades. There are conventional approaches to reducing the veracity of tall whitetop, including reoccurring mowing and follow-up herbicide treatments. However, these efforts do not effectively reduce tall whitetop due to the species' prolific seed production and robust seedbed, deep perennial taproot system, and spring-to-fall rhizomatous sprouting. However, for effective long-term control, proactive efforts must be made to apply both pre- and post-emergent herbicide and reestablish competitive perennial grasses and shrubs while continuing to apply spot herbicide treatments as needed.

### Project Component 1: Habitat Restoration

To apply improved tall whitetop treatment methods under a restrictive budget and minimal workforce, the City of Reno proposes implementing these techniques on a ~0.31 acre of drainageway in a major tributary to Chalk Creek, over a period of 4 years, with the aid of Grant funding. The project entails hiring professional herbicide applicators and landscapers to work in conjunction with City of Reno Maintenance and Operations (M&O), Parks and Recreation, and Utility Services Departments to implement aggressive mechanical and chemical treatment to the project area, set up a temporary irrigation system and revegetate the landscape, while continuing to remove tall whitetop where it exists. A successfully revegetated area would provide a demonstration model for effective vegetation management, acting as a framework for future budget and policy discussions on future management of City of Reno's Open Spaces and drainage ways.

#### Project Component 2: Outreach and Education

Another component of the project will be STEM-based outreach and education, educating nearby residents and schools about the purpose of the intensive treatment methods, while adding permanent signage that offers citizens general information about invasive weeds and management, urban stormwater pollution prevention, and other watershed conservation materials. This is an important component given that herbicide use in urban areas is a contentious issue, as local resident complaints have resulted in M&O decreasing herbicide spray applications on breezy days, near fence lines, and far from Valley Wood Park.

#### Project Component 3: Facilitate Discussions about Alternative Vegetation Management

M&O's long-term approach vegetation management plan, consisting primarily of mowing and spraying, is in alignment the 2019 Public Works Integrated Vegetation Management Plan, and is not designed to specifically treat tall whitetop, but rather a variety of fast-growing riparian shrubs like willows, Russian olive, and riparian weeds. This vegetation, if left unmitigated, can clog drainageways and cause flooding, significantly damage pathways by creating waterlogged ground/perched groundwater, cause asphalt cracking from spreading roots, and requires frequent vegetation trimming to maintain pathway clearance and safety sightlines. This said, conversely, repetitive spraying and mowing reduces the viability of riparian plants and habitat, and can also kill erosion-reducing upland plants (including sage, rabbit brush, desert peach, native grasses), which may then be overtaken by monocultures of weeds like tall whitetop. Therefore, a final part of this project includes collaborative discussions between the City of Reno, the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation, Nevada Department of Agriculture, and Friends of Valley Wood Park (a local volunteer workforce) to explore options for shifting workforce priorities to implement alternative vegetation management techniques that require less herbicide, more mechanical labor, and more targeted plant removal or preservation.

## 4.) Grant priorities\*

*Explain how the proposed project advances the TRF's specific grant priorities.*

The Project meets many of the TRF grant priorities, including priority II – Watershed Improvements, priority IV – Re-Vegetation Projects, priority V – Rehab of Local Drainage Courses, priority VI – Stewardship and Environmental Awareness, VII – Multiple Objectives, and VIII – Leverage Stakeholder Assets and Participation.

Priority II - Watershed Improvements. Successfully removing tall whitetop and revegetating with natives or native-like alternatives should reduce sediment runoff to the drainageway, in the long-term. Whitetop is known to disrupt topsoil structure and to not have long-term soil stabilization capabilities. Therefore, replacing whitetop with grasses and local shrubs should reduce erosion. Also, if the project is successful, M&O will be able to eliminate long-term broad herbicide application near the adjacent drainageway, potentially decreasing the chances of excess herbicide (a pollutant) getting into waterways.

Priority IV – Re-Vegetation Projects. The project treatment area is primarily an upland habitat, adjacent to a highly impacted urban drainageway. Replacing tall whitetop with native vegetation provides for greater drought resilience and long-term erosion protection. Tall whitetop typically does not pose major fire risks because it is not very flammable, even when dry/dead.

Priority V - Rehab of Local Drainage Courses. The project area falls within an urban drainageway and major tributary to Chalk Creek, an impaired waterbody leading to the Truckee River.

Priority VI – Stewardship and Environmental Awareness. This priority is met through the project's outreach efforts, including professionally designed STEM-based signage. The signage educates the public about invasive weeds, urban stormwater pollution prevention, and other watershed protection material. In addition, mailers will be sent to residents and schools to notify them of the project's purpose and encourage them to visit the area, either in a guided tour or on their own.

Additional Criterion related to weed control/eradication proposals:

The project is compliant with all criterion, except for Criterion #1 and #5, and #11:

Crit. 1) Cooperative Management. One of our main project collaborators, TMPF, used to be active members in the CWMA two years ago, but it was absorbed into the "Washoe/Storey County" CWMA, which may or may not be active. This said, both TMPF and the City of Reno are active participating members of the One Truckee River Technical Vegetation Management Group, which reviews policy related to invasive weed management. Further, TMPF is involved in the Nevada Creeks and Communities group, which discusses invasive weeds extensively.

Crit. 2) More than 50% of control costs will be contributed by the City of Reno Maintenance and Operations team;

Crit. 3) IWM -

a) All team leaders and relevant technicians are Pesticide Applicator Certified (state license) which includes formal weed identification and management training;

b) The three primary project participants – City of Reno, TMPF, and OTR – all have on-going educational weed awareness and weed abatement programs;

c) Regarding a "change in management factors that contributed to the existing weed infestation", Maintenance and Operations reports that the project area has been treated in a similar method for over a decade, but that whitetop naturally persists and spreads outward. The "natural" spread of whitetop occurs from the right conditions of wind or storms that carry seeds, and also from the rhizomatous spreading nature of the roots. It may be the continual mowing of whitetop has caused it to spread further.

This said, the open space just northwest of the project area has not been treated for tall whitetop for many years, with Parks and Recreation managing it. It is likely that seeds spread down the drainageway from this area, due to the wind/storms.

d) Project has a 4-year span that includes a monitoring plan to track the success of control efforts.

Crit. 4) Tall whitetop is a high-priority species given that it's a Nevada Dept of Agriculture Category C Weed, and listed as a "Priority Agricultural Weed" in UNR Extension literature.

Crit. 5) Tall whitetop is not an Early Detection, Rapid Response (EDRR) Species given that it's widespread throughout the state. However, it can be considered limited in distribution upstream/uphill of the specified project area, which includes a sensitive Pollinator Garden adjacent to Valley Wood Park.

Furthermore, while it's not a EDRR species, the project aims at helping set a framework and pilot area for facilitating wider policy change, which could eventually effect significant whitetop infested areas throughout the Truckee Meadows.

Crit. 6) The target weed area is 0.31 acres

Crit. 7) The infestation is located within 100 ft of the start of a perennial spring, feeding water into the below drainageways. Areas upstream of this are routinely drier and have a much-reduced presence of tall whitetop. Therefore, the project treatment area can be considered a headwaters area.

Crit. 8) GIS data shall be provided to Nevada State weed mapper

Crit. 9) & 10) – Project will incorporate these criteria.

Crit. 11) Project is not an extension of a prior project in this area, but would provide a basis for further treatment areas.

## 5.) Permitting\*

*Provide a permitting schedule for your project along with your plan for getting the required permits and decision documents. Be sure to include the cost of permitting/decision documents as a line item in your budget.*

Permitting is not required given that activities are already covered under the City of Reno's General Permit for Routine Maintenance Activities (GNV9800002)

**6.) Future Land Use\***

*List any known or foreseeable zoning, land use, or development plans that may affect your proposed project.*

None

**7.) If future phases of the project will be needed, identify anticipated sources of funding.\***

The project has a 4-year span so that no future phases are needed.

**8.) Identify the principals involved in leading or coordinating the project or activity.\***

Daniel Moss - City of Reno Utility Services

Andrew Patnaude and Kelly Petersdorf - City of Reno Maintenance and Operations

Matt Brezina - City of Reno Parks and Recreation

Iris Jehle-Peppard - One Truckee River

Elena Larsen - Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation

**9.) Number of staff positions involved in project.\***

*Identify how many staff will be full-time and how many will be part-time.*

*“Fulltime” means 100% of their staff position will be dedicated to this project; “part-time” means only a portion of their staff position will be dedicated to this project.*

full-time: none, part-time: City of Reno - 8 positions, One Truckee River - 1 position, Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation - 8 positions

**10.) Number of volunteers involved in project and an estimated number of volunteer hours.\***

10 volunteers, 10 hours each (100 hours total)

**11.) Timeline of Project\***

*List key dates and include project milestones. Note: Be realistic in your estimate of dates and milestones. List any factors that may cause a delay in implementing and/or completing the project.*

*\*\*Note: Funding will not be provided for work performed prior to grant approval.*

Vegetation Management Work Plan (4 Year)

2025:

March/April: Grant award announced, Grant Begins

April/May: Project planning, contractor coordination [Utility Services]

July: Initial weed assessments/photo documentation [TMPF]

September: Mow or brush-cut and remove [Public Works M&O], apply broad pre-emergent herbicide [TMPF]

2026:

January: 1st multi-agency discussion regarding Alternative Vegetation Management

February: Purchase perennial plants and begin greenhouse cultivation, as needed [Parks and Rec]

April: Mow or brush-cut living plants [Public Works M&O]

May: Install educational signage? [Utility Services, Public Works]  
 June: Mow to remove dead material, apply broad post-emergent herbicide; Install basic erosion control (wattles) [Public Works M&O and TMPF]  
 October: Prepare 1st draft of Vegetation Management alternatives analysis and workplan

2027:

January: 2nd multi-agency discussion regarding Alternative Vegetation Management  
 March: Prepare 2nd draft of Vegetation Management alternatives analysis and workplan  
 April: Mow or brush-cut living plants [Public Works M&O]  
 June: Mow to remove dead material, apply broad post-emergent herbicide [Public Works M&O and TMPF]  
 June: Construct irrigation system [TMPF, Parks and Rec]  
 Late August: Revegetate with grass seed mix and perennial shrub plantings, start irrigation [TMPF]  
 Fall: Irrigation maintenance, weed pulling [TMPF, Friends of Valley Wood Park]  
 September: Spot-spray post-emergent herbicide [TMPF]  
 October: Prepare final draft of Vegetation Management alternatives analysis and workplan

2028:

May: Restart irrigation, replace dead shrubs [TMPF, Parks and Rec]  
 May: Weed pulling [Friends of Valley Wood Park]  
 June: Spot-spray post-emergent herbicide [TMPF]  
 Summer: Irrigation maintenance, weed pulling [Friends of Valley Wood Park]  
 September: Spot-spray post-emergent herbicide [TMPF]  
 October: Potentially remove irrigation system [TMPF, Parks and Rec]

2029:

April: Spot-spray post-emergent herbicide [TMPF]  
 May: Weed pulling [Friends of Valley Wood Park]  
 July: Final weed assessments/photo documentation [TMPF]  
 September: Final Reporting, Grant Ends [Utility Services]  
 October: Potentially remove irrigation [Parks and Rec]

Note: Public Outreach and Education Events will be held through the life of the project, and are TBD

## 12.) What factors will indicate a successful project?\*

A successful project will be indicated by a few factors:

- a) The effective treatment and revegetation of the project area, per the goals outlined prior in the application;
- b) Positive response and active engagement by members of the public who are concerned about the project area, or who may be helping with long-term maintenance of the adjacent areas (Friends of Valley Wood Park); and
- c) Active and positive engagement by all entities participating in the Alternative Vegetation Management Discussions
  - a. A Highly successful outcome would be the immediate implementation of workforce or policy change towards the overall program goals

### 13.) Collaboration\*

*List partnerships or collaborations with other entities in relation to your proposal, if any. Grantees are encouraged to seek other funds prior to requesting money from the Truckee River Fund. Please explain what other funding opportunities were sought and if any other funds have been awarded.*

Collaborators: City of Reno Utility Services Department (lead), City of Reno Parks and Recreation, City of Reno Maintenance and Operations, Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation, Nevada Department of Agriculture, Friends of Valley Wood Park, One Truckee River

No other funding opportunities have been sought, however, Maintenance and Operations and Parks and Recreation are willing to provide additional labor and materials to help with the initial mowing, spraying, and irrigation-related work. The total cost of this work is approximately \$15k. TMPF is willing to provide some free labor, worth \$2k, although they will be hired for greater participation.

### Grant Match

All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25 percent** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services.

For larger grant requests, priority will be given to projects that significantly leverage the grant with funding from other sources.

For grant requests for projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25 percent match requirement must be met using **cash match**.

### Total grant match to be provided.\*

*Total Match = Cash + In-Kind*

\$21,320.00

### Cash

\$3,200.00

**For the cash portion, is the funding already being held by the applicant for this project?**

Yes

### In-Kind

*\*\*Note: Provide an itemized breakdown of volunteer match in your budget with rationale.*

\$18,120.00

## Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.\*

The majority of matching funds is from City of Reno personnel and staff costs. Work activities include management and coordination, construction or maintenance oversight, and on-the-ground labor to primarily mow and spray the project area with improved practices than prior treatment. The education and outreach component will all be designed and coordinated in-house, and the Vegetation Management meetings will involve manager-level employees from several organizations. The cash match comes from M&O equipment for improved mow and spray practices, including gas, mower maintenance, replacement blades, sprayer backpack replacement, staging, etc.

## Attachments

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### Project Budget\*

*Provide detail on each line-item expenditures and show which funds are committed and which have been requested to be paid for by the Truckee River Fund grant, and which will be paid for with in-kind services. Other sources of funding should be provided. Explain status of other funding if not in hand. If project is to be implemented in phases, please separate budget into each phase. **Please contact Lauren Renda at [Irenda@nevadafund.org](mailto:Irenda@nevadafund.org) for a sample budget template, or download one here.***

#### **\*\*Notes:**

- *Indirect/overhead expenses cannot exceed 25 percent; TRF may fund indirect/overhead up to 25% based on availability of funds.*
- *Applicants should be prepared to provide reduced budgets during the review of applications by the TRF Advisory Committee when funds are limited.*
- *Grants from the Truckee River Fund are paid on a reimbursable basis for actual expenditures only. Craft your budget in such a way that requests for reimbursement correspond to the original budget.*

Budget Worksheet\_TRF Grant.pdf

### Supplemental Attachments

*Please attach any additional attachments here.*

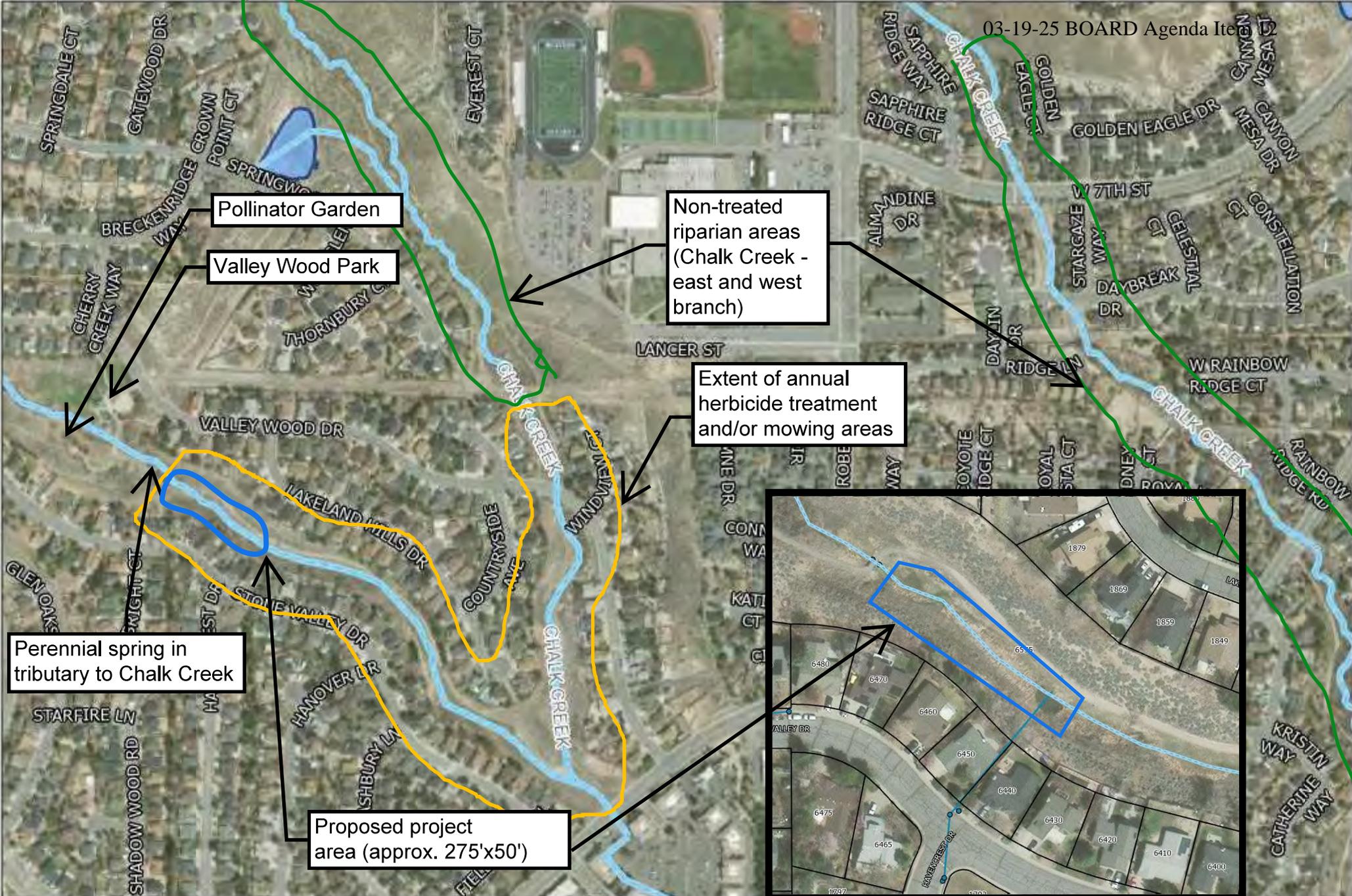
Chalk Creek Trib\_cross-section.pdf

## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- Vegetation Mgmt Project\_Area Map\_final.pdf
- Vegetation Mgmt Project\_Site Map\_final.pdf
- Budget Worksheet\_TRF Grant.pdf
- Chalk Creek Trib\_cross-section.pdf



Pollinator Garden

Valley Wood Park

Non-treated riparian areas (Chalk Creek - east and west branch)

Extent of annual herbicide treatment and/or mowing areas

Perennial spring in tributary to Chalk Creek

Proposed project area (approx. 275'x50')

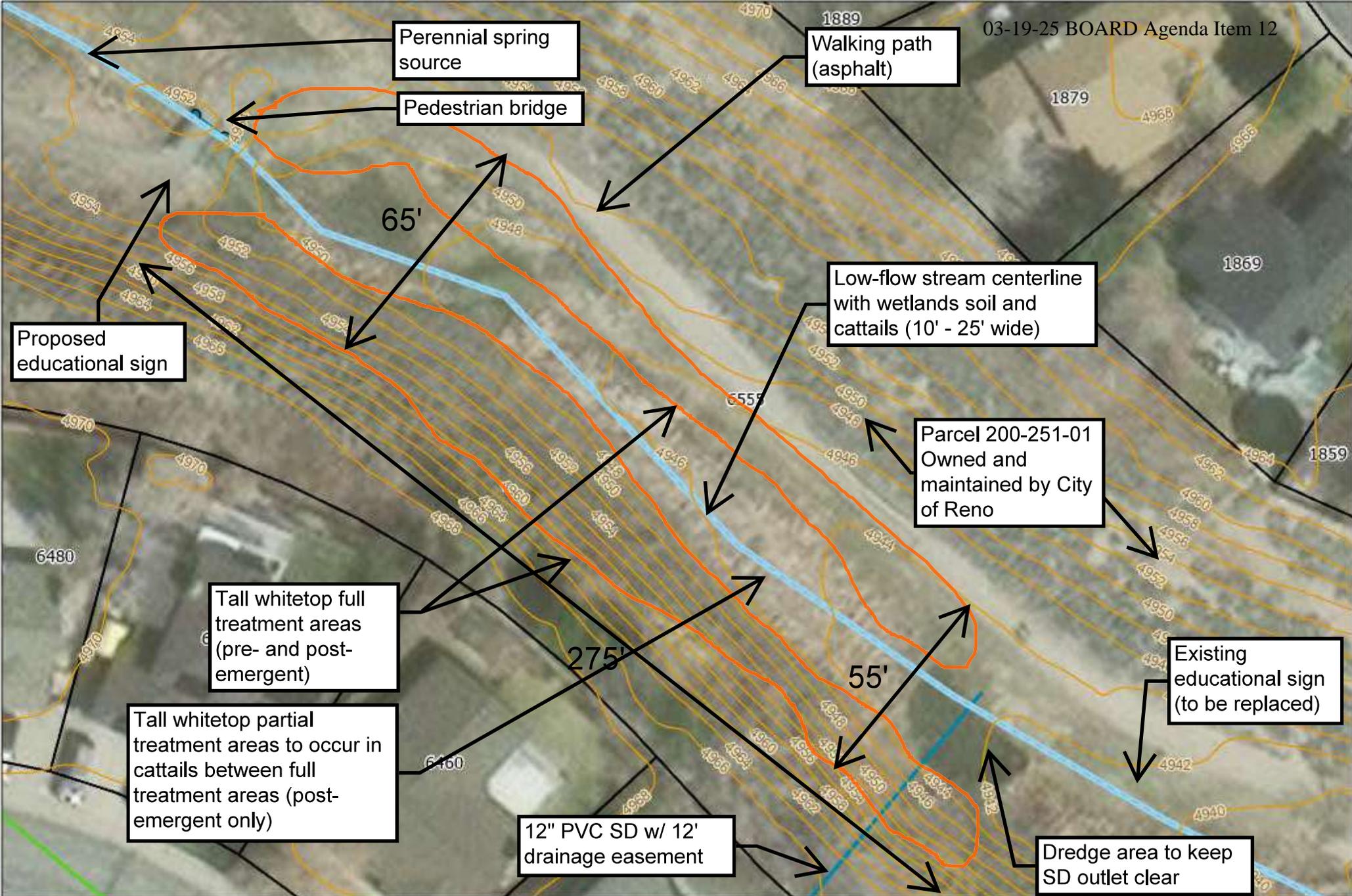


City of Reno, NV  
 Source: Public Works ArcGIS  
 Enterprise Portal  
 1/13/2025

Area Map - Vegetation Management in Tributary to Chalk Creek



Scale: 1:7,486



Proposed educational sign

Perennial spring source

Pedestrian bridge

Walking path (asphalt)

Low-flow stream centerline with wetlands soil and cattails (10' - 25' wide)

Parcel 200-251-01 Owned and maintained by City of Reno

Existing educational sign (to be replaced)

Dredge area to keep SD outlet clear

12" PVC SD w/ 12' drainage easement

Tall whitetop full treatment areas (pre- and post-emergent)

Tall whitetop partial treatment areas to occur in cattails between full treatment areas (post-emergent only)

# Site Plan - Veg Mgmt in Tributary to Chalk Creek



City of Reno, NV

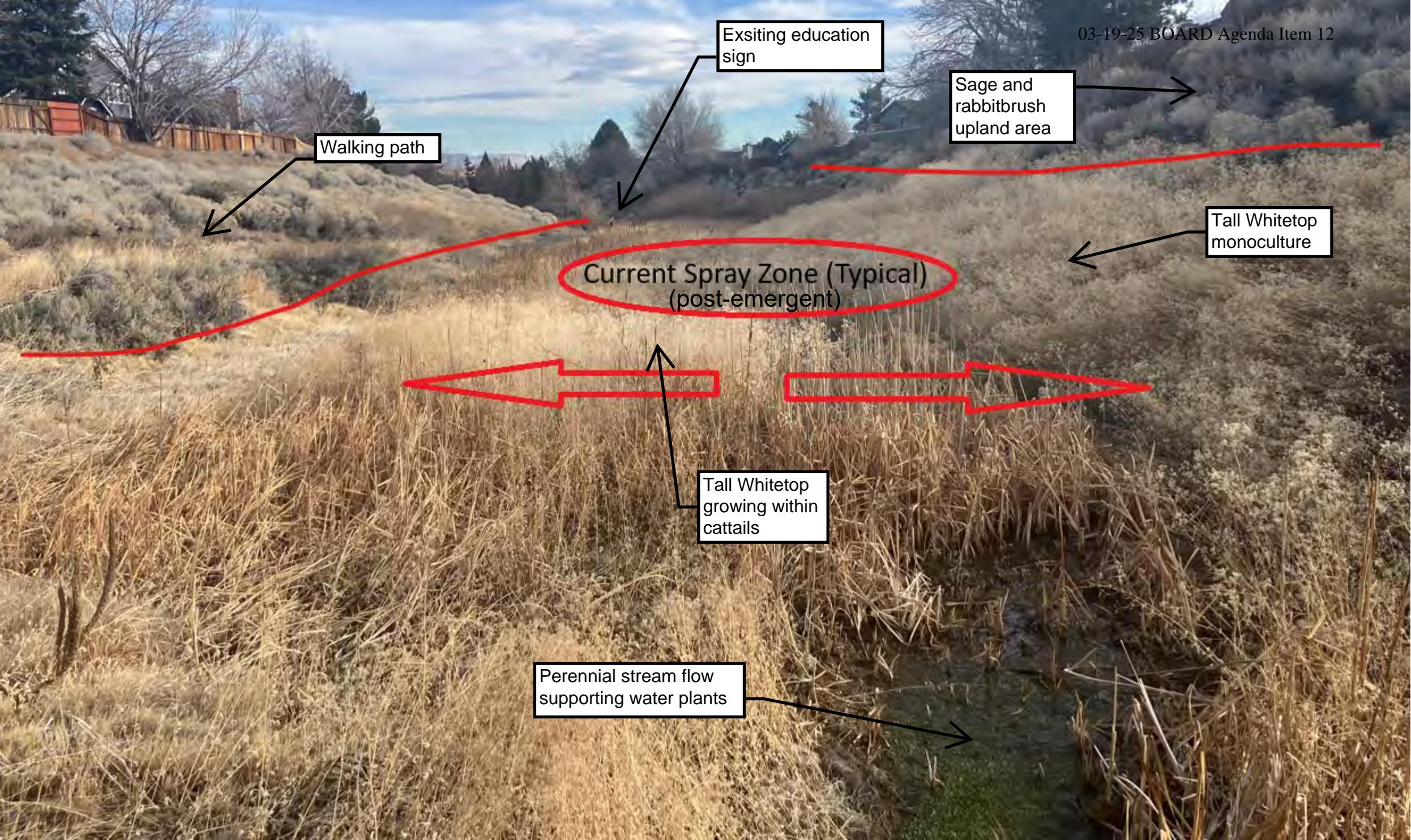
Source: Public Works GIS Enterprise Portal

1/31/2025



Scale: 1:558

City of Reno - Truckee River Fund Grant								
Vegetation Management in an Urban Tributary to Chalk Creek								
Expenditure Category	Quantity	Unit Cost (\$ USD)	TRF (\$ USD)	Other Funding Name	Match (\$ USD)	Total (\$ USD)	Expenditures to date (TRF)	Expenditures to date (other sources)
<b>DIRECT INITIATIVE EXPENSES (PROJECT BUDGET)</b>							<b>REIMBURSEMENT REPORT</b>	
<b>Personal/Staff</b>								
City of Reno Project Coordinator	80	\$ 85.00		CoR Utility Services	\$ 6,800.00	\$ 6,800.00		
City of Reno Senior Engineer	12	\$ 110.00		CoR Utility Services	\$ 1,320.00	\$ 1,320.00		
City of Reno Project Manager (Parks, M&O)	20	\$ 100.00		CoR Utility M&O	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00		
City of Reno Maintenance Technician	60	\$ 70.00		CoR Utility M&O	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,200.00		
City of Reno Irrigation Technician	20	\$ 70.00		CoR Parks and Rec	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00		
City of Reno Graphic Designer	20	\$ 80.00		CoR Comms	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00		
TMPF Project Manager	8	\$ 100.00		TMPF	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00		
TMPF Field Lead	25	\$ 40.00	\$ 1,000.00			\$ 1,000.00		
TMPF Field Technician (Americorps funded)	160	\$ 18.75	\$ 3,000.00			\$ 3,000.00		
One Truckee River Director	12	\$ 80.00	\$ 960.00			\$ 960.00		
Friends of Valley Wood Park Volunteers	100	\$ -	-	FOVWP				
			-					
Subtotal:			\$ 4,960.00		\$18,120.00	\$23,080.00	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Project Materials</b>								
Herbicide (per treatment)	8	\$ 5.00	\$ 40.00			\$ 40.00		
CoR M&O - Equipment maintenance and gas (per treatment)	4	\$ 800.00		CoR Utility M&O	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,200.00		
TMPF - Equipment maintenance and gas (per treatment)	4	\$ 600.00	\$ 2,400.00			\$ 2,400.00		
Seed mix (per lb)	2	\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00			\$ 200.00		
Hydroseeder application (per acre)	0.31	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 930.00			\$ 930.00		
Shrub plantings	20	\$ 10.00	\$ 200.00			\$ 200.00		
Irrigation System	1	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,200.00			\$ 2,200.00		
Erosion Control (straw wattle, per 25')	10	\$ 50.00	\$ 500.00			\$ 500.00		
Recommended Force Account (20% material cost)	1	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00			\$ 1,500.00		
Subtotal:			\$ 7,970.00		\$ 3,200.00	\$11,170.00	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Project Materials (Outreach/Education)</b>								
Signs (printing)	2	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00			\$ 100.00		
Sign mounts	2	\$ 420.00	\$ 840.00					
Printing of outreach material to be distributed to nearby residents and Washoe County schools	500	\$ 1.50	\$ 750.00			\$ 750.00		
Refreshments for outreach events	2	\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00			\$ 200.00		
Recommended Force Account (10% material cost)	1	\$ 250.00	\$ 300.00			\$ 300.00		
Subtotal:			\$ 2,190.00			\$ 2,190.00		
<b>TOTAL OF DIRECT EXPENSES</b>			<b>\$15,120.00</b>		<b>\$21,320.00</b>	<b>\$36,440.00</b>	\$ -	\$ -



Walking path

Exsiting education sign

Sage and rabbitbrush upland area

Tall Whitetop monoculture

Current Spray Zone (Typical)  
(post-emergent)

Tall Whitetop growing within cattails

Perennial stream flow supporting water plants

# #305 Strengthening Stewardship for the Truckee River

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*Truckee River Fund- Spring 2025*

## *City of Reno*

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Jackie Bryant  
1 E 1st Street  
Reno, NV 89501

O: 775-334-4636

## *Landon Miller*

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1 E. First Street  
Reno, NV 89501

millerl@reno.gov  
O: 775-842-8173

# Application Form

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## *Truckee River Fund Grant Priorities*

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) recommends that the Truckee River Fund (TRF) Advisory Committee (the "Committee") give preference to well-supported, clearly drafted grant requests that consider substantial benefits to TMWA customers for projects and programs that mitigate substantial threats to water quality and the watershed, particularly those threats upstream or nearby water treatment and hydroelectric plant intakes.

- **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):** Projects/Programs that support the prevention or control of aquatic invasive species in the mainstem Truckee River, Lake Tahoe, other tributaries and water bodies in the Truckee River system.
- **Watershed Improvements:** Projects that reduce erosion or sediment, suspended solids, or total dissolve solids (TDS) discharges, nutrients, industrial contaminants, or bacterial pollutants to the River. Projects or programs that are located within 303d (impaired waters) and total maximum daily load (TMDL) sections of the River should be considered, both in California and Nevada. Innovative techniques should be encouraged. The following link identifies impaired sections of the river and its tributaries: <https://mywaterway.epa.gov/>.
- **Local Stormwater Improvements:** Projects that demonstrably mitigate storm water run-off due to urbanization of the local watershed. Priority should be given to those improvement projects in close proximity to TMWA's water supply intakes and canals and which will improve the reliability and protect the quality of the community's municipal water supply.
- **Re-Forestation and Re-Vegetation Projects:** Projects to restore forest and upland areas damaged by fire and historical logging operations, and to improve watershed resiliency in drought situations. Projects/programs in this category should be given a high priority due to urbanization of the watershed and increased susceptibility of the urban and suburban watershed to wildfire.
- **Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses:** Projects to support water quality improvement in creeks and tributaries to the Truckee River.
- **Stewardship and Environmental Awareness:** Support to clean-up programs and the development and implementation of educational programs relative to water, water quality and watershed protection that do not fall clearly into the one of the above-mentioned categories.

### **Notes:**

- For proposals related to weed control/eradication, contact Lauren Renda at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada for additional criteria at [lrenda@nevadafund.org](mailto:lrenda@nevadafund.org).
- For proposals in the Lake Tahoe Basin, the Truckee River Fund (TRF) typically only funds proposals related to Priority I and VI.

## *Grantee Requirements*

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### **GRANTEE REQUIREMENTS**

To be eligible for funding, grantees must adhere to the following requirements:

- Funds are to be used and/or disbursed exclusively for the charitable uses and purposes.
- The Fund shall be used exclusively for projects that protect and enhance water quality or water resources of the Truckee River, or its watershed.

- Grantees may include 501(c)(3) organizations and governmental entities. Any grants to governmental entities must be made exclusively for public benefit purposes.
- All grantees will be required to sign a grant agreement stipulating their agreement to all applicable terms, conditions, and reporting requirements.
- Organizations or entities sponsoring proposals are prohibited from ex parte communications with members of the Committee regarding such proposals while those proposals are pending before the Committee, and such communications may be grounds for rejecting a proposal.
- All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25 percent** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services.

#### **TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION**

For each proposal submitted and recommended by the Committee the TMWA Board of Directors has absolute discretion to:

- Accept or reject any proposal;
- Accept a proposal on the condition that certain modifications be made;
- Assess proposals as they see fit, without in any way being obligated to select any proposal;
- Determine whether proposals satisfactorily meet the evaluation criteria set out in this RFP;
- Reject proposals with or without cause, whether based on the evaluation criteria set out above or otherwise.

#### **PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES**

To maintain eligibility to receive grant funds, each Charitable Beneficiary must comply at all times with the following requirements:

- Must be exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code;
- Shall use all Fund distributions toward projects that are appropriate and legal public expenditures;
- Must provide financial details and/or reports of their organizations upon request;
- Must submit quarterly reports.
- Must not use any Fund distributions for political contributions or political advocacy;
- Must either implement the projects, activities, and/or programs for which they received Fund distributions within six months of the date in which such distributions are received or by date(s) as agreed upon in the grant acceptance agreement, or must return all such distributions to the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada forthwith;
- Must provide the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada a report detailing the completion of their projects, activities, and/or programs; and
- Must sign an agreement regarding their compliance with the qualifications hereof.

## ***Project Evaluation Criteria***

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### **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Applications are evaluated according to the following criteria and in order of priority. If the grant applicant does not meet the "Grantee Requirements", the application will not be considered.

### 1. RELEVANCE OF PROPOSAL TO THE TRF PROGRAM

- Address TRF grant priorities – Does the project address at least one of the TRF grant priorities, as described at the beginning of the RFP?
- Meet multiple objectives – Does the project meet multiple grant priorities?
- Public benefit of the project – Does the project help TMWA protect its sources of drinking water?
- Benefit to TMWA customers – Is there a direct benefit to TMWA customers?
- Project location – Is the project located upstream of one of TMWA's water treatment plants?

### 2. QUALITY OF PROJECT DESIGN

- Appropriateness of selected project methods – Do the proposed project strategies make sense to address the watershed and/or water quality concern(s) outlined by the applicant?
- Thoroughness of project design – Is the project design adequately detailed to ensure the desired outcome(s)?
- Sustainability of project – Will the benefits of the project continue after the grant funds are expended?
- Project longevity – If ongoing operation & maintenance (O&M) is required to maintain benefits, is it funded?
- Consideration of existing research – Does the project consider existing research, planning efforts, or assessments related to the Truckee River watershed?

### 3. MEASURABILITY OF PROJECT SUCCESS

- Identification of project benchmarks or milestones – Has the applicant described the steps necessary to complete the project?
- Demonstrated ability to measure the results of the project – Does the project have adequate measurable outcomes to evaluate project success?
- Benefits expected from a successful project – Are there clear goals that will be obtained on project completion?
- Readiness to begin project – Is the grant applicant ready to undertake and complete the project?

### 4. EFFECTIVENESS OF ORGANIZATION

- Qualifications of applicant for the proposed project – Does the applicant have adequate experience and credentials to perform the work described in the application?
- Collaborative efforts – Are there partner organizations supporting or benefiting from the project?
- Demonstrated ability of applicant to manage and complete the project – Has the applicant successfully completed projects similar to the one proposed? If previously funded by TRF, has the applicant met performance requirements and completed projects successfully?

### 5. ADEQUACY OF PROPOSED BUDGET

- Availability and status of matching funds – Does the project provide a minimum of 25 percent match in cash and/or in-kind services? If the project is downstream of the USGS Vista gage, is the 25 percent match requirement met using cash match?
- Total project cost relative to benefits – Is the project cost reasonable given the expected project outcome(s)?

- Appropriateness of budget – Are the costs presented in the budget adequately detailed and do they seem reasonable? Is the project under the 25 percent indirect/overhead expense limit?

## ***Project Information***

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### **Project Title\***

Name of Project.

#305 Strengthening Stewardship for the Truckee River

### **Amount Requested\***

\$311,212.49

### **Project Start Date\***

07/01/2025

### **Project End Date\***

06/30/2026

### **This funding will be used to:\***

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

'Strengthening Stewardship for the Truckee River' will fill a critical gap in Truckee River protection by combining on-the-ground enforcement with long-term strategy & coordination by providing salaries and benefits for one full time River Ranger and one full time River Coordinator position. Through prevention and response, this investment will lead to cleaner water, healthier ecosystems, and stronger community engagement, directly supporting the Truckee River Fund's mission of protecting this vital resource not just in the City of Reno, but the entire watershed.

### **This project is on:\***

Check all that apply

Public land

### **Are government permits or decision documents needed for the project?\***

No

### **If so, are those permits and decision documents already secured?**

*If permits and decision documents are needed but not yet secured, in #4 of the Narrative Requirements provide a list of permits and documents needed and a schedule for securing them.*

No

## ***Organization Information***

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### **Organization Name\***

City of Reno

### **Organization Type\***

Governmental Entity

### **EIN**

If the organization is a 501c3, please include the EIN#.

88-600201

### **Director of Organization\***

Jackie Bryant

### **Project Contact Name\***

Landon Miller

### **Project Contact Postion/Title\***

Fund Development Manager

### **Project Contact Email\***

millerl@reno.gov

### **Project Contact Phone Number\***

775-842-8173

### **Organization Mission\***

Creating a community that people are proud to call home.

## ***Previous Funding from Truckee River Fund***

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### **Has your organization received other grants from the Truckee River Fund?\***

Yes

### **If yes, please include the following information for all previously funded projects:**

- *Date awarded*

- *Project # and Title*
- *Amount of award*

*Please attach additional pages as needed to list ALL previously funded projects.*

2023:

Grant 281: Lake Park Watershed Project  
\$30,832

2018:

Grant 207: Second Truckee River Cleanup Crew  
\$23,472

2017:

Grant 183: Truckee River Clean Up Crew  
\$28,694

2016:

Grant #169: Truckee River Cleanup Crew – Year 2.  
\$47,787

2015:

Grant #166: Virginia Lake Water Quality Improvements  
\$100,000

Grant #164: Cemetery Drain Water Quality, Erosion Control and Drainage Project.  
\$77,500

Grant #157: Truckee River Cleanup Crew  
\$104,235

2014:

Grant 151: Virginia Lake Water Quality Improvement Project  
\$18,820

Grant 144: Reducing Non-Point Source Pollution to TMWA's Highland Canal  
\$329,000

2013:

Grant #134: Reducing Non-Point Source Pollution to the Highland Canal  
\$400,000

Grant #120: Truckee River Bank Stabilization at Crooked Mile  
\$30,615

Grant #119: Hazardous Tree Removal at Oxbow Park  
\$32,250

2011:

Grant 83: Livestock Event Center Treatment System-Phase 2  
\$97,500

2009:

Grant 73: Livestock Events Center Drainage Treatment System

\$75,000

2008:

Grant 60: McKinley Arts and Cultural Center/ LID Demonstration Project  
\$115,500

Grant 59: Chalk Creek Watershed TDS/Sulfate Reducing Wetland Pilot Project.  
\$163,000

Grant 52: Truckee River Bank Stabilization at Oxbow Park.  
\$207,750

2007:

Grant 30: Downtown Eco-Channel Construction.  
\$370,000

Grant 29: Chalk Creek Watershed Management for Water Quality to Minimize Non-Point Source Pollution from Reaching the Truckee River.  
\$250,000

Grant 28: Restoration of Riparian Vegetation in a Channel at Sapphire Ridge in Chalk Creek Watershed.  
\$18,375

2006:

Grant #13: Urban Storm Water Quality Improvements  
\$66,000

Grant #11: Lower Steamboat Creek Restoration  
\$86,000

Grant #10: Watershed protection for the drinking water source of the Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant  
\$211,000

2005:

Grant #2: Chalk Creek TDS Loading to Truckee River Study: Possible TDS mitigation and pollution trade for TMWRF on Truckee River TDS TMDL.  
\$25,000

## Previous Funding continued

### *Narrative Requirements*

#### 1.) Specific project goals and measurable outcomes and how you will measure and report them.\*

*All projects are required to have measurable outcomes.*

Specific Goals:

This project directly supports the Truckee River Fund's goal of protecting and enhancing the Truckee River's water quality and overall health. By funding a full-time River Ranger and a Truckee River Coordinator, we will:

River Ranger:

- Enhance Watershed Health – Increase patrols by 15% to mitigate illegal dumping and pollution.
- Reduce Citizen-Initiated Service Requests – Reduce duplicative service requests by 15% through increased patrol frequencies.
- Improve Public Engagement – Increase community education interactions by 25% annually.

#### Truckee River Coordinator:

- Reduce Pollution – Lead citywide efforts to prevent illegal dumping and mitigate stormwater impacts.
- Expand Collaboration – Facilitate quarterly coordination meetings with municipal and nonprofit partners.
- Increase Community Engagement – Host 6+ community events per year, engaging at least 500 volunteers in cleanup efforts. This will increase overall river awareness through education and outreach that promote sustainable and intended river use by the community and visitors alike.

#### Measurement and Reporting:

The primary tool measure and report is a work-tracking system called 'Service Now' that collects and tracks resident and City work orders. The River Ranger will focus on on-the-ground enforcement and pollution prevention, while the Truckee River Coordinator will lead strategic planning, stakeholder collaboration, and community engagement. Additionally, the coordinator will be embedded in all river related initiatives, maintaining a pulse of progress, proactively addressing conflicts, while identifying opportunities.

Together, these roles will create a proactive, rather than reactive, approach to river conservation. Success will be tracked through key performance indicators (KPIs).

#### River Ranger KPIs:

- Volume of debris removed (tracked daily, reported monthly)
- Number of service requests & response times
- Park and river path cleanliness
- Community engagement interactions & education efforts
- Citations/warnings issued for noncompliance
- Reduction in the need for organized-encampment cleanups
- Service referrals for individuals in need

#### Truckee River Coordinator KPIs:

- Total waste/debris removed monthly
- Number of community engagement events & volunteer participation hours
- Annual reports summarizing inter-agency coordination efforts
- Water quality improvements in high-priority areas
- Flood hazard mitigation by identifying upstream risks such as logs, shrubbery, and other general debris ahead of inclement weather

#### Measurable Outcomes:

##### River Ranger:

- Increase annual debris removal to 1,000 cubic yards, with a measurable reduction in pollution.
- Increase patrols, improving prevention and response times to environmental hazards.
- Three additional patrols per day totaling 2080 annual hours
- Improve public compliance with park rules, reflected in fewer violations & illegal dumping incidents.
- Increase 'all clear' park/river patrols by 10% to 70%

##### Truckee River Coordinator:

- Remove at least 50,000 pounds of waste annually from the Truckee River.
- Host 6+ community events, engaging 500+ volunteers in conservation efforts.
- Improve river management coordination by facilitating quarterly stakeholder meetings.

## 2.) Describe the project location.\*

*Include site map and aerial photos if applicable/possible as an attachment.*

The River Ranger and Truckee River Coordinator will work throughout the entire Truckee River watershed, coordinating efforts across all municipalities, organizations, stakeholders, and businesses along the river corridor. Special emphasis will be placed on high-impact areas in the City of Reno and upstream locations that affect TMWA's water supply. River Rangers' jurisdiction to enforce Reno Municipal Code (R.M.C 8.23.035) includes all parks and public property within 350 feet of the shore of the Truckee River.

## Map/Photo attachments

## 3.) Project Description\*

The City of Reno's proposed project, Strengthening Stewardship for the Truckee River, is a dual approach—on-the-ground enforcement and strategic coordination—that ensures the Truckee River remains a healthy and accessible resource for future generations through prevention and quick response.

The first prong to our strategic approach is the City of Reno River Rangers Program. In 2023, it was created to address pollution, encampment impacts, and illegal dumping along the Truckee River. Currently, four full-time rangers patrol the corridor, but weekend gaps leave high-use periods without consistent patrol. Funding a new full-time ranger will expand patrol coverage, prevent pollution at its source, and improve public safety.

Meanwhile the second approach is the River Coordinator who will serve as the conduit in river conservation efforts, aligning City of Reno initiatives with regional agencies, nonprofits, and the community. The role will improve water quality, enhance interagency cooperation, and increase environmental awareness through direct action and public engagement.

## 4.) Grant priorities\*

*Explain how the proposed project advances the TRF's specific grant priorities.*

This project directly supports three TRF grant priorities:

### 1. Watershed Improvements:

- River Rangers: Prevent debris, pollutants, and mitigate environmental hazards along the Truckee River and its tributaries.
- River Coordinator: Lead initiatives and interagency collaboration to enhance watershed protection efforts.

### 2. Stormwater Mitigation:

- River Rangers: Address illegal dumping and pollutants before they enter the river along the watershed.
- River Coordinator: Work with municipal agencies internally and externally to improve stormwater management and erosion control.

### 3. Stewardship & Public Awareness:

- River Rangers: Engage the public through patrol interactions, education, and compliance efforts.
- River Coordinator: Organize volunteer cleanups, workshops, and community engagement programs to foster long-term river stewardship.

## 5.) Permitting\*

*Provide a permitting schedule for your project along with your plan for getting the required permits and decision documents. Be sure to include the cost of permitting/decision documents as a line item in your budget.*

No permits are required for this project.

## 6.) Future Land Use\*

*List any known or foreseeable zoning, land use, or development plans that may affect your proposed project.*

No zoning plans will impact this project.

## 7.) If future phases of the project will be needed, identify anticipated sources of funding.\*

Anticipated funding sources include continued partner funding including Washoe County, Truckee River Flood Management Authority and City of Reno.

## 8.) Identify the principals involved in leading or coordinating the project or activity.\*

The City of Reno Parks and Recreation Department will oversee the River Ranger position, while Community Relations will oversee the Truckee River Coordinator. The project will involve collaboration with:

1. Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) – Coordination on water quality initiatives.
2. Truckee River Flood Management Authority- Assist with flood mitigation and management practices
3. One Truckee River, Truckee River Watershed Council, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, Reno Sparks Indian Colony, Carson Truckee Water Conservancy District and Downtown Reno Partnership – Volunteer events, community outreach, and more.
4. Internal City of Reno Services- Clean & Safe, Utility Services, Public Works, Maintenance & Operations, Reno Police Department
5. Regional municipalities – Washoe County, City of Sparks, Storey County, and other stakeholders.
6. Applicable state and federal agencies– Compliance and regulatory alignment.

## 9.) Number of staff positions involved in project.\*

*Identify how many staff will be full-time and how many will be part-time.*

*“Fulltime” means 100% of their staff position will be dedicated to this project; “part-time” means only a portion of their staff position will be dedicated to this project.*

Two full time staff positions are being requested with this proposal. However, there are already six full time River Rangers at the City, so with these additional positions, the total would be eight.

## 10.) Number of volunteers involved in project and an estimated number of volunteer hours.\*

Volunteer participation is desired but is unknown.

## 11.) Timeline of Project\*

*List key dates and include project milestones. Note: Be realistic in your estimate of dates and milestones. List any factors that may cause a delay in implementing and/or completing the project.*

*\*\*Note: Funding will not be provided for work performed prior to grant approval.*

- Spring 2025 – Grant award notification and administrative preparations.

- May/June 2025 – Recruitment and hiring process begins.
- July 1, 2025 – Truckee River Coordinator and River Ranger positions officially start.
- Ongoing (FY 25/26) – Program implementation, data collection, and community engagement efforts.
- Annual Reporting (2026) – Year-end review to assess impacts and future funding sustainability.

## 12.) What factors will indicate a successful project?\*

A successful project will be measured by:

- Environmental Impacts: Significant reduction in pollutants, illegal dumping, and stormwater contamination.
- Expanded Coverage: Increased ranger patrols, especially on weekends, leading to more proactive interventions.
- Public Engagement: Growth in volunteer participation, compliance with park regulations, and community education efforts.
- Interagency Coordination: Improved efficiency in managing river health through strengthened collaborations with municipalities and environmental partners.

## 13.) Collaboration\*

*List partnerships or collaborations with other entities in relation to your proposal, if any. Grantees are encouraged to seek other funds prior to requesting money from the Truckee River Fund. Please explain what other funding opportunities were sought and if any other funds have been awarded.*

This project will engage the entire community through partnerships with local organizations, public agencies, and volunteers. This project builds on existing partnerships and leverages established strong regional support.

Expansion of our River Ranger program builds on a foundation of strong community and inter-agency support. While the City of Reno funds a significant portion of the program, recent contributions from other regional partners underscore the impact and excitement of the initiative.

Washoe County recently provided \$200,000 to fund a ranger position for two full years, and the Truckee River Flood Management Authority committed to provide 20% of salaries and benefits for the Ranger program up to \$200,000 annually. These investments show community recognizes the value of river rangers and the measurable results they deliver.

Meanwhile, the Truckee River Coordinator will lead collaboration between:

- City of Reno, City of Sparks, Washoe County, Storey County, Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Carson-Truckee Water Conservation District – Coordinating policy and conservation efforts.
- Nonprofits & Environmental Groups – Working with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, Reno Sparks Indian Colony, Tahoe Pyramid Tail, One Truckee River, Truckee River Watershed Council, and Nevada Land Trust.
- Local Businesses & Volunteers – Engaging community partners in cleanup events and sustainability initiatives including Green Vibe, and the University of Nevada (Center for Student Engagement, UNR GivePulse), and other service organizations.

## Grant Match

All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25 percent** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services.

For larger grant requests, priority will be given to projects that significantly leverage the grant with funding from other sources.

For grant requests for projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25 percent match requirement must be met using **cash match**.

### Total grant match to be provided.\*

*Total Match = Cash + In-Kind*

\$3,609,925.00

### Cash

\$3,609,925.00

### For the cash portion, is the funding already being held by the applicant for this project?

Yes

### In-Kind

*\*\*Note: Provide an itemized breakdown of volunteer match in your budget with rationale.*

### Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.\*

The City of Reno continues to make significant investments in river stewardship in which we believe our investments fulfil match requirements for this project.

- In FY 25 alone, the City of Reno allocated \$609,925 to support the existing River Ranger Program, demonstrating our dedication to maintaining a clean and safe river corridor.
- Additionally, the City has invested over \$3,000,000 in the Truckee River through a combination of ARPA funds, Public Works projects, Clean and Safe initiatives, trail visioning and landscape architectural services for improvements along Truckee River, and other efforts aimed at improving water quality, habitat restoration, and public access.

## Attachments

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### Project Budget\*

*Provide detail on each line-item expenditures and show which funds are committed and which have been requested to be paid for by the Truckee River Fund grant, and which will be paid for with in-kind services. Other sources of funding should be provided. Explain status of other funding if not in hand. If project is to be implemented in phases, please separate budget into each phase. **Please contact Lauren Renda at [lrenda@nevadafund.org](mailto:lrenda@nevadafund.org) for a sample budget template, or download one here.***

#### **\*\*Notes:**

- *Indirect/overhead expenses cannot exceed 25 percent; TRF may fund indirect/overhead up to 25% based on availability of funds.*
- *Applicants should be prepared to provide reduced budgets during the review of applications by the TRF Advisory Committee when funds are limited.*
- *Grants from the Truckee River Fund are paid on a reimbursable basis for actual expenditures only. Craft your budget in such a way that requests for reimbursement correspond to the original budget.*

TMWA River Grant Budget.pdf

### Supplemental Attachments

*Please attach any additional attachments here.*

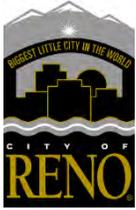
TMWA City of Reno Additional Attachments.pdf

## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- TMWA River Grant Budget.pdf
- TMWA City of Reno Additional Attachments.pdf



CITY OF RENO  
Strengthening Stewardship of the Truckee River  
Sample Budget

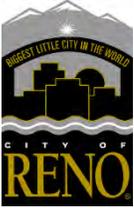
The City of Reno continues to make significant investments in river stewardship in which we believe our investments fulfil match requirements for this project.

- In FY 25 alone, the City of Reno allocated **\$609,925** to support the existing River Ranger Program, demonstrating our dedication to maintaining a clean and safe river corridor.
- Additionally, the City has invested over **\$3,000,000** in the Truckee River through a combination of ARPA funds, Public Works projects, Clean and Safe initiatives, trail visioning and landscape architectural services for improvements along Truckee River, and other efforts aimed at improving water quality, habitat restoration, and public access.

Additional support and cost breakdowns for each position, including expected salary and benefits, are included as attachments in this application. They are:

- Coordinator TWMA Grant Budget FY26
- Ranger TWMA Grant Budget FY26

Budget Item Description	\$/unit	Quantity	Quantity Type	TRF Funding	Other Funders	Match	Total Cost
<b>Salaries and Wages</b>							
River Ranger Salary	\$34.22/hr	2080	Hours		\$317,000	\$609,925.00	\$71,117.60
River Coordinator Salary	\$55.29/hr	2080	Hours				\$115,003.20
Fringe Benefits Ranger	47,666.48/yr	1					\$47,66.48
Fringe Benefits River Coordinator	66,552.73/yr	1					\$66,552.73
Full-Time Employees	2	4160	Hours				
Volunteers	0	0					
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>							<b>311.212.49</b>
Indirect Costs/Overhead (≤25% of budget)	X						
<b>Total Project Costs</b>							



CITY OF RENO  
Strengthening Stewardship of the Truckee River  
Project Summary

The Truckee River is more than a scenic landmark; it's the heart of our region, supplying our drinking water, supporting wildlife, and providing a space for recreation. Yet, it faces constant threats of pollution, illegal dumping, habitat degradation, and more. Without a coordinated effort to protect it, these issues will only worsen.

That's why the City of Reno seeks funding to establish a full-time Truckee River Coordinator and an additional River Ranger position to enhance stewardship, water quality, and environmental protection along the Truckee River. River Ranger salary and benefits are projected at \$119,930, while a Truckee River Coordinator position is \$181,056.

River Rangers already play a pivotal role in safeguarding the Truckee River watershed by preventing debris from entering the river system, removing illegal dumping, and engaging the community in conservation efforts. Between August and December 2024, rangers removed over 400 cubic yards of debris, but limited weekend staffing left a critical gap, with only 0.5 yards removed on weekends. Funding a full-time ranger will augment support and support positive and intended use of the Truckee River 7 days a week.

- Increase Patrol Frequency – Patrols act as prevention and timely response. Increased ranger patrols can prevent pollution, mitigate encampment impacts, and ensure timely debris removal.
- Strengthen Environmental Stewardship – Protect water quality by reducing pollutants before they reach the river, including monitoring feeder creeks and tributaries.
- Improve Public Engagement – Educate park visitors, enforce regulations, and connect individuals experiencing homelessness with services.

Meanwhile, the Truckee River Coordinator will be a versatile position to elevate citywide efforts and maximize resources. This role will play a crucial role in supporting TMWA, City of Reno, and regional priorities by facilitating projects, fostering collaboration internally and with external partners, ensuring implementation, and general quality and timeliness control. Additionally, the position would further the goals of mitigating threats to water quality and the watershed with a focus on organizing communities around improving water quality. The scope of work and influence includes, but is not limited to the following:

Maintain and assist with citywide Truckee River initiatives oversight, ensuring alignment with long-term plans and of all partners.

- Collaboration with municipal agencies, nonprofits, businesses, and the community, ensuring long-term sustainability and effective river management.
- Establish partnerships with businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies to increase community involvement in river stewardship, including but not limited to the City of Sparks, Washoe County, Storey County, Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Carson-Truckee Water Conservancy District, One Truckee River, Reno-Sparks, Indian Colony, Tahoe Pyramid Trail, among others.
- Engage in policy discussions and coordination related to water quality and watershed protection.
- Align internal resources to maximize resources and mitigate negative river impacts.
- Reduce Pollution and Debris – Lead cleanups, track waste removal, and improve stormwater management.
- Increase Interagency Collaboration – Align efforts between the City of Reno, City of Sparks, Washoe County, TMWA, and other key stakeholders.

Expand Public Engagement – Organize educational programs, volunteer cleanups, and stewardship initiatives to foster community involvement.

Both positions align with TMWA's strategic goals, ensuring the Truckee River remains a clean, safe, and sustainable water source for the entire region.

**Attachment 1: River Ranger Match**

**City of Reno**

**Park Ranger Program Budget - FY25 Rangers program**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost per Ranger</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Total</b>
Regular Salaries	\$71,166.00	4	\$284,664.00
Retirement (PERS)	\$23,841.00	4	\$95,364.00
Group Medical Insurance	\$16,500.00	4	\$66,000.00
Group Life Insurance	\$192.00	4	\$768.00
Medicare Contribution	\$1,032.00	4	\$4,128.00
Long Term Disability	\$242.00	4	\$220.00
Deffered Compensation	\$3,558.00	4	\$14,232.00
Radios and initial safety gear outfitting	\$4,500.00	3	\$13,500.00
Trucks and Outfitting	\$35,000.00	3	\$105,000.00
MV Rent	\$7,704.00	3	\$23,112.00
Badges	\$574.00	3	\$1,722.00
DoIT Startup Costs	\$68.00	3	\$204.00
Cell Phone	\$337.00	3	\$1,011.00
	<b>\$164,714.00</b>		<b>\$609,925.00</b>

**Salary and Benefits Total**

Salary and Benefits Total	\$465,376.00
TRFMA 20% S&B Contribution	\$93,075.20

**Attachment 2: River Coordinator Salary and Benefits FY 26**

PROJECT BUDGET													
Please complete the project budget to the best of your knowledge. Personnel costs will be calculated based on the inputs including match and Fire/Police PERS rate. For non-personnel match please use the respective Match column in each year it will be recognized. If match is a percentage the worksheet will calculate automatically, you do not need to enter both match percentage and match dollar amount. Fields that are gray should not have manual inputs. Notes can be entered at the end of the form													
<b>Department:</b>				Parks and Recreation									
<b>Sponsoring Agency:</b>				Truckee Meadows Water Authority									
<b>Name of Proposed Project:</b>				Strengthening Truckee River Stewardship									
<b>Project Period: (Month/Year)</b>				<b>From:</b>		Jul-25		<b>To:</b>		Jun-26			
<b>Submission Date:</b>													
<b>Match Requirement</b>				<b>Percentage:</b>		25%		<b>Dollar Amt:</b>		311,212			
For personnel budget please enter position title, rate FTE, and choose Bargaining unit from the drop down menu. If the position is being utilized for match please enter x in the corresponding field. O/T field should be populated with overtime hours being requested. For Temporary employees please use the last two rows in the personnel section, enter hours that will be worked by temp employees in the FTE column.				Budget Year 1		Budget Year 2		Budget Year 3					
				(multi-year requests only)									
<b>Position Title:</b>		<b>Bargaining</b>	<b>Match</b>	<b>Pay Rate</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>O/T</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Match</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Match</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Match</b>	
River Coordinator		771 - Mid-Management		\$55.05	1								
		TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES ONLY											
<b>Personnel</b>													
Salaries				114,504.00		-		-		-		-	
Temporary Salaries				-		-		-		-		-	
Overtime				-		-		-		-		-	
Other Pays				-		-		-		-		-	
Retirement				42,080.22		-		-		-		-	
Group insurance				16,500.00		-		-		-		-	
Life insurance				371.00		-		-		-		-	
Medicare				1,660.31		-		-		-		-	
Long Term Disability				216.00		-		-		-		-	
Deferred Comp				5,725.20		-		-		-		-	
VEBA/OPEB				-		-		-		-		-	
Sick Leave Allowance				-		-		-		-		-	
Uniform Allowance				-		-		-		-		-	
Total Benefits				66,552.73		-		-		-		-	
<b>Sub-Total Personnel</b>				<b>181,056.73</b>		-		-		-		-	
<b>Services &amp; Supplies</b>													
Supplies				337.00		-		-		-		-	
Supplies to be tracked				-		-		-		-		-	
Travel/Training				-		-		-		-		-	
<i>Consultants/Contracts (List Individually)</i>				-		-		-		-		-	
				-		-		-		-		-	
				-		-		-		-		-	
				-		-		-		-		-	
Miscellaneous				-		-		-		-		-	
<i>Equipment (List individually)</i>				-		-		-		-		-	
Cellphone				-		-		-		-		-	
				-		-		-		-		-	
<b>Sub-Total Services &amp; Supplies</b>				<b>337.00</b>		-		-		-		-	
<i>Capital Projects (List individually)</i>				-		-		-		-		-	
				-		-		-		-		-	
<b>Sub-Total Capital Projects</b>				-		-		-		-		-	
Indirect				-		-		-		-		-	
<b>Annual Totals</b>				<b>181,393.73</b>		-		-		-		-	
<b>Total Project Request (w/o match)</b>				<b>181,393.73</b>		-		-		-		-	
Match Requirement				45,348.43		-		-		-		-	
<i>Other Match (List below)</i>				-		-		-		-		-	
				-		-		-		-		-	
				-		-		-		-		-	

**Attachment 3: River Ranger Salary and Benefits FY 26**

**PROJECT BUDGET**

Please complete the project budget to the best of your knowledge. Personnel costs will be calculated based on the inputs including match and Fire/Police PERS rate. For non-personnel match please use the respective Match column in each year it will be recognized. If match is a percentage the worksheet will calculate automatically, you do not need to enter both match percentage and match dollar amount. Fields that are gray should not have manual inputs. Notes can be entered at the end of the form

<b>Department:</b>						Parks and Recreation						
<b>Sponsoring Agency:</b>						Truckee Meadows Water Authority						
<b>Name of Proposed Project:</b>						Strengthening Truckee River Stewardship						
<b>Project Period: (Month/Year)</b>						From:	Jul-25	To:	Jun-26			
<b>Submission Date:</b>												
<b>Match Requirement</b>						<b>Percentage:</b>	25%	<b>Dollar Amt:</b>	311,212			
<i>For personnel budget please enter position title, rate FTE, and choose Bargaining unit from the drop down menu. If the position is being utilized for match please enter x in the corresponding field. O/T field should be populated with overtime hours being requested. For Temporary employees please use the last two rows in the personnel section, enter hours that will be worked by temp employees in the FTE column.</i>						<b>Budget Year 1</b>		<b>Budget Year 2</b>		<b>Budget Year 3</b>		
												<b>(multi-year requests only)</b>
<b>Position Title:</b>	<b>Bargaining</b>	<b>Match</b>	<b>Pay Rate</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>O/T</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Match</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Match</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Match</b>	
River Ranger	330 - Local 39 Non-Supervisory		\$34.22	1	20							
	TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES ONLY											
<b>Personnel</b>												
Salaries						71,177.60	-	-	-	-	-	
Temporary Salaries						-	-	-	-	-	-	
Overtime						1,086.49	-	-	-	-	-	
Other Pays						-	-	-	-	-	-	
Retirement						26,157.77	-	-	-	-	-	
Group insurance						16,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	
Life insurance						231.00	-	-	-	-	-	
Medicare						1,047.83	-	-	-	-	-	
Long Term Disability						171.00	-	-	-	-	-	
Deferred Comp						3,558.88	-	-	-	-	-	
VEBA/OPEB						-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sick Leave Allowance						-	-	-	-	-	-	
Uniform Allowance						-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Benefits						47,666.48	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Sub-Total Personnel</b>						<b>119,930.56</b>	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Services &amp; Supplies</b>												
Supplies						4,500.00						
Supplies to be tracked												
Travel/Training												
Consultants/Contracts (List Individually)												
Miscellaneous												
Equipment (List individually)												
Cellphone												
<b>Sub-Total Services &amp; Supplies</b>						<b>4,500.00</b>	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Capital Projects (List individually)</b>												
<b>Sub-Total Capital Projects</b>						-	-	-	-	-	-	
Indirect												
<b>Annual Totals</b>						<b>124,430.56</b>	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total Project Request (w/o match)</b>						<b>124,430.56</b>						
Match Requirement						31,107.64						
Other Match (List below)												

**Attachment 4: River Coordinator Job Description****Truckee River Coordinator**

<b>Department:</b>	City Manager's Office	<b>Level:</b>	Journey
<b>Division:</b>	Community Relations	<b>Job Series:</b>	
<b>FLSA:</b>	Non-Exempt	<b>Reports To:</b>	Manager
<b>Bargaining Unit:</b>	Mid-Management	<b>EEO-4 Code:</b>	EEO4-Professionals
<b>Salary Grade:</b>	B30	<b>Job Class Code:</b>	XXXX

**SUMMARY:** Under general direction, the Truckee River Coordinator will perform a variety of professional level duties in support of the City's river initiatives and external community relations initiatives, including managing and enhancing the health, public access, and community engagement around the river; ensuring activities elevate community engagement through organizing events, building partnerships, and facilitating community input; coordinates assigned activities with other divisions/departments, outside agencies, and the general public; manages and monitors program initiatives; and provides highly responsible and complex administrative support to management.

**Distinguishing Characteristics:** The Truckee River Coordinator assumes responsibility for the management and administration of program/project initiatives; recommends action and assists in policy, procedure, work methods, and budget development and implementation for area of assignment. Incumbents at this level independently perform difficult and complex duties. The work performs a full range of responsible and varied professional, analytical, financial, systems, statistical, programmatic, project management, and other administrative analyses duties

**Supervision Received and Exercised:** Work is performed under general direction. Supervision may be exercised over subordinate technical and clerical personnel. Primarily and most frequently the work is performed independently. Work may be reviewed upon completion to ensure alignment with City goals.

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:** -- *Essential functions, as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act, may include any of the following representative duties, knowledge, and skills. This is not a comprehensive listing of all functions and duties performed by incumbents of this class; employees may be assigned duties which are not listed below; reasonable accommodations will be made as required. The job description does not constitute an employment agreement and is subject to change at any time by the employer. Essential duties and responsibilities may include, but are not limited to, the following:*

Ensure citywide alignment and collaboration on all river-related initiatives to optimize efforts across departments connected to this resource including watershed resiliency, vegetation, hazard mitigation, water quality, pollution prevention, etc.

Serve as a bridge between diverse groups with interests in the river, including regional partners on non-profits, including but not limited to the City of Sparks, Washoe County, Storey County, Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Carson-Truckee Water Conservancy District, One Truckee River, the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Tahoe Pyramid Trail, among others, and help advance City priorities associated with the Truckee River.

Cultivate strong relationships with local stakeholders including residents, schools, private businesses, and property owners; and actively promote policies that support river health, its vibrancy and the development of community river stewards and public-private partnerships.

Perform professional-level duties in support of the City's community relations initiatives, including revitalization and water quality efforts, parks and recreation ranger and river programs, and public safety.

Educate the public about river health and resources, organize volunteer events, build partnerships with local organizations, and facilitate community input on parks and river management plans; develop and maintain positive relationships with city staff, constituents, and community leaders.

Identifying funding opportunities, writing grant proposals, and managing project budgets to support river initiatives; monitors assigned programs and projects and serves as the primary contact; develops process for the program management and monitoring recommendations and findings.

Resolve the more difficult operational and administration problems; identify problem areas and issues; plan, organize, coordinate, direct, and/or conduct administrative and/or management studies relating to the activities or operation of the assigned department, office, or program area; and conduct complex surveys, research, and analysis on administrative, fiscal, and operational issues.

Maintain knowledge river related ordinances, rules, agreements, and regulations, including, but not limited to the Martis Creek Agreement, Reno/Sparks/Washoe ordinances, and easement agreements.

Determine analytical techniques and information-gathering processes and obtain required information and data for analysis; analyze alternatives and make recommendations regarding such areas as staffing, facilities, equipment, cost analysis, productivity, and policy or procedure modifications; discuss findings with management staff and prepare reports of study conclusions; oversee and assist in the implementation of recommendations.

Prepares and present staff reports to the City Council and other commissions; related to assigned area; participates in various issues related to the City's community relations initiatives and parks and recreation ranger and river programs.

Maintain records concerning operations and programs; prepare reports on operations and activities. Gather and analyze statistical data and information and evaluate options for resolution.

Attends and participates in professional group meetings; keeps informed of new trends and innovations related to assigned area; identify opportunities for improving service delivery methods and procedures; identify resource needs; and review with appropriate management staff; implement improvements.

Promote the proper use of City facilities in compliance with applicable ordinances, rules, and regulations; provide information to the public on City programs, facilities, and points of interest.

Perform other duties as assigned.

#### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

*Combinations of education and experience that are equivalent to the following minimum qualifications are acceptable.*

#### **Education:**

Bachelor's degree in business administration, public administration, environmental sciences, recreation administration, or a related field.

#### **Experience:**

Four (4) years of experience in recreation administration, program management, community relations, or similar.

#### **Required Licenses or Certifications:**

- Must possess a valid driver's license or otherwise demonstrate the ability to independently get to and from multiple work locations as required.

#### **COMPETENCIES**

*These are reflective of the KSAs an individual would possess at the full-functioning level.*

#### Knowledge of:

- Knowledge of federal, state, and local laws, codes, and regulations related to assigned area.
- Regulations and processes for development, planning and implementation community, parks, and river programs.
- Methods, characteristics, services, and activities of assigned area.
- Principles and practices of public administration and community/recreation programs.
- Understanding of the philosophies, principles, practices and techniques assigned area.
- Knowledge of parks and river management strategies.
- Understanding and ability to implement general principles and practices.
- General knowledge of public policy processes at the local level.
- Municipal government functions specifically related to the program area.
- Basic principles and practices of community engagement.
- Basic principles and practices of program development and administration.
- Principles and practices of community outreach.

- Techniques and practices of organizing and coordinating programs, activities, and events.
- Office procedures, methods, and equipment including computers.
- Principles and procedures of record keeping.
- Principles and practices of customer service.
- Office procedures, methods, and equipment.
- Use of computers and applicable software applications such as Microsoft Office Suite.
- English usage, spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

Ability to:

- Develop and analyze community, parks, and river programs, identify solutions, project consequences of proposed actions and implement through related programs.
- Create and manage stewardship programs.
- Conduct file reviews and file audits to determine compliance of federal and local regulations.
- Coordinate and participate in the operations of assigned programs.
- Foster community engagement and development.
- Partner with other City departments to educate residents and address updates or concerns related to program.
- Understand the organization and operation of the City and of outside agencies as necessary to assume assigned responsibilities.
- Attend and present at meetings.
- Exercise independent judgement and personal initiative.
- Understand, interpret, and apply administrative and departmental policies and procedures as well as pertinent laws, regulations, and ordinances.
- Participate in the development and administration of goals, objectives and procedures.
- Select, train, and evaluate assigned staff.
- Collect, evaluate and interpret varied information, data, and reports.
- Understand, interpret, and apply general and specific administrative and departmental policies and procedures as well as applicable Reno Municipal Code, property maintenance codes, federal, state, and local policies, laws, and regulations.
- Respond to and resolve difficult, sensitive, or complex complaints from citizens.
- Effectively represent the City to outside individuals and agencies to accomplish the goals and objectives of the unit.
- Work cooperatively with other departments, City officials, and outside agencies.
- Respond tactfully, clearly, concisely, and appropriately to inquiries from the public, City staff, or other agencies on sensitive issues in area of responsibility.
- Operate office equipment including computers and supporting word processing, spreadsheet, and database applications.
- Maintain accurate and detailed records of plans and specifications.
- Provide effective and efficient customer service.
- Prepare clear and concise reports and presentations as needed
- Participate in the preparation and administration of assigned budgets.
- Work in a team-based environment to achieve common goals.
- Coordinate multiple projects and complex tasks simultaneously.
- Meet the physical requirements to safely and effectively perform the assigned duties.
- Communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.
- Effectively perform work in an in-office or telecommuting environment.
- Demonstrate reliable and consistent attendance.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.
- Research, analyze, and formulate recommendations, work plans, and activities regarding initiatives.
- Establish and maintain various data collection, record keeping, tracking, filing, and reporting systems.
- Identify and respond to community and organizational issues, concerns, and needs.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with community partners.

**Physical Demands and Working Environment:**

- Work is performed in both indoor and outdoor environments; travel from site to site; occasional exposure to outside weather conditions; extensive public contact.
- Primary functions require sufficient physical ability and mobility to work in an indoor and outdoor setting; to walk, stand, or sit for prolonged periods of time; to occasionally stoop, bend, kneel, crouch, reach, and twist; to lift, carry, push, and/or pull light to moderate amounts of weight; to operate assigned vehicles; to operate office

equipment requiring repetitive hand movement and fine coordination including use of a computer keyboard; and to verbally communicate to exchange information.

**Attachment 5: River Ranger Job Description****River Ranger**

<b>Department:</b>	Parks and Recreation	<b>Level:</b>	
<b>Division:</b>		<b>Job Series:</b>	
<b>FLSA:</b>	Non-Exempt	<b>Reports To:</b>	Director
<b>Bargaining Unit:</b>	Local 39	<b>EEO-4 Code:</b>	EEO4-Professionals
<b>Salary Grade:</b>	XXX	<b>Job Class Code:</b>	XXXX

SALARY \$62,545.60 - \$88,046.40 Annually LOCATION City of Reno, NV

JOB TYPE Full-Time Regular

JOB NUMBER 955923

DEPARTMENT Parks and Recreation

OPENING DATE xxx

CLOSING DATE xxx

**Description:**

Join the City of Reno and become part of an amazing team who strives every day to make our community a place we are all proud to call home. The ideal candidate in this position will patrol park and recreation areas and enforces rules and regulations governing the use of City parks and facilities. They will identify and prohibit the violation of applicable City ordinances. They will promote public safety and provide customer service, information, and interpretive services to park users and the general public. We currently have one vacancy in the Parks and Recreation Department in which hiring will begin immediately following the close of this recruitment. This recruitment will also establish a list for future vacancies, which will be filled as they occur.

This is both an internal and external recruitment to provide a promotional opportunity for all qualified current classified City of Reno employees and an open competitive opportunity for all other qualified applicants.

The City of Reno is committed to providing equal employment opportunities to everyone. This commitment is an integral part of our efforts to ensure that we have a diverse and representative workforce that serves the community of Reno.

**Examples of Essential Functions:**

- Patrol park and recreation areas and enforce rules and regulations governing the use of City parks and facilities;
- promote public safety and maintain a safe and secure environment.
- Promote the proper use of City facilities in compliance with applicable ordinances, rules, and regulations; provide information to the public on City programs, facilities, and points of interest.
- Enforce compliance with City ordinances through education, issuing citations or parking tickets as needed; notify appropriate law enforcement personnel when potentially dangerous situations arise.
- Prepare detailed and accurate reports on incidents and medical emergencies; prepare daily activity logs and maintain records and files; catalog and book found, lost, or stolen property and evidence.
- Provide assistance to various other City operations and governmental agencies including animal control, County schools, and wildlife organizations.
- Provide educational programs and special events to the public and youth including informational presentations on parks safety and recreational outings.
- Provide information and interpretive services to park users and the general public; perform research necessary to

- develop factual and interesting interpretive programs for patrons.
- Monitor cleanliness of parks and assigned areas; pick up trash and debris; empty trash cans; prevent or abate graffiti
- and report major vandalism or safety hazards to appropriate maintenance staff.
- Assist in the recruitment and hiring of part-time parks program staff; oversee, lead, and train part-time staff; assist and
- lead the work of maintenance staff in the absence of their immediate supervisor.
- Perform related duties as required.

**Minimum Qualifications:**

The following minimum qualifications are required to be met at the time of application.

*Combinations of relevant work experience and education that are equivalent to the following are acceptable.\**

**Education:**

- Equivalent to the completion of the twelfth grade supplemented by specialized training in the protection of parks or public
- recreation areas.

**Work Experience:**

- Two years experience in the protection of a park or public recreation area.
- \*One year of college level course work (30 semester/45 quarter credits) in Forestry, Criminal Justice, Public Land
- Management or related field to the position may be substituted for one year of the required relevant work experience for
- up to a maximum of two years.

License or Certificate:

Valid driver's license.

Possession of CPR/first aid certificate within six months of hire.

**\*\*Bilingual candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.\*\***

# #306 Independence Watershed Aquatic Organism Passage Project

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*Truckee River Fund- Spring 2025*

## ***Truckee River Watershed Council***

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Michele Prestowitz  
PO Box 8568  
Truckee, CA 96162

O: 530-550-8760

## ***Tiffanee Hutton***

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PO Box 8568  
Truckee, CA 96162

thutton@truckeeriverwc.org  
O: 224-522-1522

# Application Form

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## *Truckee River Fund Grant Priorities*

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) recommends that the Truckee River Fund (TRF) Advisory Committee (the "Committee") give preference to well-supported, clearly drafted grant requests that consider substantial benefits to TMWA customers for projects and programs that mitigate substantial threats to water quality and the watershed, particularly those threats upstream or nearby water treatment and hydroelectric plant intakes.

- **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):** Projects/Programs that support the prevention or control of aquatic invasive species in the mainstem Truckee River, Lake Tahoe, other tributaries and water bodies in the Truckee River system.
- **Watershed Improvements:** Projects that reduce erosion or sediment, suspended solids, or total dissolve solids (TDS) discharges, nutrients, industrial contaminants, or bacterial pollutants to the River. Projects or programs that are located within 303d (impaired waters) and total maximum daily load (TMDL) sections of the River should be considered, both in California and Nevada. Innovative techniques should be encouraged. The following link identifies impaired sections of the river and its tributaries: <https://mywaterway.epa.gov/>.
- **Local Stormwater Improvements:** Projects that demonstrably mitigate storm water run-off due to urbanization of the local watershed. Priority should be given to those improvement projects in close proximity to TMWA's water supply intakes and canals and which will improve the reliability and protect the quality of the community's municipal water supply.
- **Re-Forestation and Re-Vegetation Projects:** Projects to restore forest and upland areas damaged by fire and historical logging operations, and to improve watershed resiliency in drought situations. Projects/programs in this category should be given a high priority due to urbanization of the watershed and increased susceptibility of the urban and suburban watershed to wildfire.
- **Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses:** Projects to support water quality improvement in creeks and tributaries to the Truckee River.
- **Stewardship and Environmental Awareness:** Support to clean-up programs and the development and implementation of educational programs relative to water, water quality and watershed protection that do not fall clearly into the one of the above-mentioned categories.

### **Notes:**

- For proposals related to weed control/eradication, contact Lauren Renda at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada for additional criteria at [lrenda@nevadafund.org](mailto:lrenda@nevadafund.org).
- For proposals in the Lake Tahoe Basin, the Truckee River Fund (TRF) typically only funds proposals related to Priority I and VI.

## *Grantee Requirements*

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### **GRANTEE REQUIREMENTS**

To be eligible for funding, grantees must adhere to the following requirements:

- Funds are to be used and/or disbursed exclusively for the charitable uses and purposes.
- The Fund shall be used exclusively for projects that protect and enhance water quality or water resources of the Truckee River, or its watershed.

- Grantees may include 501(c)(3) organizations and governmental entities. Any grants to governmental entities must be made exclusively for public benefit purposes.
- All grantees will be required to sign a grant agreement stipulating their agreement to all applicable terms, conditions, and reporting requirements.
- Organizations or entities sponsoring proposals are prohibited from ex parte communications with members of the Committee regarding such proposals while those proposals are pending before the Committee, and such communications may be grounds for rejecting a proposal.
- All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25 percent** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services.

#### **TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION**

For each proposal submitted and recommended by the Committee the TMWA Board of Directors has absolute discretion to:

- Accept or reject any proposal;
- Accept a proposal on the condition that certain modifications be made;
- Assess proposals as they see fit, without in any way being obligated to select any proposal;
- Determine whether proposals satisfactorily meet the evaluation criteria set out in this RFP;
- Reject proposals with or without cause, whether based on the evaluation criteria set out above or otherwise.

#### **PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES**

To maintain eligibility to receive grant funds, each Charitable Beneficiary must comply at all times with the following requirements:

- Must be exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code;
- Shall use all Fund distributions toward projects that are appropriate and legal public expenditures;
- Must provide financial details and/or reports of their organizations upon request;
- Must submit quarterly reports.
- Must not use any Fund distributions for political contributions or political advocacy;
- Must either implement the projects, activities, and/or programs for which they received Fund distributions within six months of the date in which such distributions are received or by date(s) as agreed upon in the grant acceptance agreement, or must return all such distributions to the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada forthwith;
- Must provide the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada a report detailing the completion of their projects, activities, and/or programs; and
- Must sign an agreement regarding their compliance with the qualifications hereof.

## ***Project Evaluation Criteria***

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### **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Applications are evaluated according to the following criteria and in order of priority. If the grant applicant does not meet the "Grantee Requirements", the application will not be considered.

### 1. RELEVANCE OF PROPOSAL TO THE TRF PROGRAM

- Address TRF grant priorities – Does the project address at least one of the TRF grant priorities, as described at the beginning of the RFP?
- Meet multiple objectives – Does the project meet multiple grant priorities?
- Public benefit of the project – Does the project help TMWA protect its sources of drinking water?
- Benefit to TMWA customers – Is there a direct benefit to TMWA customers?
- Project location – Is the project located upstream of one of TMWA's water treatment plants?

### 2. QUALITY OF PROJECT DESIGN

- Appropriateness of selected project methods – Do the proposed project strategies make sense to address the watershed and/or water quality concern(s) outlined by the applicant?
- Thoroughness of project design – Is the project design adequately detailed to ensure the desired outcome(s)?
- Sustainability of project – Will the benefits of the project continue after the grant funds are expended?
- Project longevity – If ongoing operation & maintenance (O&M) is required to maintain benefits, is it funded?
- Consideration of existing research – Does the project consider existing research, planning efforts, or assessments related to the Truckee River watershed?

### 3. MEASURABILITY OF PROJECT SUCCESS

- Identification of project benchmarks or milestones – Has the applicant described the steps necessary to complete the project?
- Demonstrated ability to measure the results of the project – Does the project have adequate measurable outcomes to evaluate project success?
- Benefits expected from a successful project – Are there clear goals that will be obtained on project completion?
- Readiness to begin project – Is the grant applicant ready to undertake and complete the project?

### 4. EFFECTIVENESS OF ORGANIZATION

- Qualifications of applicant for the proposed project – Does the applicant have adequate experience and credentials to perform the work described in the application?
- Collaborative efforts – Are there partner organizations supporting or benefiting from the project?
- Demonstrated ability of applicant to manage and complete the project – Has the applicant successfully completed projects similar to the one proposed? If previously funded by TRF, has the applicant met performance requirements and completed projects successfully?

### 5. ADEQUACY OF PROPOSED BUDGET

- Availability and status of matching funds – Does the project provide a minimum of 25 percent match in cash and/or in-kind services? If the project is downstream of the USGS Vista gage, is the 25 percent match requirement met using cash match?
- Total project cost relative to benefits – Is the project cost reasonable given the expected project outcome(s)?

- Appropriateness of budget – Are the costs presented in the budget adequately detailed and do they seem reasonable? Is the project under the 25 percent indirect/overhead expense limit?

## *Project Information*

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### **Project Title\***

Name of Project.

#306 Independence Watershed Aquatic Organism Passage Project

### **Amount Requested\***

\$175,341.04

### **Project Start Date\***

03/03/2025

### **Project End Date\***

01/09/2026

### **This funding will be used to:\***

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

This request is to fill a critical funding gap to complete phase 2 of designs and update the technical surveys to advance the Independence Watershed Aquatic Organism Passage Project (Independence AOP).

### **This project is on:\***

Check all that apply

Public land

### **Are government permits or decision documents needed for the project?\***

Yes

### **If so, are those permits and decision documents already secured?**

*If permits and decision documents are needed but not yet secured, in #4 of the Narrative Requirements provide a list of permits and documents needed and a schedule for securing them.*

No

## *Organization Information*

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### **Organization Name\***

Truckee River Watershed Council

### **Organization Type\***

501(c)(3) Nonprofit

### **EIN**

If the organization is a 501c3, please include the EIN#.

91-1818748

### **Director of Organization\***

Michele Prestowitz

### **Project Contact Name\***

Tiffanee Hutton

### **Project Contact Postion/Title\***

Project Director

### **Project Contact Email\***

thutton@truckeeriverwc.org

### **Project Contact Phone Number\***

224-522-1522

### **Organization Mission\***

The Truckee River Watershed Council's (TRWC) mission is to bring the community "Together for the Truckee" to protect, enhance and restore the Truckee River watershed. We have been systematically and strategically reversing damage and restoring resilience to forests, meadows, and streams for 28 years. The Truckee River region is threatened and impaired (polluted) by excessive sediment as determined by the State of California and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. We can trace this to 150 years of mining, grazing, logging, rail, and highway expansion. And now we also face uncertainties with the effects of climate change.

Because of the work we do, water in the Truckee River watershed is cleaner, fish and bird populations have started to stabilize, meadows are wetter longer into the season, and forest stands are more resilient. Our primary work is in three areas: Projects, People, and Policy.

Projects - We restore degraded meadows, streams, and forests. We spearhead large-scale restoration projects to reverse historic land use impacts to 1) increase forest, meadow, and stream resiliency, and 2) increase our

community's ability to mitigate risks from fire, flood, and drought. Each year, our projects restore hundreds of acres of forest, meadow and wetland and miles of stream.

People - We work with landowners, individuals, and businesses. Volunteers help us implement our work.

Policy - We advocate for beneficial in-stream flows in our rivers and streams.

## *Previous Funding from Truckee River Fund*

---

**Has your organization received other grants from the Truckee River Fund?\***

Yes

**If yes, please include the following information for all previously funded projects:**

- *Date awarded*
- *Project # and Title*
- *Amount of award*

*Please attach additional pages as needed to list ALL previously funded projects.*

File Attached

### **Previous Funding continued**

TRF\_Previous Funding 2006 - 2024.pdf

## *Narrative Requirements*

---

### **1.) Specific project goals and measurable outcomes and how you will measure and report them.\***

*All projects are required to have measurable outcomes.*

The goals of the Independence Watershed Aquatic Organisms Passage Project (Independence AOP) are to improve water quality and habitat in the Truckee River headwaters. The project will install an aquatic organism passage that will prevent an estimated 18,000 vehicles from driving through an unnamed creek in the Independence sub-watershed on an annual basis. The project will address excessive sedimentation and improve aquatic habitat.

This funding request is to fill a critical funding gap to complete phase 2 of designs and update the technical surveys. Project success will be achieved by the acceptance of the design plan by project partners at Sierra County and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and commitment of cost-share contributions to complete CEQA and NEPA.

Ultimately, the measurable outcomes for the project are:

- Reduce sedimentation from vehicle crossings and improve water quality

- Improve aquatic habitat for federally and state listed endangered species Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and Lahontan Cutthroat Trout
- Reduce excessive erosion in support of attainment of the Truckee River Sediment Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL; Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, 2008)

Performance Outcome Measures. The design planset will build off the concept designs (30%) and complete 60% designs.

## 2.) Describe the project location.\*

*Include site map and aerial photos if applicable/possible as an attachment.*

The project is located within the Independence Watershed in Sierra County, approximately 14 miles north of the Town of Truckee. Specifically, it is located on an unnamed creek just upstream of the confluence with Independence Creek, which flows into the Little Truckee River and thence the Truckee River. The project crosses Independence Lake Road, a Sierra County-managed roadway, and is surrounded by land managed by the Tahoe National Forest's Sierraville District.

## Map/Photo attachments

Proejct Maps.pdf

## 3.) Project Description\*

Proejct Photos\_2024.pdf

The Independence AOP Project addresses a longstanding issue at a low-water crossing over an unnamed creek, located just upstream of Independence Creek within the Independence Watershed. This road serves as the primary access route to Independence Lake, supporting a diverse range of users, including recreationalists, private property owners, The Nature Conservancy staff, USFS employees, and logging companies conducting timber and fuels management operations. The unnamed creek is a perennial, spring-fed stream with high seasonal runoff, carrying woody debris and significant sediment loads exacerbated by vehicle traffic. TRWC worked closely with Sierra County and the USFS to develop an AOP restoration project to address the degradation.

Concerns:

1. **Sediment Intrusion:** Vehicle traffic through the stream channel creates visible sediment plumes that degrade water quality and impact downstream habitats. To better understand road usage, two game cameras were installed (Att. Figure 4), revealing that approximately 18,000 vehicles cross this creek during the drivable season (April – October), significantly higher than estimated (3,500 vehicles/annually).
2. **Aquatic Habitat:** The creek supports a known population of Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, a federally and state-listed endangered species with detections downstream of the crossing. This species has experienced up to 90% habitat loss. Additionally, just below the confluence with Independence Creek, the area provides critical spawning habitat for the Lahontan cutthroat trout, another federally and state-listed species.

Proposed Project Improvements:

The project aims to improve water quality and protect critical downstream habitats by installing an Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) structure. The proposed structure will be constructed on a new road alignment approximately 35 feet downstream of the existing low-water crossing. The design proposes two options:

- A three-span bridge, cast-in-place reinforced concrete slab structure, supported by concrete pier walls and spread footing foundations.

- Three steel multi-plate arch culverts to provide hydraulic clearance for a 50-year storm event and capacity to pass a 100-year storm event.

Previous work completed in 2016 included preliminary geotechnical reports, hydraulic study and scour analysis to inform concept designs. Technical studies will be updated in order to advance to 60% designs.

By installing a structure over unnamed creek, this project will enhance habitat protection, water quality, and roadway functionality for all users.

#### 4.) Grant priorities\*

*Explain how the proposed project advances the TRF's specific grant priorities.*

##### Watershed Improvements.

Once fully implemented, the project will decrease sedimentation and support attainment of the 303(d) listed TMDL pollutant to Truckee River. Restoration will enhance watershed function and aquatic habitat by reducing erosion and restoring sensitive ecosystems.

##### Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses.

The project will restore a degraded stretch of roadway that directly connects to a key tributary known to contribute sediment to the Truckee River. Currently, the absence of a proper crossing, coupled with heavy vehicle traffic, generates significant sediment plumes, leading to ongoing erosion, increased sediment loads, elevated turbidity, higher water temperatures, and reduced dissolved oxygen levels. The proposed improvements will address these issues, mitigating further water quality and aquatic habitat degradation.

This project will improve watershed function and reduce sediment transfer to Independence Creek and the Little Truckee River, as well as to the main stem of the Truckee River. These efforts will result in measurable water quality benefits, including decreased erosion and a substantial reduction in sediment transfer, improving the ecological health of the watershed.

##### Stewardship and Environmental Awareness

The project will include outreach to community members through newsletters, email updates and project site tours. Outreach will be designed to increase understanding and importance of stream and habitat restoration and improvements to water quality through reduction of sediments and other pollutants within the watershed. Specific tasks of the program include leading project site tours, producing interpretive signage, and publishing articles in our on-line and print newsletters. Volunteers will also support the project on TRWC's annual Truckee River Day.

#### 5.) Permitting\*

*Provide a permitting schedule for your project along with your plan for getting the required permits and decision documents. Be sure to include the cost of permitting/decision documents as a line item in your budget.*

The CEQA lead for this project is Sierra County and was initiated in 2016. A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) will be completed after all surveys and analysis are updated and is anticipated in 2026.

Permits required are a county grading permit; no other permits are anticipated. The grading permit from Sierra County will be authorized in 2026 before construction.

## 6.) Future Land Use\*

*List any known or foreseeable zoning, land use, or development plans that may affect your proposed project.*

The Tahoe National Forest owns and manages the land adjacent to the road, and Sierra County owns and maintains the unpaved dirt road. The surrounding area is maintained for purposes of conservation and public recreational access. Improvement made to the project site will be managed and maintained in accordance with the standards established by Sierra County. There are no foreseeable zoning, land use, or development plans that may affect the proposed project.

## 7.) If future phases of the project will be needed, identify anticipated sources of funding.\*

Future phases of the project include completing CEQA and NEPA, 100% designs, and restoration implementation. Project partners at Sierra County and USFS have committed to cost-share contributions necessary to complete CEQA and NEPA surveys and documentation. TRWC will continue to pursue funding to complete 100% designs and implementation of an aquatic organism passage structure over unnamed creek. Potential funding sources include the California Department of Fish & Wildlife, Wildlife Conservation Board, private foundations and donors of TRWC.

## 8.) Identify the principals involved in leading or coordinating the project or activity.\*

Tiffanee Hutton, Project Director with TRWC, will lead and oversee project management for planning and permitting, designs, outreach, and implementation. Michele Prestowitz, Executive Director, will provide additional support and oversight as needed. These principals will handle grant administration tasks jointly.

Sierra County hired MGE Engineering to develop the most effective and efficient solutions to complete designs in the Independence AOP project. MGE was selected through a competitive bid process and has extensive experience with similar projects.

## 9.) Number of staff positions involved in project.\*

*Identify how many staff will be full-time and how many will be part-time.*

*“Fulltime” means 100% of their staff position will be dedicated to this project; “part-time” means only a portion of their staff position will be dedicated to this project.*

(Part-time) Tiffanee Hutton (TRWC) and Michele Prestowitz (TRWC) will dedicate a portion of their time to this project. Consultants and contractor staff will also dedicate a portion of their time to this project.

## 10.) Number of volunteers involved in project and an estimated number of volunteer hours.\*

Because this is a planning project, there are no opportunities for volunteers.

## 11.) Timeline of Project\*

*List key dates and include project milestones. Note: Be realistic in your estimate of dates and milestones. List any factors that may cause a delay in implementing and/or completing the project.*

*\*\*Note: Funding will not be provided for work performed prior to grant approval.*

The project timeline is below and includes completed project tasks as well as proposed work.

**Completed Work (Other funding):**

Independence AOP Inventory and Surveys: August 2016  
 Independence AOP Geotechnical Surveys: August 2016  
 Independence Type Selection Report: August 2016  
 Independence AOP concept designs (30%): January 2025

**Proposed Work:**

Hydraulic study and Modeling: August 2025  
 Control Surveying and Engineering: August 2025  
 Independence AOP 60% Designs: December 2025  
 CEQA & NEPA surveys and analysis: December 2025

**12.) What factors will indicate a successful project?\***

Project success will be achieved by the acceptance of the 60% design plans by all project partners and their commitment to providing cost-share contributions necessary to complete CEQA and NEPA surveys and documentation.

**13.) Collaboration\***

*List partnerships or collaborations with other entities in relation to your proposal, if any. Grantees are encouraged to seek other funds prior to requesting money from the Truckee River Fund. Please explain what other funding opportunities were sought and if any other funds have been awarded.*

This project is a collaboration between TRWC, USFS, and Sierra County.

**Grant Match**

All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25 percent** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services.

For larger grant requests, priority will be given to projects that significantly leverage the grant with funding from other sources.

For grant requests for projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25 percent match requirement must be met using **cash match**.

**Total grant match to be provided.\***

*Total Match = Cash + In-Kind*

\$258,035.00

**Cash**

\$198,035.00

## For the cash portion, is the funding already being held by the applicant for this project?

Yes

### In-Kind

**\*\*Note:** Provide an itemized breakdown of volunteer match in your budget with rationale.

\$60,000.00

### Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.\*

The matching funds are from the Martis Fund for \$198,035.00. These funds are allocated for personnel services, project planning and designs. TRWC will manage all funds provided by the Martis Fund and the Truckee River Fund to ensure maximum project efficiency and cost effectiveness.

Forest Service and Sierra County staff will be completing all specialist surveys required for environmental compliance (NEPA & CEQA). The Forest Service will complete NEPA and Sierra County will complete CEQA. No TRF funds are requested for these components.

## Attachments

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### Project Budget\*

*Provide detail on each line-item expenditures and show which funds are committed and which have been requested to be paid for by the Truckee River Fund grant, and which will be paid for with in-kind services. Other sources of funding should be provided. Explain status of other funding if not in hand. If project is to be implemented in phases, please separate budget into each phase. **Please contact Lauren Renda at [Irenda@nevadafund.org](mailto:Irenda@nevadafund.org) for a sample budget template, or download one here.***

#### **\*\*Notes:**

- *Indirect/overhead expenses cannot exceed 25 percent; TRF may fund indirect/overhead up to 25% based on availability of funds.*
- *Applicants should be prepared to provide reduced budgets during the review of applications by the TRF Advisory Committee when funds are limited.*
- *Grants from the Truckee River Fund are paid on a reimbursable basis for actual expenditures only. Craft your budget in such a way that requests for reimbursement correspond to the original budget.*

Independence AOP Budget.docx

### Supplemental Attachments

*Please attach any additional attachments here.*

## File Attachment Summary

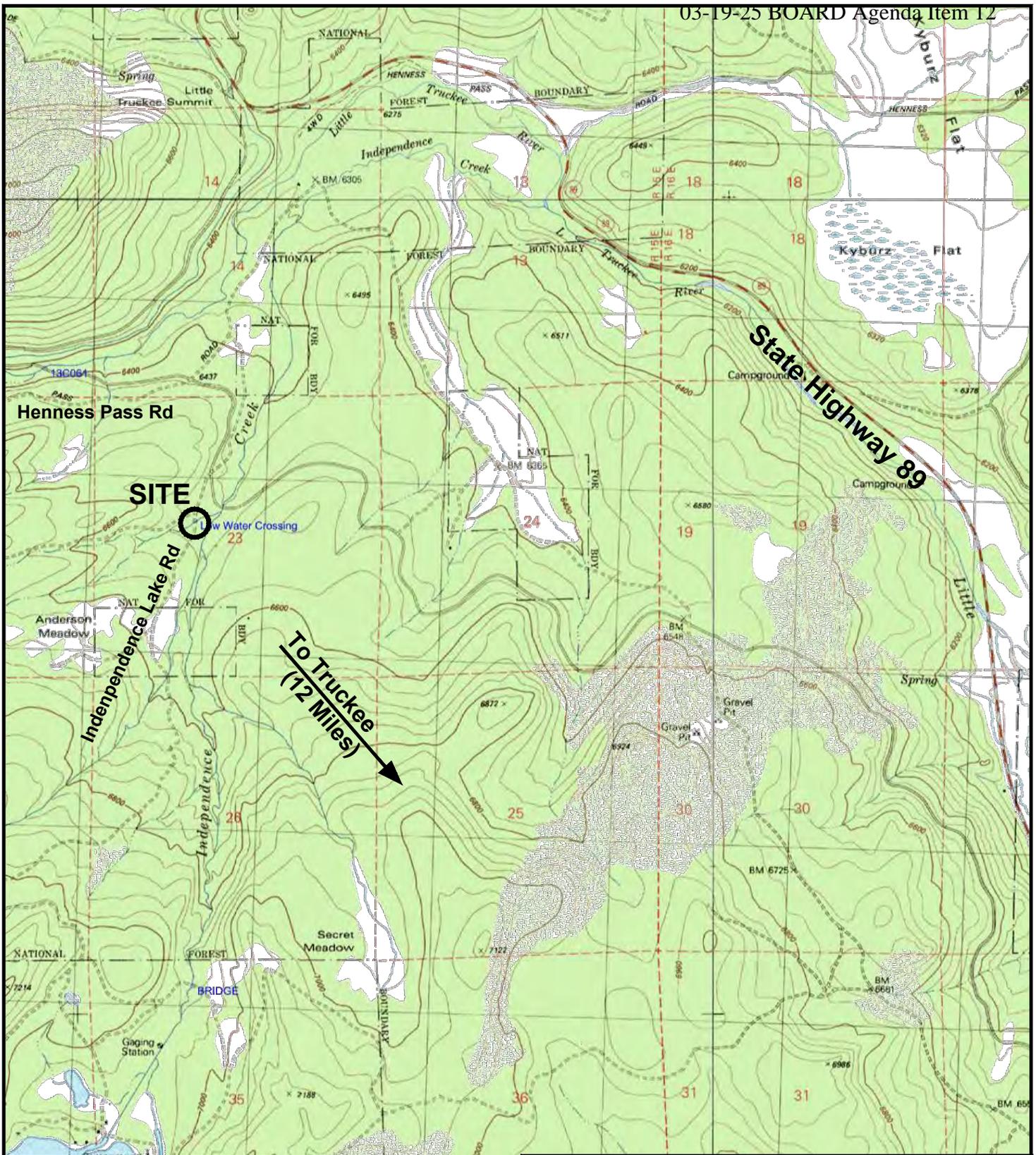
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### *Applicant File Uploads*

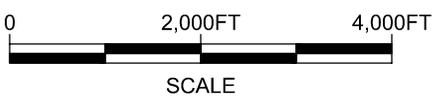
- TRF\_Previous Funding 2006 - 2024.pdf
- Proejct Maps.pdf
- Proejct Photos\_2024.pdf
- Independence AOP Budget.docx

**Previous Funding from Truckee River Fund**

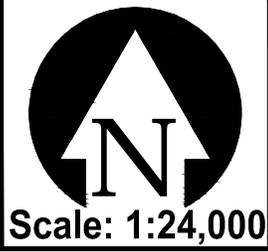
<b>Date awarded</b>	<b>Project #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Amount</b>
July 2006		Storm Drain Stenciling Pilot Project	\$ 9,300
August 2010	75	Truckee wetlands Restoration Project - Phase 2	\$ 40,000
October 2010	76	Coldstream Canyon Floodplain Restoration Project	\$ 135,000
March 2012	100	Johnson Canyon Restoration	\$ 25,000
March 2012	105	Lacey Creek and Meadow Assessment	\$ 50,000
August 2012	107	Phase 2 Coldstream Canyon Floodplain Restoration	\$ 196,000
March 2013	118	Middle Martis Wetland Restoration – planning and design	\$ 120,000
March 2013	122	Truckee River Big Chief Corridor – Implementation	\$ 11,000
October 2013	128	Truckee River Big Chief Corridor – Restoration	\$ 150,000
March 2014	142	Truckee Wetlands Restoration – Phase 3,4, & 5 – Design	\$ 50,000
September 2014	148	Donner Lake Watershed Assessment	\$ 70,000
October 2015	160	Johnson Canyon West #1	\$ 25,000
April 2016	171	Johnson Canyon West #2	\$ 67,000
September 2016	177	Donner Creek Bank Stabilization Downstream of Railroad Culvert Final Design	\$ 92,000
September 2016	178	Donner Creek Concept Designs	\$ 40,000
March 2017	189	Big Chief: F4M Restoration Culvert Outflows	\$ 50,000
October 2017	192	Truckee River Tributaries Sediment Reduction Project	\$ 165,000
March 2018	200	Truckee Meadows Restoration Project – Phase 2 Construction	\$ 30,000
October 2018	209	Restoration Projects: Donner Creek and Dry Creek Meadow	\$ 92,000
October 2018	210	Truckee River Water Quality Monitoring Program	\$ 25,000
March 2019	216	Mclver Dairy Meadow Restoration Project	\$ 161,000
September 2020	241	Restoration for Coldstream Canyon	\$ 86,500
March 2021	246	Bear Creek Lower Meadow Restoration Project – Phase 2 Construction	\$ 51,250
September 2021	257	Prosser Basin Sediment Reduction Plan	\$ 44,000
March 2022	259	Donner Creek Confluence and Boca Unit Restoration	\$ 55,700
September 2022	264	Lower Hoke Meadow and State of Donner Lake	\$ 206,000
March 2023	272	Coldstream Canyon – Cold Creek Streambank Stabilization	\$ 119,400
April 2024	284	South Euer Valley Road Improvement Project	\$ 151,081.48



To Truckee  
(12 Miles)

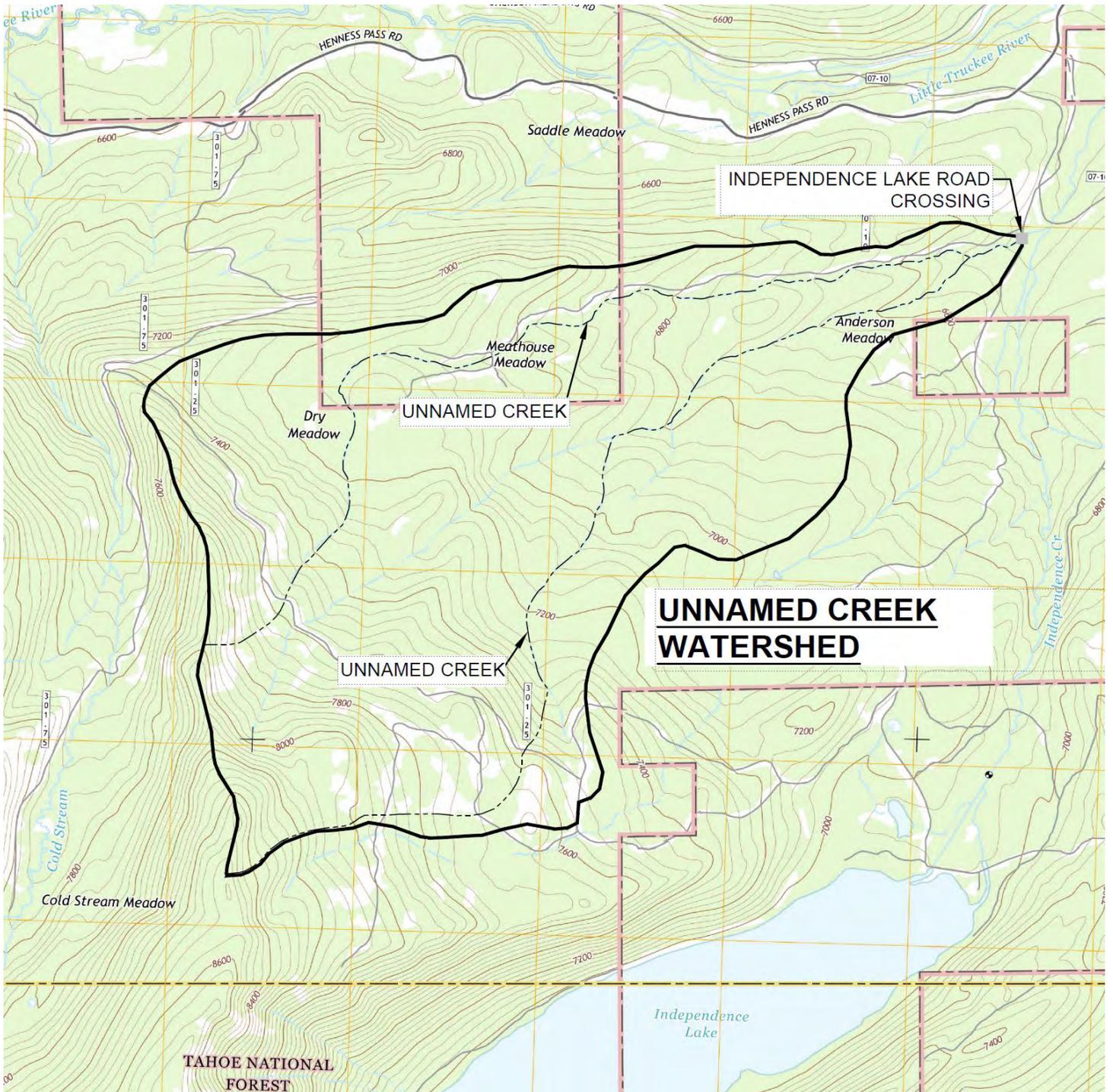


**Taber** Taber Consultants  
Engineers and Geologists  
3911 West Capitol Avenue  
West Sacramento, CA 95691-2116  
(916) 371-1690 Fax (916) 371-7265  
Since 1954



**USGS**  
"INDEPENDENCE LAKE" CA  
QUADRANGLE 7.5 MINUTE  
SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC),  
DATE 1981  
VERTICAL DATUM 1929

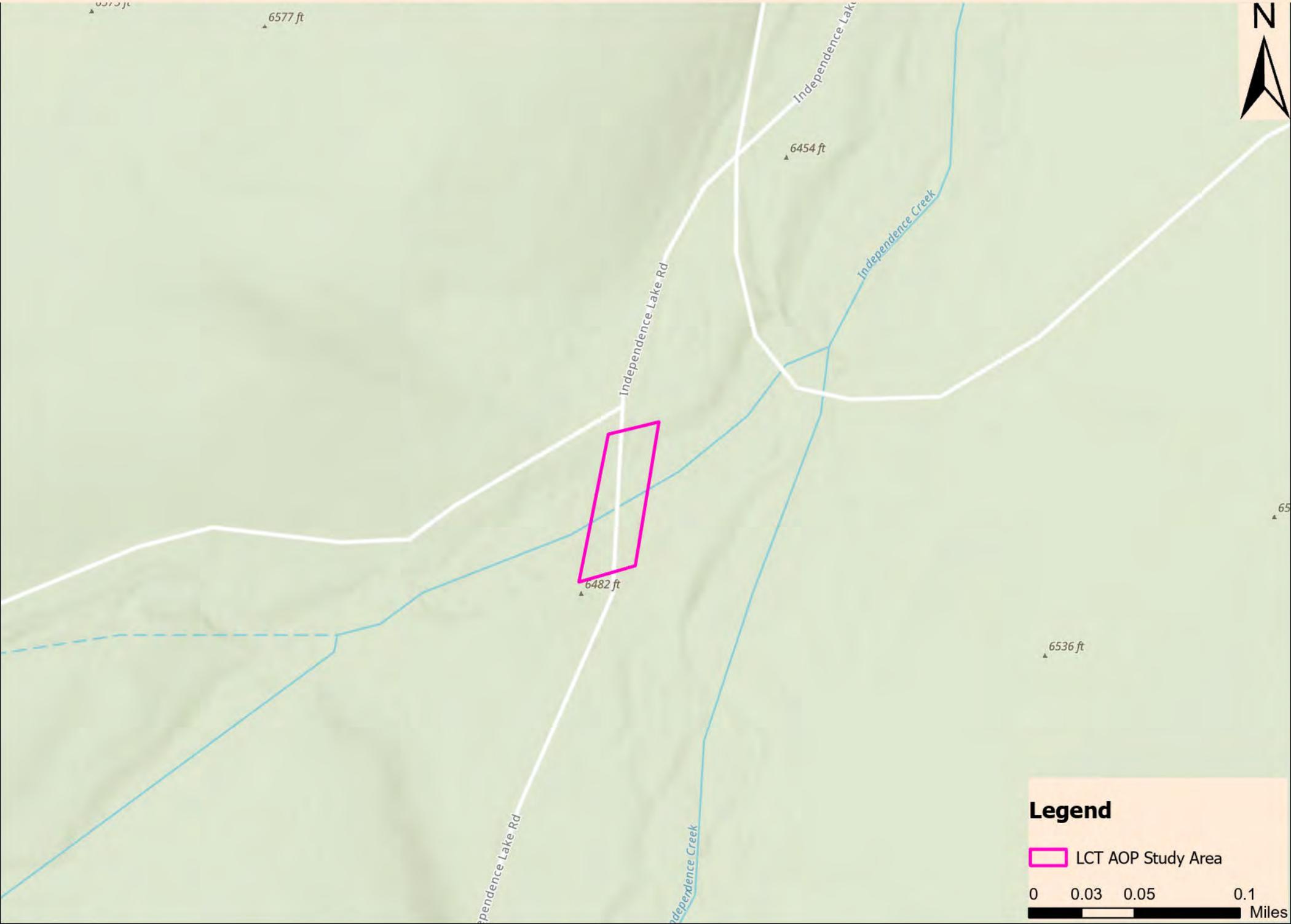
**MGE Engineering, Inc.**  
New Bridge at Independence Lake Road Low Water Crossing  
Sierra County, California  
**Vicinity Map**  
2014-0112 Figure - 1



## Independence Watershed Aquatic Organism Passage Project

# LCT Aquatic Organism Restoration - Project Location

03/19/2015 HOARD Agenda Item 12

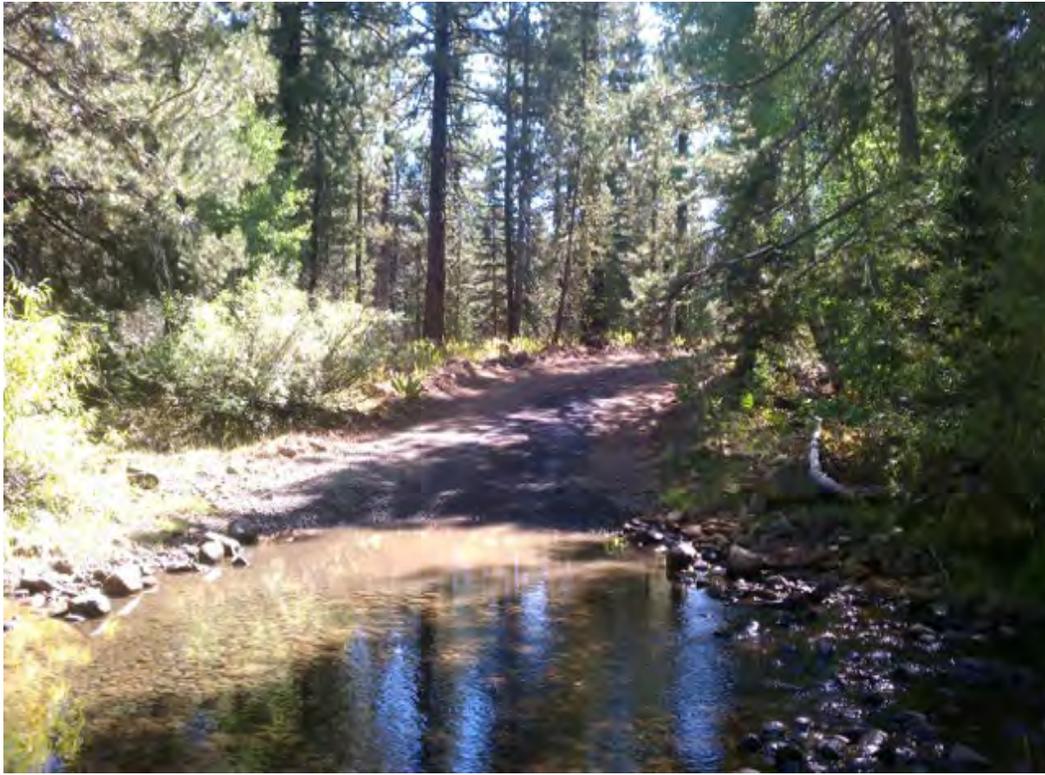


## Legend

 LCT AOP Study Area

0 0.03 0.05 0.1 Miles

**Independence Watershed Aquatic Organism Passage Project Photos**



*Figure 1: Independence Lake Rd South Aspect (June 2024)*



*Figure 2: Independence Lake Rd South Aspect (August 2024)*



Figure 3: Independence Lake Rd (downstream aspect)



Figure 4: Camera trap data (September 2024)

Budget Item Description	\$/unit	Quantity	Quantity Type	TRF Funding	Other Funders	Match	Total Cost
<b>Salaries and Wages</b>							
Project Management (includes Executive Director and Project Director)	Varies per staff position			\$5,200.00	Martis Fund	\$22,000.00	\$27,200.00
Forest Service Staff –Specialist Surveys & NEPA	Varies per staff position				In-Kind Cost Share	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00
Sierra County CEQA	Varies per staff position				In-Kind Cost Share	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
<b>Operating Costs</b>							
Mileage	\$0.70	336	Per mile	\$235.20			\$235.20
<b>Subcontractors</b>							
Design Engineering	\$333,595.00	1	Lump Sum	\$167,460.00	Martis Fund	\$166,135.00	\$333,595.00
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>							
Indirect Costs/Overhead (≤25% of budget)				2,445.84	Martis Fund	\$9,900.00	\$12,240.00
<b>Total Project Costs</b>				<b>\$175,341.04</b>		<b>\$258,035.00</b>	<b>\$433,376.04</b>

\*\*Note: The match funding described in the budget table is related to phase 1 & phase 2 planning only.

## #307 Rosewood Nature Study Area: Unique and Interactive Interpretive Signage Fabrication

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*Truckee River Fund- Spring 2025*

### ***Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation***

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Heidi Anderson  
50 Cowan Drive  
Reno, NV 89509

O: 775-410-1702

### ***Heidi Anderson***

---

50 Cowan Drive  
Reno, NV 89509

info@tmparksfoundation.org  
O: 775-453-0278

# Application Form

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## *Truckee River Fund Grant Priorities*

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) recommends that the Truckee River Fund (TRF) Advisory Committee (the "Committee") give preference to well-supported, clearly drafted grant requests that consider substantial benefits to TMWA customers for projects and programs that mitigate substantial threats to water quality and the watershed, particularly those threats upstream or nearby water treatment and hydroelectric plant intakes.

- **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):** Projects/Programs that support the prevention or control of aquatic invasive species in the mainstem Truckee River, Lake Tahoe, other tributaries and water bodies in the Truckee River system.
- **Watershed Improvements:** Projects that reduce erosion or sediment, suspended solids, or total dissolve solids (TDS) discharges, nutrients, industrial contaminants, or bacterial pollutants to the River. Projects or programs that are located within 303d (impaired waters) and total maximum daily load (TMDL) sections of the River should be considered, both in California and Nevada. Innovative techniques should be encouraged. The following link identifies impaired sections of the river and its tributaries: <https://mywaterway.epa.gov/>.
- **Local Stormwater Improvements:** Projects that demonstrably mitigate storm water run-off due to urbanization of the local watershed. Priority should be given to those improvement projects in close proximity to TMWA's water supply intakes and canals and which will improve the reliability and protect the quality of the community's municipal water supply.
- **Re-Forestation and Re-Vegetation Projects:** Projects to restore forest and upland areas damaged by fire and historical logging operations, and to improve watershed resiliency in drought situations. Projects/programs in this category should be given a high priority due to urbanization of the watershed and increased susceptibility of the urban and suburban watershed to wildfire.
- **Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses:** Projects to support water quality improvement in creeks and tributaries to the Truckee River.
- **Stewardship and Environmental Awareness:** Support to clean-up programs and the development and implementation of educational programs relative to water, water quality and watershed protection that do not fall clearly into the one of the above-mentioned categories.

### **Notes:**

- For proposals related to weed control/eradication, contact Lauren Renda at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada for additional criteria at [lrenda@nevadafund.org](mailto:lrenda@nevadafund.org).
- For proposals in the Lake Tahoe Basin, the Truckee River Fund (TRF) typically only funds proposals related to Priority I and VI.

## *Grantee Requirements*

---

### **GRANTEE REQUIREMENTS**

To be eligible for funding, grantees must adhere to the following requirements:

- Funds are to be used and/or disbursed exclusively for the charitable uses and purposes.
- The Fund shall be used exclusively for projects that protect and enhance water quality or water resources of the Truckee River, or its watershed.

- Grantees may include 501(c)(3) organizations and governmental entities. Any grants to governmental entities must be made exclusively for public benefit purposes.
- All grantees will be required to sign a grant agreement stipulating their agreement to all applicable terms, conditions, and reporting requirements.
- Organizations or entities sponsoring proposals are prohibited from ex parte communications with members of the Committee regarding such proposals while those proposals are pending before the Committee, and such communications may be grounds for rejecting a proposal.
- All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25 percent** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services.

#### **TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION**

For each proposal submitted and recommended by the Committee the TMWA Board of Directors has absolute discretion to:

- Accept or reject any proposal;
- Accept a proposal on the condition that certain modifications be made;
- Assess proposals as they see fit, without in any way being obligated to select any proposal;
- Determine whether proposals satisfactorily meet the evaluation criteria set out in this RFP;
- Reject proposals with or without cause, whether based on the evaluation criteria set out above or otherwise.

#### **PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES**

To maintain eligibility to receive grant funds, each Charitable Beneficiary must comply at all times with the following requirements:

- Must be exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code;
- Shall use all Fund distributions toward projects that are appropriate and legal public expenditures;
- Must provide financial details and/or reports of their organizations upon request;
- Must submit quarterly reports.
- Must not use any Fund distributions for political contributions or political advocacy;
- Must either implement the projects, activities, and/or programs for which they received Fund distributions within six months of the date in which such distributions are received or by date(s) as agreed upon in the grant acceptance agreement, or must return all such distributions to the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada forthwith;
- Must provide the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada a report detailing the completion of their projects, activities, and/or programs; and
- Must sign an agreement regarding their compliance with the qualifications hereof.

## ***Project Evaluation Criteria***

### **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Applications are evaluated according to the following criteria and in order of priority. If the grant applicant does not meet the "Grantee Requirements", the application will not be considered.

### 1. RELEVANCE OF PROPOSAL TO THE TRF PROGRAM

- Address TRF grant priorities – Does the project address at least one of the TRF grant priorities, as described at the beginning of the RFP?
- Meet multiple objectives – Does the project meet multiple grant priorities?
- Public benefit of the project – Does the project help TMWA protect its sources of drinking water?
- Benefit to TMWA customers – Is there a direct benefit to TMWA customers?
- Project location – Is the project located upstream of one of TMWA's water treatment plants?

### 2. QUALITY OF PROJECT DESIGN

- Appropriateness of selected project methods – Do the proposed project strategies make sense to address the watershed and/or water quality concern(s) outlined by the applicant?
- Thoroughness of project design – Is the project design adequately detailed to ensure the desired outcome(s)?
- Sustainability of project – Will the benefits of the project continue after the grant funds are expended?
- Project longevity – If ongoing operation & maintenance (O&M) is required to maintain benefits, is it funded?
- Consideration of existing research – Does the project consider existing research, planning efforts, or assessments related to the Truckee River watershed?

### 3. MEASURABILITY OF PROJECT SUCCESS

- Identification of project benchmarks or milestones – Has the applicant described the steps necessary to complete the project?
- Demonstrated ability to measure the results of the project – Does the project have adequate measurable outcomes to evaluate project success?
- Benefits expected from a successful project – Are there clear goals that will be obtained on project completion?
- Readiness to begin project – Is the grant applicant ready to undertake and complete the project?

### 4. EFFECTIVENESS OF ORGANIZATION

- Qualifications of applicant for the proposed project – Does the applicant have adequate experience and credentials to perform the work described in the application?
- Collaborative efforts – Are there partner organizations supporting or benefiting from the project?
- Demonstrated ability of applicant to manage and complete the project – Has the applicant successfully completed projects similar to the one proposed? If previously funded by TRF, has the applicant met performance requirements and completed projects successfully?

### 5. ADEQUACY OF PROPOSED BUDGET

- Availability and status of matching funds – Does the project provide a minimum of 25 percent match in cash and/or in-kind services? If the project is downstream of the USGS Vista gage, is the 25 percent match requirement met using cash match?
- Total project cost relative to benefits – Is the project cost reasonable given the expected project outcome(s)?

- Appropriateness of budget – Are the costs presented in the budget adequately detailed and do they seem reasonable? Is the project under the 25 percent indirect/overhead expense limit?

## ***Project Information***

---

### **Project Title\***

Name of Project.

#307 Rosewood Nature Study Area: Unique and Interactive Interpretive Signage Fabrication

### **Amount Requested\***

\$28,460.00

### **Project Start Date\***

02/01/2025

### **Project End Date\***

12/31/2025

### **This funding will be used to:\***

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

Fabricate 10 interpretive signs at the Rosewood Nature Study Area that will educate the public about the connectedness of nature, local flora and fauna, and watershed and wetland health and quality. Each interpretive sign will include interactive components which are proven to be more effective learning tools than traditional interpretive signs.

### **This project is on:\***

Check all that apply

Private land

### **Are government permits or decision documents needed for the project?\***

Yes

### **If so, are those permits and decision documents already secured?**

*If permits and decision documents are needed but not yet secured, in #4 of the Narrative Requirements provide a list of permits and documents needed and a schedule for securing them.*

Yes

## *Organization Information*

---

### **Organization Name\***

Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation

### **Organization Type\***

501(c)(3) Nonprofit

### **EIN**

If the organization is a 501c3, please include the EIN#.

45-4837735

### **Director of Organization\***

Heidi Anderson

### **Project Contact Name\***

Executive Director

### **Project Contact Postion/Title\***

Heidi Anderson

### **Project Contact Email\***

info@tmparksfoundation.org

### **Project Contact Phone Number\***

(775) 360-6068

### **Organization Mission\***

The Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation protects and enhances our communities' livability through public engagement, education, and the sustainability of our parks, trails, and open spaces.

## *Previous Funding from Truckee River Fund*

---

### **Has your organization received other grants from the Truckee River Fund?\***

Yes

## If yes, please include the following information for all previously funded projects:

- *Date awarded*
- *Project # and Title*
- *Amount of award*

*Please attach additional pages as needed to list ALL previously funded projects.*

Date awarded: 08/19/2021

Project title: Doggie Waste Awareness Campaign

Amount of Award: \$31,075.00

Date awarded: 10/2/2019

Project title: TRF #226 - Truckee Meadows Nature Study Area First-Year Operational Grant

Amount of Award: \$101,526.00

Date awarded: 3/26/2019

Project title: TRF #213 - Truckee Meadows Nature Study Area First-Year Operational Grant

Amount of Award: \$61,400.00

## Previous Funding continued

## *Narrative Requirements*

### 1.) Specific project goals and measurable outcomes and how you will measure and report them.\*

*All projects are required to have measurable outcomes.*

The primary goal of the Rosewood Interpretive Signage Project is to create an engaging and inclusive educational experience that facilitates community stewardship and appreciation of the wetland habitats that support the health of the Truckee River Watershed. The overall goal will be accomplished through three key subgoals.

#### Subgoal 1: Enhance Environmental Education and Awareness

The Parks Foundation's Interpretive Signage Plan funnels 10 educational topics into three categories: 1) Everything is Connected, 2) Water is Life, and 3) Who is Here? These categories help visitors understand the connectedness between water, ecology, and people; recognize the importance of protecting water systems; and appreciate the flora, fauna, and cultural history of the region.

#### Subgoal 2: Promote Accessibility and Inclusivity

In addition to written and graphic components of the signs, signs will feature interactive learning that enhances visitor's learning experience. Each sign will include components such as flip plates, moving pieces, puzzles, or tactile textures, making them accessible and enjoyable for visitors of all ages and abilities. Research shows that hands-on learning that requires the brain to initiate "deep learning" correlates with higher student educational outcomes (Bligh, 2000; Burrowes, 2003; Sivan et al., 2000; Baylor University). This type of interpretive sign also caters to kinesthetic learners, which require tactile learning to best remember information (Scholar Within, 2024; Oladele, 2024), broadening the number of visitors who will take information away from the interpretive signs.

#### Subgoal 3: Strengthen Community Engagement and Cultural Understanding

Each interpretive sign will include a take-home message and several signs will include information about the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada. The take-home message will allow readers to apply information learned from the signs to their home and community with a cultural understanding that tribes in the area have been supporting these practices for thousands of years.

The Parks Foundation will bring school field trip participants and school-break campers on interactive activity hikes that utilize the interpretive signs to enhance learning. The foundation's Naturalist Educators will take pre- and post-program participation surveys to identify engagement in the sciences before and after engaging with the interpretive signage. We anticipate 400 youth visitors the first year following sign installation, with 62% of participants reporting an increased interest. This data will be compiled by the Education Outreach Coordinator and reported to the Truckee River Fund in reports.

## 2.) Describe the project location.\*

*Include site map and aerial photos if applicable/possible as an attachment.*

The interpretive signs will be installed at the Rosewood Nature Study Area, a 219-acre property in Eastern Reno that encompasses Boynton Slough and Steamboat Creek. While these water systems are important to the Truckee River, the content of the interpretive signs will focus on the watershed as a whole. Additionally, the Rosewood Nature Study Area is uniquely located in an area that is highly accessible to over 470,000 community members, making it an excellent location for the education of the watershed.

### Map/Photo attachments

Overall\_Improvement\_Project\_Map\_V1\_2021.06.04.pdf

## 3.) Project Description\*

In 2021, the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation was granted a 50-year lease for \$1 per year by the City of Reno to restore the formerly known Rosewood Lakes Golf Course, now known as the Rosewood Nature Study Area, back into a functional upland, riparian, and wetland ecosystem. The golf course permanently shut down in 2015 leaving it in desperate need of land management, property maintenance, and extensive habitat restoration. Through community and design workshops, the Parks Foundation determined that Rosewood Nature Study Area would be more than just a rehabilitated wetland; the restoration project will act as a long-term learning laboratory centered around recreation, interpretation, and education on the importance of wetland habitat. To accomplish the overall goal to make it a learning laboratory, the Parks Foundation is spearheading the Rosewood Interpretive Signage Plan. This project will fabricate a series of 10 interactive interpretive signs designed to engage visitors in learning about the wetland ecosystem through hands-on and tactile experiences. Unlike traditional static signs, these will include innovative components such as flip plates, moving pieces, puzzles, and tactile textures, making them accessible and enjoyable for visitors of all ages and learning styles.

Sign topics include pollinators, wetland habitats, beaver engineering, wetland restoration, birds, community science, Truckee River Watershed, and habitats at home. To guarantee impactful and accurate content for the signs, the Parks Foundation is working with ecologists, ethnobotanists, hydrologists, sociologists, geologists, and Washoe Tribe Elders to determine appropriate information. Paired with extensive research collected during the restoration process, the signs will present a full story depicting the wildlife and water systems that contribute to a healthy Truckee River Watershed, and be applicable to all visitors' home watersheds.

AmeriCorps Wetland Restoration Technicians and the Wetland Restoration Manager will prepare sign sites for installation and install the signs on a 1.6 mile loop through wetland and riparian habitat. The placement of each sign will match its surroundings. For example, the Beaver Engineers sign will be placed near a working

beaver dam located on the property while the Birds sign will be placed in front of shorebird habitat, allowing visitors to experience the topics they read about.

All visitors will have free access to the Rosewood Nature Study Area, Nature Center, and its amenities year-round. Parks Foundation youth science programs such as the Student Stewards Program, Junior Naturalist Program, and Summer Break Camp will utilize the signage for hands-on and interpretive learning, as the sign content will guide program curriculum on the property.

#### 4.) Grant priorities\*

*Explain how the proposed project advances the TRF's specific grant priorities.*

The Interpretive Sign Fabrication Project at the Rosewood Nature Study Area advances the Stewardship and Environmental Awareness priority of the Truckee River Fund grant. The educational signage and accompanying programs designed to promote awareness and stewardship practices of the Truckee River Watershed will inspire the community to act with an educated focus on water conservation ethics.

#### 5.) Permitting\*

*Provide a permitting schedule for your project along with your plan for getting the required permits and decision documents. Be sure to include the cost of permitting/decision documents as a line item in your budget.*

The 219-acre property is owned by the City of Reno. In 2021, the city leased the property to the Parks Foundation for 50 years at the price of \$1 per year. The lease is currently in year four of the 50-year term and no further permits are in place or required.

#### 6.) Future Land Use\*

*List any known or foreseeable zoning, land use, or development plans that may affect your proposed project.*

There are no zoning restrictions, land use, or development plans affecting the Rosewood Nature Study Area Interpretive Signage Plan or restoration project.

#### 7.) If future phases of the project will be needed, identify anticipated sources of funding.\*

Opening the study area is an accomplishment that included significant steps such as improving 3 miles of trail, infrastructure repairs, invasive species treatment, and the development of a temporary visitor center - all of which was performed by Parks Foundation staff and AmeriCorps Wetland Restoration Technicians. From here, the Parks Foundation categorized the remaining restoration needs into four phases within the Acres of Innovation Capital Campaign. Each phase completes the following:

Phase I: treat invasive species and plant ecologically appropriate species, develop signage and trail master plans.

Phase II: treat invasive species and plant ecologically appropriate species, rehabilitate existing golf cart paths, install directional and interpretive signage, and develop schematic design for future visitor's center improvements.

Phase III: treat invasive species and plant ecologically appropriate species, construct new trail segments, install outdoor classroom spaces, and design visitor's center spaces.

Phase IV: treat invasive species and plant ecologically appropriate species, construct wildlife viewing vista points, build an accessible boardwalk, and make major improvements to the visitor's center.

Thus far, a total of \$483,650.00 was raised to complete Phase I and \$443,984 of the \$826,814 total Phase II budget has been obtained. The Parks Foundation leverages grants, sponsorships, business partnerships, and donations to fund each phase of restoration, and additional sources of funding to support the maintenance of the interpretive signs will be secured through private, state, or federal funding.

## 8.) Identify the principals involved in leading or coordinating the project or activity.\*

Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation Executive Director, Heidi Anderson, Nature Study Area Vice President, Elena Larsen, M.S., and Development Director, Claire McHenry will be the principals involved in the coordination of the Interpretive Signage Plan. The Wetland Restoration Manager, Austin Cooper, and 10 AmeriCorps Wetland Restoration Technicians will be responsible for the installation and maintenance of each interpretive sign.

Additionally, the Parks Foundation is currently evaluating bids from Nutrom Outdoor Signs and Markers, Gopher Signs, Pannier Graphics, and Vacker Signs for their role in the design and fabrication of the signs. Once selected, the entity will be under the supervision of Parks Foundation Executive Director, Heidi Anderson.

## 9.) Number of staff positions involved in project.\*

*Identify how many staff will be full-time and how many will be part-time.*

*"Fulltime" means 100% of their staff position will be dedicated to this project; "part-time" means only a portion of their staff position will be dedicated to this project.*

Executive Director (30%), Nature Study Area Vice President (60%), Development Director (25%), and Wetland Restoration Manager (80%).

## 10.) Number of volunteers involved in project and an estimated number of volunteer hours.\*

There are 10 community stakeholders and science experts involved in the content development of the signs, however no volunteers will be involved in the fabrication of the signs.

## 11.) Timeline of Project\*

*List key dates and include project milestones. Note: Be realistic in your estimate of dates and milestones. List any factors that may cause a delay in implementing and/or completing the project.*

*\*\*Note: Funding will not be provided for work performed prior to grant approval.*

November 2024: Develop draft of written content and basic design (complete)

February 2025: Edit written content for sustainability and accuracy

Series of meetings with community stakeholders and science experts to finalize written content. Final written content approval from Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation Programming Committee and Executive Director

March 2025-July 2025: Select design and fabrication firm and complete design process. Initial meeting with firm. Public charrette process. Final design selected

July 2025-October 2025: Fabricate and ship signs to the Rosewood Nature Study Area

October 2025-December 2025: Install interpretive signs

## 12.) What factors will indicate a successful project?\*

Three measurements will be used to determine a successful project: 1) fabrication and installation of all 10 signs 2) increased number of people to Rosewood, and 3) at least 62% of students exposed to the signs showing an interest in science.

The Parks Foundation's AmeriCorps Wetland Restoration Technicians will prepare the land for sign installation and install all 10 interpretive signs on the 1.6-mile interpretive loop. Each sign will be installed in appropriate locations relative to the sign content.

The Parks Foundation currently averages 3,000 visitors a year to Rosewood. With the new interpretive loop, we expect this number to increase by 20%, resulting in 3,600 visitors to Rosewood the first year post-installation.

Following each youth program that utilizes the signs in its curriculum, the Parks Foundation's Naturalist Educators and Education Coordinators will conduct a pre- and post-program questionnaire designed to measure interest in the sciences. The signs will be deemed successful in providing students with tactile education if 62% of students show an increased interest in science.

## 13.) Collaboration\*

*List partnerships or collaborations with other entities in relation to your proposal, if any. Grantees are encouraged to seek other funds prior to requesting money from the Truckee River Fund. Please explain what other funding opportunities were sought and if any other funds have been awarded.*

The Parks Foundation will collaborate with various community stakeholders and science experts to maintain sustainable, accurate content on all signs. These stakeholders include:

- 1) Pollinator experts Kevin Burls and Ray Hopper, Help Save the Bees Foundation
- 2) Watershed experts from the Washoe Tribe and Zack Carter, Nevada Department of Environmental Protection
- 3) Marsh experts Sherm Swanson, Creeks and Communities, and Zach Carter, Nevada Department of Environmental Protection
- 4) Beaver expert Julie Bless, Nevada Department of Wildlife
- 5) Bird expert Alan Gubanich, Lahontan Audubon Society
- 6) Community science expert Cynthia Scholl, University of Nevada, Reno
- 7) Waterway experts from the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

Furthermore, the Parks Foundation will collaborate with Washoe County School District schools and local nonprofits, including Sierra Nevada Journeys, to expand the reach of the interpretive signage project.

## Grant Match

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All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25 percent** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services.

For larger grant requests, priority will be given to projects that significantly leverage the grant with funding from other sources.

For grant requests for projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25 percent match requirement must be met using **cash match**.

### Total grant match to be provided.\*

*Total Match = Cash + In-Kind*

\$8,400.00

### Cash

\$8,400.00

### For the cash portion, is the funding already being held by the applicant for this project?

Yes

### In-Kind

*\*\*Note: Provide an itemized breakdown of volunteer match in your budget with rationale.*

\$0.00

### Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.\*

Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation receives funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service (AmeriCorps), VISTA and the State and National Program to support community education and stewardship programs. \$8,400 of this support will be used to fund salaries of the Wetland Restoration Technicians.

## Attachments

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### Project Budget\*

*Provide detail on each line-item expenditures and show which funds are committed and which have been requested to be paid for by the Truckee River Fund grant, and which will be paid for with in-kind services. Other sources of funding should be provided. Explain status of other funding if not in hand. If project is to be implemented in phases, please separate budget into each phase. **Please contact Lauren Renda at [lrenda@nevadafund.org](mailto:lrenda@nevadafund.org) for a sample budget template, or download one here.***

#### **\*\*Notes:**

Printed On: 20 February  
2025

- *Indirect/overhead expenses cannot exceed 25 percent; TRF may fund indirect/overhead up to 25% based on availability of funds.*
- *Applicants should be prepared to provide reduced budgets during the review of applications by the TRF Advisory Committee when funds are limited.*
- *Grants from the Truckee River Fund are paid on a reimbursable basis for actual expenditures only. Craft your budget in such a way that requests for reimbursement correspond to the original budget.*

Budget TRF 2025 - Sheet1.pdf

## **Supplemental Attachments**

*Please attach any additional attachments here.*

Letter of support for TMPF 2025.pdf

## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- Overall\_Improvement\_Project\_Map\_V1\_2021.06.04.pdf
- Budget TRF 2025 - Sheet1.pdf
- Letter of support for TMPF 2025.pdf

### Improvement Projects

- Trail Projects
- Signage Projects
- Building Projects
- Visitor Amenity Projects
- Garden Projects
- Restoration & Maintenance
- Planning & Design

Refer to the Capital Improvement Program Table to view related project and phase.

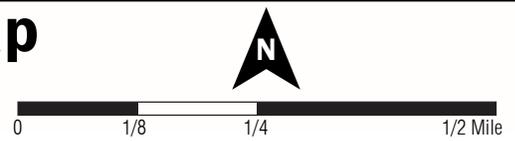


## Overall Improvement Project Map

### Rosewood Nature Study Area

#### Legend

- |  |                       |  |
|--|-----------------------|--|
| Rosewood Nature Study Area Boundary    | Pedestrian Bridge     | Wildlife Viewing Points/Interpretive Signs |
| Existing Cart Path Rehab. to Pavement  | Pedestrian Tunnel     | Pedestrian Site Access                     |
| New Trail (Pavement)                   | Flood Mitigation Area | Vehicular Site Access                      |
| Existing Cart Path Rehab. to Aggregate | Riparian Revegetation | Restroom                                   |
| New Trail (Aggregate Surface)          | Fishing Area          | Parking Area                               |
| New Boardwalk                          |                       | Visitors Center                            |



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Budget Item Description	\$/unit	Quantity	Quantity Type	TRF Funding	Other Funders	Match	Total Cost
<b>Salaries and Wages</b>							
AmeriCorps Wetland Restoration Technicians (x14)	\$12/hour	50	Hour		AmeriCorps	\$8,400	\$8,400
<b>Contractual Construction</b>							
Interpretive Sign Fabrication and Pedestal Materials	\$2,500/sign	10	Signs	\$25,000			\$25,000
<b>Engineering Services during Design</b>							
<b>Environmental / Permitting</b>							
<b>Project / Program Management</b>							
Administrative Fees				\$3,460			\$3,460
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>							
<b>Total Project Costs</b>							
				\$28,460		\$8,400	\$36,860



Dear Truckee River Fund Committee:

On behalf of the Lahontan Audubon Society, please accept this letter of support regarding Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation's application for the 2025 Truckee River Fund. The fund's mission of protecting water resources within the Truckee River watershed aligns perfectly with the Parks Foundation's interpretive sign installation efforts at the Rosewood Nature Study Area.

We believe their project will generate significant impacts on the local community's understanding of watershed importance, stewardship and conservation, leading to a healthier watershed.

Prior to the Parks Foundation's stewardship efforts, the property that is the Rosewood Nature Study Area was neglected for 5 consecutive years, and non-native noxious weed invasion deteriorated habitats for Nevada birds and wildlife. Through invasive species removal and reseeding efforts TMPF has started to restore habitat integrity for native species. This work, coupled with the proposed interpretive sign installation will add significant experimental value to the park, greatly enhancing the educational opportunities the Parks Foundation is developing within the space. The Lahontan Audubon Society believes this signage plan will help facilitate a well-educated community of stewards and promote watershed awareness, better supporting both the enrichment of our communities and the health of the Truckee River water systems.

Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation has repeatedly proven their ability to execute plans regarding the restoration project and much more. Funding from the Truckee River Fund will provide vital support to the installation of this project, ensuring the quality of its impact.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of their application. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 775-997-5173 or [diane.wong-kone@nevadaaudubon.org](mailto:diane.wong-kone@nevadaaudubon.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Wong-Kone", written in a cursive style.

Diane Wong-Kone  
Executive Director

P.O. Box 2304 • Reno, Nevada 89505-2304  
<http://www.nevadaaudubon.org>