

TRUCKEE RIVER FUND

Enhancing and protecting our water resources

TRUCKEE RIVER FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Friday August 22, 2025, 8:30 a.m.
Community Foundation of Northern Nevada
50 Washington Street, Suite 300
Reno, NV 89503

Meeting Via Teleconference and In-Person

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA THE WEB LINK, OR
TELEPHONICALLY BY CALLING THE NUMBER, LISTED BELOW.

(Be sure to keep your phones on mute, and do not place the call on hold)

Please click the link below to join the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8785686516?pwd=K29WZlN1a0Q2Wm1YbnpIR1l1SzJUUT09>

Zoom Meeting ID: 878 568 6516

Password: CFNN

NOTES:

1. The announcement of this meeting has been posted in compliance with NRS 241.020(3) at: Truckee Meadows Water Authority (1355 Capital Blvd., Reno), at <https://truckeeriverfund.org/meetings/>, and NRS 232.2175 at State of Nevada Public Notice Website, <https://notice.nv.gov/>.
2. In accordance with NRS 241.020, this agenda closes three working days prior to the meeting. We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for persons who are disabled and wish to attend meetings. If you require special arrangements for the meeting, please call (775) 834-8002 at least 24 hours before the meeting date.
3. Staff reports and supporting material for the meeting are available on the Truckee River Fund website at <https://truckeeriverfund.org/meetings/> or you can contact Sonia Folsom at (775) 834-8002 or sfolsom@tmwa.com. Supporting material is made available to the general public in accordance with NRS 241.020(6).
4. The Committee may elect to combine agenda items, consider agenda items out of order, remove agenda items, or delay discussion on agenda items. Arrive at the meeting at the posted time to hear item(s) of interest.
5. Asterisks (*) denote non-action items.
6. Public comment is limited to three minutes and is allowed during the public comment periods. **To request to speak, please use the "raise hand" feature or press *9 to "raise your hand" and *6 to unmute/mute your microphone.** Pursuant to Directive 006, public comment, whether on action items or general public comment, may be provided without being physically present at the meeting by submitting written comments online by email sent to laurens@nevadafund.org prior to the Committee opening the public comment period during the meeting. In addition, public comments may be provided by leaving a voicemail at (775)834-0255 prior to 4:00 p.m. the day before the meeting. Voicemail messages received will either be broadcast on the telephone call during the meeting or transcribed for entry into the record. Public comment is limited to three minutes and is allowed during the public comment periods. The Committee may elect to receive public comment only during the two public comment periods rather than each action item. Due to constraints of the videoconference system, public comment must be provided by voicemail, email, or online comment as indicated above.

1. Roll Call*
2. Public comment (limited to no more than three minutes per speaker)*
3. Approval of the agenda (**for possible action**)
4. Approve the May 16, 2025 summary meeting minutes (**for possible action**)
5. Fund balance report*
6. Review grant proposals to Truckee River Fund and select projects to be recommended for funding (**for possible action**)
 - a. **#308 Sierra Nevada Journeys:** Watershed Education Initiative (\$31,543.13)
 - b. **#310 Truckee River Watershed Council:** Independence Watershed Aquatic Organism Passage Project (\$75,000)
 - c. **#311 KTMB:** Keeping Truckee Meadows Beautiful (\$74,635.32)

- d. **#312 League to Save Lake Tahoe:** Lake Tahoe AIS Prevention and Eyes on the Lake Citizen Science Program (\$35,000)
 - e. **#313 Reno Food Systems:** Cultivating Watershed Resilience at the Urban-Agricultural Interface (\$46,000)
 - f. **#314 Friends of Nevada Wilderness:** Mount Rose Re-Seeding 2025 (\$5,000)
 - g. **#315 One Truckee River:** Watershed Protection Benefit Project (\$73,861)
- 7. Review and approve **TRF #316 Washoe County- Regional Parks & Open Space:** Mayberry Park Watershed Protection and Public Restroom Project (\$250,000) (**for possible action**)
 - 8. Discuss Lake Park Project as possible Fall fieldtrip (**for possible action**)
 - 9. Committee and staff comments*
 - 10. Upcoming Meetings (**for possible action**)
 - a. Friday November 21, 2025 at 8:30am
 - 11. Public comment (limited to no more than three minutes per speaker)*
 - 12. Adjournment*

MEETING MINUTES (TRANSCRIPT SUMMARY)

TRUCKEE RIVER FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 16, 2025

(Meeting via Zoom and teleconference)

The following meeting minutes is a summary of the certified transcript for the Truckee River Fund Advisory Committee meeting held at 8:30 a.m., Friday, May 16, 2025, via Zoom teleconference and in-person at The Community Foundation of Northern Nevada, 50 Washington St, Ste 300, Reno, NV.

Those Present:

Committee Members: Jim Smitherman⁺⁺, Chair; Terri Svetich, Vice Chair; Brian Bonnenfant, Mike Brisbin, Neoma Jardon, Don Mahin.

Also: Lauren Renda, Community Foundation of Northern Nevada; Sonia Folsom, Kara Steeland, TMWA; Sarah Ferguson, Council for TRF; Susan Merideth, TRF Minutes Recorder.

Members of the Public: Eaton Dunkleberger, Community Foundation of Northern Nevada; Bryan McArdle, City of Reno; Rachel Tatro, The Blueprint Collective.

+ Committee member arrived after roll call

++ Committee member left meeting before adjournment

* Asterisks (*) denote non-action items

Agenda Item #1: Roll Call*: Roll call was taken. A quorum was noted.

Agenda Item #2: Public comment*: There was no public comment at this time.

Agenda Item #3: Approval of the agenda: Brian Bonnenfant motioned to approve the agenda for the May 16th meeting, and Don Mahin seconded the motion. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item #4: Approve the March 7, 2025 summary meeting minutes: Brian Bonnenfant motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes (Transcript Summary) for March 7, 2025 with noted corrections and Don Mahin seconded the motion. The summary meeting minutes were unanimously approved with corrections.

Agenda Item #5: Fund balance report*:

The amount of the fund balance on 5/16/2025 was \$173,620.26. The next TMWA funding cycle begins in July and is expected to be \$550,000, pending Board approval.

Agenda Item #6: Presentation by City of Reno – Bryan McArdle, Revitalization Manager *

Bryan McArdle, City of Reno Revitalization Manager and with the Redevelopment Agency, presented the Truckee River Vision Plan Overview to the Committee.

The Reno Redevelopment Agency is active again, with a new operating budget for downtown projects and 60 million to invest over the next 5 years. Included in the plan are a Façade Improvement Program, a Truckee River Vision Plan, a Parks Plan and an Arts & Culture Plan. They are working with Dick's Studios on developing a long-term vision for the Truckee River and the river front, from the Nevada state line to the City of Sparks. The intent is to do activation nodes and produce a design for planning under a coordinated vision to create a unified experience.

Planning Pillars:

- Safety, Water & Ecological Systems
- Land Use & Design
- Parks & Open Space
- Mobility & Connectivity
- Public Art

4 Character Areas identified:

- Verdi (rural)
- Reno West
- Downtown
- Reno East

Consultants reviewed many plans for improvement and summarized the community priorities, and 89% of people polled place Parks & Open Space as extremely important. Based on community responses, 5 project goals were identified:

1. Encourage a clean & safe river
2. Prioritize the ecological function of the river
3. Celebrate the river as a recreational asset
4. Implement a cohesive plan for consistency in design & maintenance
5. Build a connected river

Bryan reviewed the steps proposed and being taken to address these goals, including installing ecologically sensitive lighting, vegetation management, implementation of the Truckee River Site Furniture Package, assessment of low-head dams & in-river obstacles, creation of Truckee River Overlay Zone District, incentivizing responsible redevelopment and revitalizing public parks. Implementation plans have been classified by priority, timing and budget.

Next steps for redevelopment:

- Plan adoption
- Complete ARPA funded projects
- Create a service plan for the Parks District
- Implement Overlay Zoning District
- Develop funding plan to complete high priority
- Projects & quick wins

Agenda Item #7: Presentation of 2025 Strategic Assessment – McKenzie Mendoza & Rachel Tatro, The Blueprint Collaborative

Rachel Tatro from The Blueprint Collaborative presented the 2025 Strategic Assessment to the Committee and outlined actions to be taken based on the assessment. TMWA engaged The Blueprint Collective to conduct the assessment to evaluate and strengthen the Fund's grantmaking process.

Key insights from interviews with 19 stakeholders including Advisory Committee members, Fund holder staff, TMWA staff and both applicants & awardees:

- 1) The Fund makes a difference
- 2) The Advisory Committee's effectiveness is challenged by external oversight
- 3) Long-term evaluation of the Fund's impact is not a priority
- 4) Decreased funding is a concern for most
- 5) Clear & consistent priorities and guidelines are essential.
- 6) The Fund's application process is accessible
- 7) Consistent evaluation criteria are needed for fair deliberation
- 8) Better communication with applicants and streamline the grant process
- 9) Efficiency and fairness of the committee meetings needs improvement
- 10) Clarify the roles of the CFBB grants cycle administrator

Based on the assessment, TBC suggested immediate, short-term, medium-term and long-term actions to be considered by the Advisory Committee.

Neoma Jardon motioned to accept the 2025 Strategic Assessment as presented and Don Mahin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

Agenda Item #8: Discuss possible scope for Fall 2025 grant cycle

Given limited funding for the Fall grant cycle, the Advisory Committee was asked to consider adding a focused scope or imposing a cap on requests for proposals.

The Committee would like to implement a word-count limit on proposals. They also suggested notifying applicants of typical funding ranges, so applicants have an idea of reasonable requests, as well as giving the applicants the option to propose full-funding versus partial-funding requests.

Neoma Jardon motioned for Sonia Folsom, Kara Steeland, and Lauren Renda to revise the proposal application based on the suggestions from the Advisory Committee and Brian Bonnenfant seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item #9: Review completed projects*:

- a. **#246 Truckee River Watershed Council:** Bear Creek Lower Meadow Restoration Project – Phase 2 Construction, \$51,250 (Terri):

Terri Svetich reported that while TRWC only partially completed activities specified in the proposal, the measurable goals to reduce 20 tons of sediment per year were met and exceeded.

Upon completion of Phase 1, it was determined that Phase 2 construction was not needed and could be detrimental; therefore, the planned Phase 2 construction was cancelled and \$27,618.24 of the allocated funds were returned to TRF. Post-monitoring of Phase 1 restoration construction demonstrated that the overall goals of the project were realized. The pre and post monitoring reduction was calculated to be 55 tons/year in sediment to Bear Creek and the Truckee River.

- b. **#263 The Nature Conservancy of Nevada:** Developing Forest Resilience of Fire – Independence Lake, \$100,450 (Bill):

Bill Bradley reported that TNC met their stated goals with regard to forest thinning at outflow channel of Independence Lake and additional ongoing thinning of fire-prone stands around Independence Lake.

This is an ongoing project to protect and enhance water quality at one of the headwaters of TMWA's water supply. The work continues to be carried out by TNC with grants from many sources, including the State of California and TRF. This project was successfully completed in the Fall of 2025.

- c. **#282 KTMB:** 2024 Great Community Cleanup, Truckee River Cleanup, Adopt-A-River Program, & Adult and Community Education Program, \$91,360.32 (Jim)

Jim Smitherman reported that KTMB met or exceeded most goals, with very few goals not reached.

Accomplishments include:

- engaged more than stated goals for volunteer participation in the Great Community Clean-Up Spring 2024,
- far exceeded goals for Adopt-A-River 2024 trash and weed clean-up,
- met and exceeded most goals for Truckee River Clean-Up Fall 2024, but fewer volunteers engaged than targeted, and
- conducted 5 (out of 20) Community & Adult education presentations and reached 102 (out of 500) community members as part of their Community Education 2024 campaign.

d. **#283 One Truckee River:** Watershed Coalition Building, \$135,138 (Terri)

Terri Svetich reported that OTR met and exceeded all goals based on proposal expectations and increased collaboration among Truckee Meadow Agencies. OTR has maintained and built upon community support. The OTR website, social media posts and events have kept the value of the Truckee River recognition and importance to the community for drinking water, recreation, environment, and economy.

e. **#288 Great Basin Outdoor School:** Youth Watershed Education and Protection Projects, \$9,279.60 (Dave)

Dave Stanley reported that GBOS completed activities specified in the proposal and met expectations. GBOS has received funds from the Truckee River Fund for years and with those funds continually exposes school aged children to the concepts of watersheds, their working parts and their relevance to life in the Truckee Meadows. They accomplish this both by partnering with a school for Snapshot Day where school kids participate in gathering baseline data for a watershed and through Spring, Summer and Fall Camps that allow for more in depth and “hands on” education.

f. **#293 Sierra Nevada Journeys:** Watershed Education Initiative, \$31,699 (Jim)

Jim Smitherman reported that SNJ completed and exceeded its goals by delivering WEI to 700 K-8th grade students within the urban Truckee River Corridor and providing 61 teachers with WEI extension lessons.

Agenda Item #10: Committee and staff comments *

None.

Agenda Item #11: Upcoming Meetings:

Friday, August 22, 2025 at 8:30am

- a. Neoma motioned to hold the next meeting TRF Advisory Committee meeting to August 22, 2025, and Brian Bonnenfant seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

Agenda Item #12: Public comment: There was no public comment.

Agenda Item #13: Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:59am.

TRF #308 Watershed Education Initiative

Truckee River Fund- Fall 2025

Sierra Nevada Journeys

Audrey Bergmann
190 E. Liberty St.
Reno, NV 89501

O: 775-355-1688

Audrey Bergmann

PO Box 1631
Reno, NV 89505

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Application Form

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 Sgandurra at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada for additional criteria at laurens@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.
 - For projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25% match requirement must be met using cash.

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.

TRF #308 Watershed Education Initiative

Amount Requested*

\$31,543.13

Would you be able to implement your project if the full amount is not awarded?*

Yes

Minimum Amount Required to Complete the Project*

If partial funding is available.

\$25,000.00

Project Start Date*

09/01/2025

Project End Date*

12/19/2025

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

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*

775 355 1688

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

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.

03/19/2025, TRF #299 Watershed Education Initiative, \$20,000
 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 2nd - 5th 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

Please include no more than 2 maps and no more than 4 photos.

Watershed Education Initiative Photos.pdf

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 an online

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 parent chaperones from the local and broadens accessibility to our programming for low-income schools by helping to keep costs low. Each field day program includes several parent chaperone volunteers who help manage trail groups, reducing the need for additional Sierra Nevada Journeys educators.

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 2nd-5th 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.

7 fulltime

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 September and running through mid-December.

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 December and data will be compiled by early January.

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 January 2026 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 2nd - 5th. 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

Additionally, teachers will:

- 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

\$10,514.38

Cash

\$10,514.38

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.*

\$10,514.38 from Trout Unlimited.

Attachments

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.

You are required to use a TRF-approved budget template. Please contact Lauren Sgandurra at laurens@nevadafund.org for the 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 Fall 2025 Budget Excel.xlsx

Supplemental Attachments

Please attach any additional attachments here.

[Unanswered]

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Watershed Education Initiative Photos.pdf
- TRF Fall 2025 Budget Excel.xlsx

Watershed Education Initiative Photos – Spring 2025







Budget Item Description	\$/unit	Quantity	Quantity Type
Salaries and Wages			
Project Manager	X	X	Hours
Program Manager	\$ 36.00	250	Hours
Engineer 2	X	X	Hours
Fringe Benefits		25%	percentage of personnel costs
Full-Time Employees	\$ 20.00	720	Hours
Volunteers	X	X	
Contractual Construction			
Planning	X	X	Contract
Design	X	X	Contract
Engineering Services during Design	X	X	Contract
Environmental / Permitting	X	X	Contract
Project / Program Management			
Construction Management	X	X	Contract
Materials (includes direct program expenses for 700 students such as: magnifying glasses, water containers, field day health supplies, printing and paper, uniforms, etc.)	X	X	Contract
Construction Contract	X	X	Contract
Total Direct Costs			
Indirect Costs/Overhead ($\leq 25\%$ of budget) (includes budget categories such as outside contract services, occupancy expenses, operating expenses, including office supplies and licenses/memberships, and other miscellaneous expenses).	X		
Total Project Costs			

TRF Funding	Other Funders	Match	Total Cost
			\$ -
\$ 6,750.00		\$ 2,250.00	\$ 9,000.00
			\$ -
\$ 4,387.50		\$ 1,462.50	\$ 5,850.00
\$ 10,800.00		\$ 3,600.00	\$ 14,400.00
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
\$ 3,297.00		\$ 1,099.00	\$ 4,396.00
			\$ -
\$ 6,308.63		\$ 2,102.88	\$ 8,411.50
\$ 31,543.13		\$ 10,514.38	\$ 42,057.50

TRF #310 Independence Watershed Aquatic Organism Passage Project

Truckee River Fund- Fall 2025

Truckee River Watershed Council

Michele Prestowitz
PO Box 8568
Truckee, CA 96162

O: 530-550-8760

Tiffanee Hutton

PO Box 8568
Truckee, CA 96162

thutton@truckeeriverwc.org
O: 224-522-1522

Application Form

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 Sgandurra at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada for additional criteria at laurens@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.
 - For projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25% match requirement must be met using cash.

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.

TRF #310 Independence Watershed Aquatic Organism Passage Project

Amount Requested*

\$75,000.00

Would you be able to implement your project if the full amount is not awarded?*

No

Minimum Amount Required to Complete the Project*

If partial funding is available.

\$70,000.00

Project Start Date*

09/02/2025

Project End Date*

08/14/2026

This funding will be used to:*

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

This request is to fill a critical funding gap needed to complete Phase 2 of design for the Independence Watershed Aquatic Organism Passage Project (Independence AOP). Phase 2 will develop 65% design plans, enabling us to initiate NEPA and CEQA processes and begin permitting. Completion of the 65% designs will also position us to leverage additional funding opportunities to complete final (100%) design plans.

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

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 - 2025.xlsx

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, aquatic habitat and create access to treat over 3,000 acres of forest health maintenance and management in the Truckee River headwaters. The project will install an aquatic organism passage that will prevent an estimated 18,000 vehicles a year from driving through an unnamed creek in the Independence sub-watershed. The project will address excessive sedimentation and improve aquatic habitat and help reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires in the watershed.

This request seeks to fill a critical funding gap necessary to complete Phase 2 design for the Independence AOP Project. Phase 2 will advance the project to 65% design completion, a key milestone that will allow us to initiate NEPA and CEQA environmental review processes, begin permitting, and position the project to be highly competitive for implementation funding, which is often unavailable until a project demonstrates this level of design readiness.

Fish passage projects without anadromous species (fish that migrate up rivers from the sea to breed in fresh water) are notoriously difficult to fund at the design phase. While implementation dollars are available once design work is sufficiently advanced, early-stage funding is scarce, particularly for inland, non-anadromous watersheds like Independence Creek. Without funding to complete the 65% designs, the project will stall as we will not be able to execute a design contract to move the project forward until we complete the funding gap.

Additionally, we request \$10,000 in project management support. The Spring funding round supported approximately 12 hours of staff time, which does not provide enough staff support to manage the next phase of project development. Phase 2 requires significantly more engagement from our team, including:

- Participation in site tours with the design team and partners,
- Attendance at design coordination meetings,
- Stakeholder engagement to review and respond to design submittals,
- Oversight of pre-project monitoring activities, and
- Administrative tasks related to grant reporting.

Bridging this funding gap will ensure the project continues on a viable path toward implementation and success.

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 excess 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)
- Create critical access infrastructure to support over 3,000 acres of forest health and hazardous fuels reduction work surrounding Independence Lake.

Performance Outcome Measures. The design plan set will build off the Type Selection Report/Design Memo and complete 65% 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. Independence Lake Road is used to access Independence Lake, a critical water supply reservoir for TMWA operations.

Map/Photo attachments

Please include no more than 2 maps and no more than 4 photos.

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 contractors and equipment engaged in timber and fuels management. 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, in collaboration with Sierra County and the USFS, developed an Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) restoration project to address these impacts. In addition to improving ecological function and fish passage, the project will enhance infrastructure to support ongoing forest health maintenance and management of dense forest stands and heavy fuel loads that pose a significant wildfire risk to the broader watershed and surrounding communities. Specifically, the improved crossing is being designed to accommodate H-20 CalFire bridge load standards (at least 72,000 lbs), ensuring safe and reliable passage for heavy fire equipment and logging trucks involved in fuels reduction and wildfire preparedness efforts.

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 (LCT), another federally and state-listed species. This is only 1 of 5 pure LCT populations on the Tahoe National Forest.
3. **Forest Health and Fuels Reduction:** Current conditions surrounding Independence Lake consist of high-density forest stands and heavy accumulation of forest fuels that could have devastating impacts on ecological systems in the event of catastrophic wildfire or other disturbances. Impacts include loss of mature forest habitat and degradation of key headwaters resources including significant meadow, stream and wildlife habitat. This area has been identified and prioritized by the Middle Truckee River Watershed Forest Partnership (MTRWFP). Currently, land managers are required to install and remove a series of culverts across the creek every year in order to complete forest management activities.

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. Based on the Type Selection Report/Design Memo completed previously, partners and stakeholders decided to proceed with design of a three-span bridge, cast-in-place reinforced concrete slab structure, supported by concrete pier walls and spread footing foundations.

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 65% designs.

By installing a structure over unnamed creek, this project will enhance habitat protection, water quality, fire mitigation 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.

Re-Forestation and Re-Vegetation Projects

The project will improve access to over 3,000 acres of high-density forest stands and heavy accumulation of forest fuels surrounding Independence Lake that could have devastating impacts on the ecological systems present in the watershed in the event of catastrophic wildfire or other disturbances. The area is remote and will require thousands of equipment and logging truck passes. To facilitate access for fuels reduction and emergency response operations, this project supports a stream crossing engineered to meet CalFire's H-20 loading standard—capable of supporting up to 80,000 lbs.

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: March 2025

Independence AOP concept designs (30%): June 2025

Proposed Work:

Hydraulic study and Modeling: Fall 2025

Control Surveying and Engineering: Fall 2025

Independence AOP 60% Designs: Summer 2026 (funding dependent)

CEQA & NEPA surveys and analysis: December 2026

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

Project success will be achieved by the acceptance of the 65% 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

\$310,250.00

Cash

\$250,250.00

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.*

\$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

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.

You are required to use a TRF-approved budget template. Please contact Lauren Sgandurra at laurens@nevadafund.org for the 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_FALL 2025.docx

Supplemental Attachments

Please attach any additional attachments here.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- TRF_Previous Funding 2006 - 2025.xlsx
- Proejct Maps.pdf
- Proejct Photos_2024.pdf
- Independence AOP Budget_FALL 2025.docx

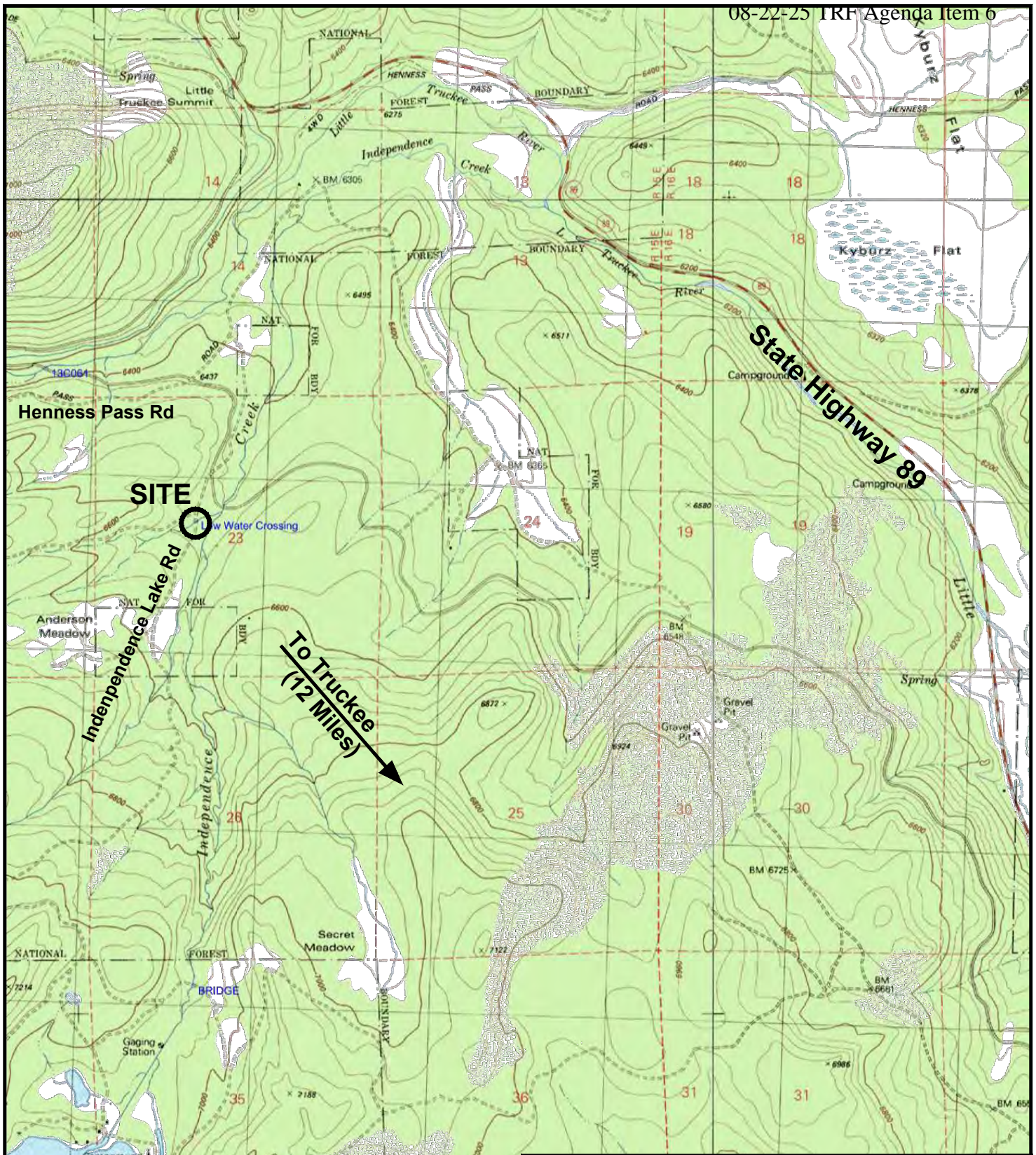
Previous Funding from Truckee River Fund

Date awarded	Project #	Title	Amount
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
March 2025	306	Independence Watershed Aquatic Organism Passage Project	\$ 55,000

Year	Project
2006	Storm Drain Stenciling Pilot Project
2010	Coldstream Implementation
2010	Truckee Meadows Assessment
2012	Coldstream Phase 2 Implementation and Monitoring
2012	Lacey Meadows Assessment
2012	Johnson Canyon Assessment
2012	Martis Dam Assessment
2013	Big Chief #1 Implementation
2013	Big Chief #2 Implementation
2013	Middle Martis Design
2014	Donner Basin Assessment
2014	Truckee Meadows Design
2015	Johnson Canyon Design
2016	Donner Creek Bank Stabilization Design
2016	Donner Creek Concept Designs
2016	Johnson Canyon Implementation
2017	First 4 Miles Design
2017	Tributaries Design
2018	Adopt-A-Stream
2018	Donner Creek and Dry Creek Meadow Design and Construction (respectively)
2018	Truckee Meadows Implementation
2019	Mclver Implementation
2019	Weed Warriors
2020	Coldstream
2021	Prosser Sediment Reduction
2021	Bear
2022	Donner Confluence + Boca Unit
2022	Lower Hoke & State of Donner Lake
2023	Cold Creek

TOTAL

Requested	Awarded
\$ 12,420	\$ 9,300
\$ 343,533	\$ 135,000
\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
\$ 196,000	\$ 196,000
\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
\$ 289,820	\$ 25,000
\$ 40,000	\$ -
\$ 10,000	\$ 11,000
\$ 350,000	\$ 150,000
\$ 170,000	\$ 120,000
\$ 75,000	\$ 70,000
\$ 75,000	\$ 50,000
\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
\$ 92,000.00	\$ 90,000.00
\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
\$ 67,000.00	\$ 67,000.00
\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
\$ 165,000.00	\$ 165,000.00
\$ 50,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
\$ 92,000.00	\$ 92,000.00
\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
\$ 200,000.00	\$ 161,000.00
\$ -	\$ -
\$ 136,500.00	\$ 86,500.00
\$ 44,000.00	\$ 44,000.00
\$ 51,250.00	\$ 51,250.00
\$ 55,700.00	\$ 55,700.00
\$ 206,000.00	\$ 206,000.00
\$ 126,000.00	\$ 119,400.00
\$ 3,082,223	\$ 2,164,150



0 2,000FT 4,000FT
SCALE

Taber

Taber Consultants
Engineers and Geologists
3911 West Capitol Avenue
West Sacramento, CA 95691-2116
(916) 371-1690 Fax (916) 371-7265

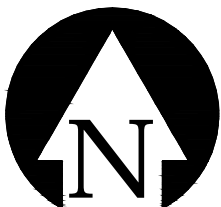
MGE Engineering, Inc.

New Bridge at Independence Lake Road Low Water Crossing
Sierra County, California

Vicinity Map

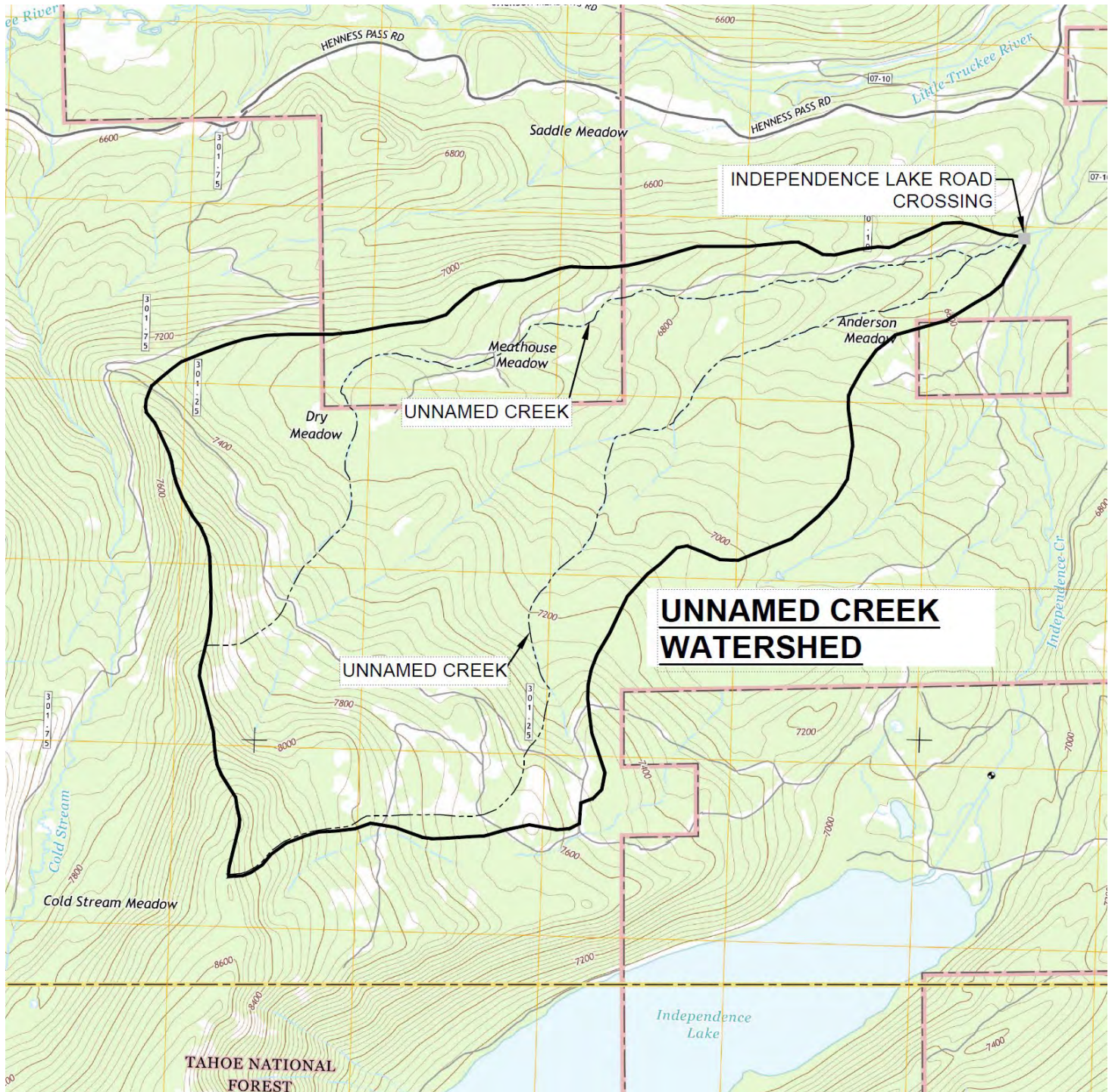
2014-0112

Figure - 1



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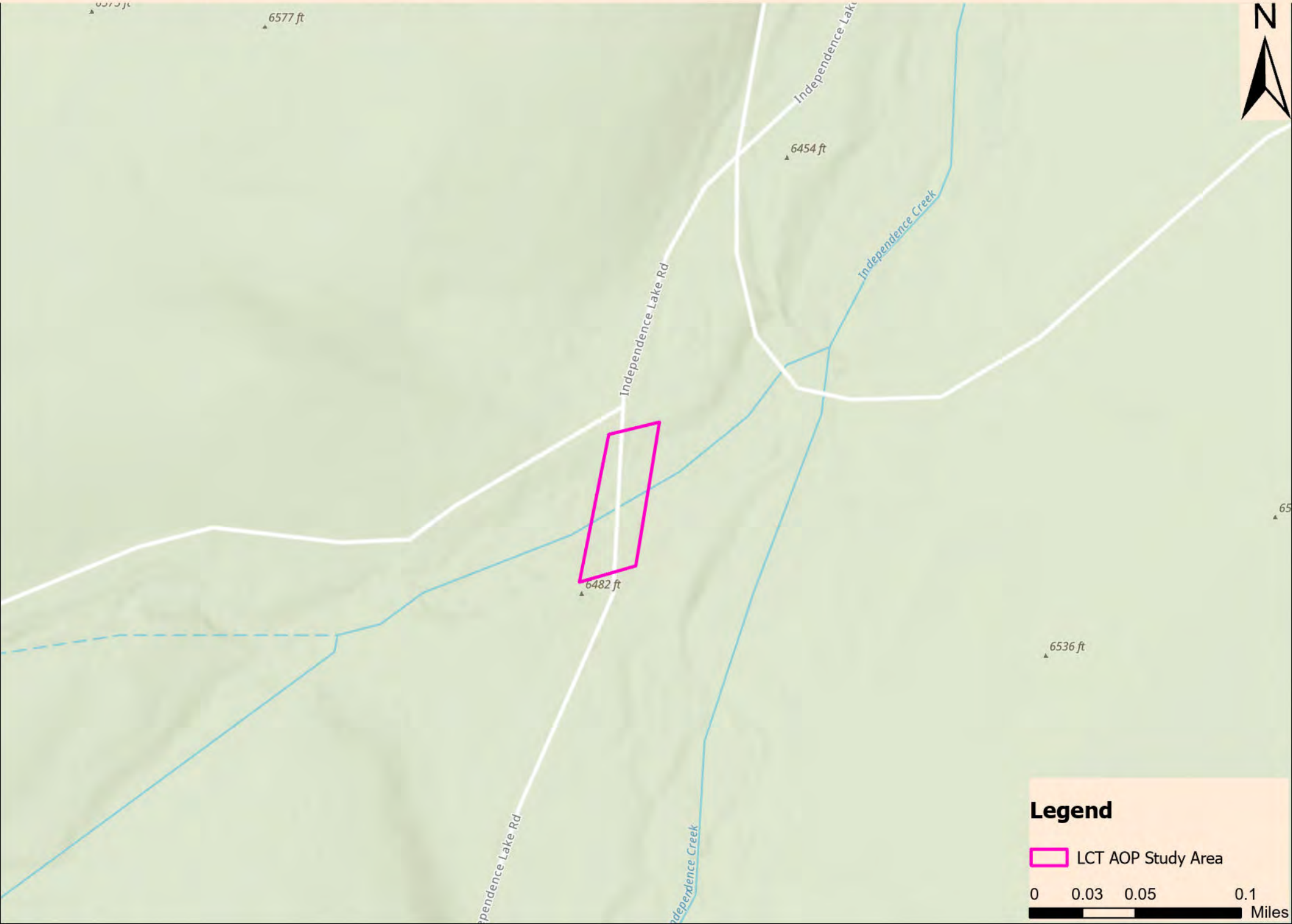
USGS
"INDEPENDENCE LAKE" CA
QUADRANGLE 7.5 MINUTE
SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC),
DATE 1981
VERTICAL DATUM 1929



Independence Watershed Aquatic Organism Passage Project

LCT Aquatic Organism Restoration - Project Location

08-22-25 TRF Agenda Item 6



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 Request	TRF Spring 2025 Funding	Other Funders	Match	Total Cost
Salaries and Wages								
Project Management (includes Executive Director and Project Director)	Varies per staff position			\$10,000.00	\$1,399.80	Martis Fund	\$22,000.00	\$33,399.80
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
Operating Costs								
Mileage	\$0.70	336	Per mile		\$235.20			\$235.20
Subcontractors								
Design Engineering	\$333,595	1	Lump Sum	\$62,500.00	\$52,745.00	Martis Fund	\$166,135.00	\$333,595.00
						WCB Prop 4	\$52,215.00	
Total Direct Costs								
Indirect Costs/Overhead (≤25% of budget)				\$2,500.00	\$620.00	Martis Fund	\$9,900.00	\$13,020.00
Total Project Costs				\$75,000.00	\$55,000.00		\$310,250.00	\$440,014.80

**Note: The match funding described in the budget table is related to phase 1 & phase 2 planning only.

TRF #311 Keeping Truckee Meadows Beautiful

Truckee River Fund- Fall 2025

Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful

Darcy Phillips
PO Box 7412
Reno, NV 89510

O: 775-851-5185

Darcy Phillips

PO Box 7412
PO Box 7412
Reno, NV 89510

grants@ktmb.org
O: 775-851-5185

Application Form

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 Sgandurra at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada for additional criteria at laurens@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.
 - For projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25% match requirement must be met using cash.

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.

TRF #311 Keeping Truckee Meadows Beautiful

Amount Requested*

\$74,635.32

Would you be able to implement your project if the full amount is not awarded?*

Yes

Minimum Amount Required to Complete the Project*

If partial funding is available.

\$70,000.00

Project Start Date*

01/01/2026

Project End Date*

12/31/2026

This funding will be used to:*

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

KTMB will remove litter, green waste, invasives, and hazardous waste from the watershed while also putting in trees and native plants to improve the health of the Truckee River corridor. While using volunteer labor to complete this work, KTMB will also be educating participants about the health of the watershed through service-learning projects.

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*

Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful

Organization Type*

501(c)(3) Nonprofit

EIN

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

88-0254957

Director of Organization*

Darcy Phillisp

Project Contact Name*

Darcy Phillips

Project Contact Postion/Title*

Executive Director

Project Contact Email*

darcy@ktmb.org

Project Contact Phone Number*

775.851.5185

Organization Mission*

Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful is dedicated to creating a more beautiful and sustainable region through waste reduction, education, and active community involvement.

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.

Previous Funding continued

Funding received from the Truckee River Fund_7.24.25docx.docx

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.

Funding from the Truckee River Fund would allow KTMB to continue to help protect, conserve, and steward the Truckee River corridor by accomplishing specific project goals:

- 1.) Expand work in removing invasive weeds (see recent stats in Grant Priorities section), planting native plants, and working to lessen beaver damage throughout the year, including during KTMB's Adopt-A-River program (AAR), the Great Community Cleanup (GCC), and the Truckee River Cleanup (TRC);
- 2.) Continue work in removing litter, green waste, and hazardous waste along the Truckee River corridor via the AAR, GCC, and TRC programs;
- 3.) Provide in-river cleanup work by partnering with municipal WET teams at GCC and TRC, and otherwise as needed;
- 4.) Provide community education and outreach to decrease environmental threats to the Truckee River; and
- 5.) Continue with the Truckee River adjacent condition survey, gathering information about litter and invasive weed projects that need attention.

KTMB will continue to build and maintain strategic partnerships that protect and preserve the Truckee River, expand litter and invasive weed removal projects throughout the watershed, and educate and empower residents as stewards of our environment. The measurable outcomes of this project are detailed below.

Goals 1, 2, and 3:

Adopt-A-River

With the current 18 active AAR adopter partners in parks along the river corridor, participate in at least 2-3 park interventions per year/group (litter and green waste cleanup, planting projects, weed removal, tree wrapping/painting, etc.), for a minimum of 30 river-specific cleanups; engage 300 volunteers in river-specific clean-up efforts and educate them about relevant pollutants and their impact on our water quality; continue to monitor and update the river corridor in order to identify areas that need attention and official adoption, allowing for ongoing data; and remove at least 30 tons (66,000 pounds) of litter, green waste, and invasive weeds from the river corridor.

Great Community Clean-Up (GCC) – Spring 2026

Work with multiple municipal and nonprofit partners to identify and target a minimum of eight invasive weed "hotspots" along the Truckee River and its tributaries for weed removal and native plant restoration; engage a minimum of 800 volunteers to participate in litter clean-up and weed removal at the event to include 200 volunteers to mitigate invasive weeds at hotspots; involve a minimum of 125 youth volunteers; remove at least 40 tons (88,000 pounds) of trash, invasive weeds, and green waste from the Truckee River watershed; educate volunteers on waste reduction and weed mitigation at GCC sites and subsequent zero-waste volunteer picnic; and survey volunteers analyze results to determine the success and impact of the event.

Truckee River Clean-Up (TRC) – Fall 2026

Engage a minimum of 700 volunteers to participate in storm drain stenciling, river cleanup, planting projects, and invasive weed removal; remove at least 20-25 tons (55,000 pounds) of invasive weeds, green waste, and litter in the Truckee River corridor at clean-up locations from Verdi to Lockwood; involve a minimum of 125 youth volunteers; host 20 "on the river" volunteers including kayakers, fly-fishers, and WET team Emergency Response personnel to remove debris from the river; stencil a minimum of 100 storm drains in partnership with the City of Reno to raise community awareness that all drains lead to the river; spread mulch generated by KTMB's Christmas Tree Recycling program for soil erosion projects and to inhibit weed growth; work with park and natural area staff to identify and wrap trees as needed along the river corridor; educate volunteers on waste reduction and weed mitigation at TRC sites and the subsequent zero-waste volunteer picnic; and survey event participants and compile analyzed results to determine the success and impact of the event.

Goal 4:

Community Education 2026

Conduct a minimum of 15 community and adult education presentations and service-learning events about our watershed, invasive weeds, and waste topics to reach a minimum of 350 community members from local businesses, organizations, community groups, etc.; and promote ecological literacy and environmental stewardship messaging using digital outreach.

Goal 5:

River-Adjacent Litter Survey 2026

Coordinate with volunteers and partners to continue our work on the annual river adjacent survey that would include the span of the river corridor from Dorostkar Park to Larkin Circle access. We anticipate securing 10-15 volunteers to travel this route, noting litter and weed hotspots along the route that need attention. This would also serve to monitor litter and weeds over time and in a data-driven way that matches our long-standing litter surveys that have had the same routes for over a decade. We can track litter and its movement as different municipalities enact different enforcement measures and projects along the river.

2.) Describe the project location.*

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

The Great Community Clean-Up (GCC), Truckee River Clean-Up (TRC), and Adopt-A-River are conducted throughout the Truckee River watershed at locations along the river corridor and tributaries. Community education workshops are presented at locations throughout the Truckee Meadows. KTMB will work with local municipalities and watershed experts to determine storm drain stenciling locations for the 2026 TRC. The River Adjacent Survey would take place from Dorostkar Park to Larkin Circle.

Map/Photo attachments

Please include no more than 2 maps and no more than 4 photos.

3.) Project Description*

Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful promotes a sustainable community by conducting cleanups and beautification projects throughout the Truckee Meadows, while also educating community members and

youth about watershed issues. Our events not only focus on invasive weed and litter removal, but also on educating volunteers and the community on watershed sustainability and waste reduction topics. Funding will also allow us to continue our smaller cleanup efforts such as Adopt-A-River Cleanups while involving new and underrepresented groups. Funding for this project will allow our Sustainability Education Team to present watershed, invasive weed, and waste reduction topics at our major events as well as provide service-learning opportunities at our Adopt-A-River cleanups as well as larger community/educational events.

KTMB's Annual Great Community Clean-Up and Truckee River Clean-Up will:

- 1.) Work with partners to monitor river hotspots for invasive weeds;
- 2.) Engage volunteers to remove nonpoint source pollution and invasive and noxious weeds at several hotspots along the Truckee River and its tributaries, as identified by KTMB's Litter Index Survey and municipal partners;
- 3.) Provide educational outreach and public service announcements in the community about environmental threats to the Truckee River and responsible river recreation and usage, and enhance marketing to increase volunteer participation; and
- 4.) Survey event participants and compile analyzed results to determine the success and impact of the event.

KTMB's Adopt-A-River program will:

- 1.) Recruit new volunteers and manage existing volunteers to conduct clean-ups along the Truckee River;
- 2.) Educate new and existing Adopt-A-River volunteer groups on the health and wellbeing of the Truckee River through service-learning education;

KTMB's Community Education program will:

- 1.) Continue community outreach through traditional and social media outlets with messaging about the health of the river and individual stewardship opportunities to improve water quality; and
- 2.) Coordinate service-learning events, community/educational presentations, and host community workshops to educate and empower the public to protect the Truckee River Watershed by reducing nonpoint source pollution and invasive and noxious weeds.

KTMB's River Adjacent Litter Survey will:

- 1.) Create a baseline of data points along the river corridor to monitor litter and invasive weed hotspots; and
- 2.) Engage partners and volunteers in a new project monitoring the health of the river corridor.

4.) Grant priorities*

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

KTMB will support the following TRF Grant Priorities: 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6

TRF Grant Priorities #2 and 5, Watershed Improvements and Tributary/Creeks: KTMB's work with planting and invasive weed removal along the Truckee River corridor and its tributaries helps to reduce erosion and sediment in the river. Removing litter and hazardous waste directly impacts the contaminants and bacterial pollutants in waterways. While our work is consistent year after year, it is impactful and vital to the overall health of the river corridor. We will work directly along the Truckee River Corridor as well as in all the

tributaries in the Reno-Sparks area. In 2024, we removed 34,707 pounds of weeds, planted 5025 plants, and planted 84 trees in the watershed, and we will continue to focus on this work.

TRF Grant Priority #3, Stormwater Improvements: KTMB's work in marking storm drains to educate the public about where stormwater goes is again simple but effective. Most people have no idea where water that enters a storm drain ends up, with the common misconception that it ends up at a treatment plant. With proper signage, we are educating the public on their direct connection to the river. In 2024, KTMB volunteers and staff stenciled 362 storm drains, and we will continue to do this work as directed by our municipal partners.

TRF Grant Priority #4, Re-Vegetation Projects: KTMB's will help improve watershed resiliency through the GCC, TRC, and Adopt-A-River programs by engaging volunteers to remove invasive plants and replant native species at river-specific sites and tributaries. These include Lockwood Park, Hunter Creek, Valley Wood Park, and Carcione/Canepa. We are also working with the City of Reno on projects that will include ditch work to reduce fire vulnerability as well as revegetation options in parks such as Huffaker Hills Trailhead, recently damaged by fire as part of our Adopt-A-Spot program.

TRF Grant Priority #6, Stewardship and Environmental Awareness: KTMB's projects will communicate environmental awareness about water, water quality, and watershed protection by engaging already present volunteers in relevant education on-site during their project. Our service-learning program, newly expanded this past year, will continue to tie the "why" to the work being done in order to increase awareness about the health of the watershed and why they are doing the work they are doing.

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.*

Where there are cities and people, there is waste being produced, and with our area's rapid population growth and development litter will continue to be a problem. If left unaddressed, the blight, pollution, and contamination will be catastrophic to the health of our river and watershed. We are, however, working on systemic change projects including supporting legislation that helps make the removal of dumped vehicles easier. We are also re-energizing our Illegal Dumping Task Force to continue to work on issues around illegal dumping in our region. We are tracking hotspots both within city limits and in county/federal parks and lands. While we would like to solve all these problems, our work is ongoing and never-ending due to the very nature of it.

Truckee River Fund's annual support of KTMB's projects assists in maintaining the health of the watershed as well as educating its populace. We also receive funding from the Nevada Division of Forestry, Washoe County, City of Reno, City of Sparks, Sun Valley General Improvement District, NV Energy, WM, and Northern Nevada Public Health.

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

KTMB is the principal coordinating agency for managing this project's planning, implementation, and evaluation, as well as volunteer recruitment and coordination. Additionally, we work with the City of Reno, City of Sparks, Washoe County, all parks and rec departments, BLM, USFS, Washoe Storey Conservation District, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Reno Sparks Indian Colony, One Truckee River, SVGID, Northern Nevada Health District, Washoe Lake State Park, Sparks HOPE Team, Reno Clean and Safe, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Laborers International Union of North America, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Reno WET Team, Sparks WET Team, Downtown Reno Partnership, Reno Fly Shop, Gear Hut, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Lahontan Audubon Society, and Tahoe Pyramid Trail.

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.

There will be seven (7) part-time staff positions involved in this project.

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

Approximately 1,800 volunteers with 5,800 volunteer 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.*

GCC 2026 Timeline:

Winter: Meet with project partners to identify GCC locations and plan GCC event logistics.

Spring: Implement GCC.

Spring/Summer: Compile survey data from GCC waste removal and weed pull projects.

TRC 2026 Timeline:

Spring/Summer: Compile survey data from the spring GCC waste removal and weed pull projects and re-survey sites for cleanliness. Plan TRC event.

Fall/Winter: Hold Fall TRC and re-survey the length of the river for cleanliness.

Adopt-A-River Timeline:

Winter: Compile and review information on existing sites and existing volunteer groups.

Spring/Summer/Fall: Outreach and volunteer recruitment and management to conduct plantings, tree-wrapping, and clean-ups along the river corridor.

Community Outreach Timeline:

Spring/Summer: Create an outreach plan to engage more residents on river-related topics through presentations, service-learning events, and media outreach. Schedule and conduct presentations and follow the media outreach plan.

Fall/Winter: Schedule and conduct presentations. Continue outreach.

River Adjacent Litter Survey Timeline:

Fall/Winter: Secure partners, work with municipalities to coordinate site specific locations along the Tahoe-Pyramid Trail.

Spring and Fall: Do litter survey with volunteers, collect and interpret data, prepare baseline statistics in preparation for future years.

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

The success of KTMB's 2026 Great Community Clean-Up will be measured in the following ways:

800 community volunteers engaged in litter and invasive weed removal along the Truckee River and its tributaries; minimum of 40 tons of litter and green waste removed from Truckee River Watershed; 125 youth volunteers engaged in watershed stewardship through Truckee River volunteer projects; event participants educated about the Truckee River threats and actions they can take.

The success of KTMB's 2026 Truckee River Clean-Up will be measured in the following ways:

700 community volunteers engaged in litter and invasive weed removal along the Truckee River and its tributaries; minimum of 20 tons of litter and green waste removed from Truckee River Watershed; 125 youth volunteers engaged in watershed stewardship through Truckee River volunteer projects; 100 storm drains stenciled; event participants educated about the Truckee River threats and actions they can take.

The success of Adopt-A-River will be measured by:

Evidence-based litter survey conducted along the length of the river corridor to evaluate clean-up efforts; at least 30 clean-ups implemented along the Truckee River corridor throughout the year; 300 community volunteers engaged in litter, invasive weed, and green waste removal along the Truckee River corridor; 30 tons of litter, invasive weeds, and green waste removed from the Truckee River corridor.

The success of Community Education and Outreach efforts will be measured by:

15 community education events through formal and informal presentations and service-learning events on protecting the health of our watershed through waste reduction and litter and weed prevention; 350 community members educated.

The success of the River Adjacent Litter Survey will be measured by:

15 volunteers participating and collecting data on litter and weeds along the river corridor.

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.

KTMB's major clean-up and education efforts collaborate with many local agencies and organizations including: A-Team Trash Hauling; HERO Environmental; Bureau of Land Management; City of Reno Parks; City of Sparks Parks; Down to Earth Composting; Friends of NV Wilderness; Lakin Tire; Milne Towing; Nevada Department of Agriculture; Nevada Department of Wildlife; Nevada Division of Environmental Protection; Nevada Division of Forestry; Nevada Land Trust; Northern Nevada HOPES; NV Energy; One Truckee River; Pepsi; REI; Reno Fire Department Water Entry Team; Save Mart; Sun Valley General Improvement District; SWCA; The Nature Conservancy; Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Water Entry Team; Truckee Meadows Water Authority; Truckee River Fly Fishers; US Forest Service; Washoe County Health District; Washoe County Parks; Washoe County Sheriff's Office; Washoe-Storey Cooperative Weed Management Authority; and Waste Management. We also receive funding from the Nevada Division of Forestry, Washoe County, City of Reno, City of Sparks, Sun Valley General Improvement District, NV Energy, WM, and Northern Nevada Public Health.

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

\$154,000.00

Cash

\$32,000.00

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.*

\$122,000.00

Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.*

Matching funds include SVGID (\$5,000), City of Reno Stormwater (\$2,000), NNPH (\$20,000), City of Sparks (\$5,000). In-Kind donations include support from HERO Environmental, Milne Towing, Lakin Tire, and ACE Hardware. Volunteer match is for the approximately 1,800 volunteers, 5,800 hours multiplied by \$20/hour per volunteer per your requirements.

Attachments

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.

You are required to use a TRF-approved budget template. Please contact Lauren Sgandurra at laurens@nevadafund.org for the 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.*

KTMB 2026 Budget.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

Please attach any additional attachments here.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Funding received from the Truckee River Fund_7.24.25docx.docx
- KTMB 2026 Budget.pdf

KTMB Funding received from the Truckee River Fund

Date Awarded

Date Awarded	September, 2024
	Keeping Truckee Meadows Beautiful
	\$97,410.32
Date Awarded	September 2023
	TRF #282 – 2024 Great Community Cleanup, Truckee River Cleanup, Adopt A River Program, & Adult and Community Education Program
Date Awarded	September 2022
Amount of Award:	\$91,360.32
Project Title	TRF #265 – 2023 Great Community Cleanup, Truckee River Cleanup, Adopt a River Program, & Adult and Community Education Program
Amount of Award	81,640
Date Awarded	September 2021
Project title:	KTMB's 2022 Great Community Cleanup, Truckee River Cleanup, Adopt-A-River Program, & Adult and Community Education Program
Amount of Award:	\$82,880
Date Awarded	August 2020
Project Title:	TRF #239 2021 Spring Great Community Cleanup, 2021 Fall Truckee River Cleanup, Adopt-A-River & Adult Outreach and Education
Amount of Award:	\$74,245
Date Awarded	August 2019
Project title:	TRF #224 KTMB Cleanup and Weed Removal 2020
Amount of Award:	\$79,245
Date Awarded	February 2019
Project title:	TRF #217 Truckee River Cleanup
Amount of Award:	\$53,000
Date Awarded	August 2018
Project title:	TRF #204 Great Cleanup
Amount of Award:	\$31, 640
Date Awarded	August 2017
Project title:	TRF #193 Great Cleanup/River Cleanup
Amount of Award:	\$69,760
Date Awarded	August, 2016
Project title:	TRF #176 Great Cleanup/River Cleanup
Amount of Award:	\$60,625
Date awarded:	October 22, 2016
Project title:	TRF #165 Truckee River Cleanup/Invasive Weed Pull
Amount of Award:	\$48,325
Date awarded:	February, 2015
Project title:	TRF #156 Phase I Truckee River Corridor Management Plan
Amount of Award:	\$90,000
Date awarded:	September, 2014
Project Title:	TRF #154 Invasive Weed Pull & River Cleanup
Amount of Award:	\$46,000
Date awarded:	October 2013
Project Title:	TRF 126: Truckee River Youth Education/Invasive Weed Pull/Cleanup 2014
Amount of Award	\$57,050
Date awarded:	September 2012
Project title:	Truckee River Cleanup 2013
Amount of Award:	\$46,450

KTMB Funding received from the Truckee River Fund

Date awarded:	October 2011
Project title:	TRF #89 Truckee River Cleanup 2012
Amount of Award:	\$44,950
Date awarded:	November 2010
Project title:	#82 Truckee River Cleanup May 2011 Invasive Weed Pull and September 2011 Truckee River Cleanup Day
Amount of Award:	\$42,900
Date awarded:	December 2009
Project title:	Invasive Weed Pull May 2010, River Cleanup Sep 2010
Amount of Award:	\$42,050
Date awarded:	February 2009
Project title:	Truckee River Cleanup Day, September 2009
Amount of Award:	\$26,975
Date awarded:	January 2008
Project title:	Truckee River Cleanup Day, September 2008
Amount of Award:	\$25,604.85
Date awarded:	November 2006
Project title:	Truckee River Cleanup Day, September 2007
Amount of Award:	\$24,730
Date awarded:	July 2006
Project title:	Truckee River Cleanup Day, September 2006
Amount of Award:	\$13,175
Date awarded:	December 2005
Project title:	Truckee River Cleanup Day, September 2006
Amount of Award:	\$9,402.50

Budget Item Description	\$/unit	Quantity	Quantity Type	TRF Funding	Other Funders (Cash Match)	In-Kind Match	Total Cost
Salaries and Wages							
Project Managers	\$ 24.60	1300.00	Hours	\$ 31,980.00	\$ 25,000.00		
Program Managers	\$ 33.47	200.00	Hours	\$ 6,694.00	\$ 5,000.00		
Fringe Benefits	X	18.00	Percent	\$ 6,961.32			
Project Partner Match (Partner time, donated supplies)						\$ 20,000.00	
Volunteers	\$ 20.00	5000.00	Hours			\$ 100,000.00	
Project / Program Management							
Materials: Dumpsters, Port-o-Potties, plants, tools, tree wrap, gloves, etc.			Contract	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 2,000.00		
Volunteer support, picnic/thank you			Contract	\$ 9,000.00		\$ 2,000.00	
Marketing and educational materials			Contract	\$ 7,000.00			
Total Direct Costs				\$ 74,635.32			
Indirect Costs/Overhead (≤25% of budget)	X						
Total Project Costs				\$ 74,635.32	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 122,000.00	\$ 228,635.32
Budget Notes:							
Line 6 - an average \$/unit cost for project manager positions to include Cleanups and Service Learning Program Manager, Beautification and Cleanups Program Manager, and Sustainability Education Program Manager split about 25/50/25 among those positions							
Line 7 - an average \$/unit cost for program manager positions to include Executive Director, Operations and Finance Manager, and Communications Director/Grants Manager split about 35/35/50 among those positions							
Line 8 - organizational average is 18% and includes Health insurance, dental/vision, PTO							

Line 9 - includes match time from municipal employees, federal employees (BLM, USFS), partner organizations (Friends of NV Wildnerness, TNC, etc.), as well as donations of green waste dump trucks, trash bags, and other supplies							
Line 10 - includes volunteer hours as listed in proposal for each event multiplied by \$20 per hour per volunteer							
Line 12 - includes all supplies and support items used in volunteer events							
Line 13 - includes safety gear and supplies for volunteers, water, snacks, thank you, and after event picnics 2x/year							
Line 14 - includes marketing to recruit volunteers and handouts, literature, and other public education materials							

TRF #312 Lake Tahoe AIS Prevention and Eyes on the Lake Citizen Science Program

Truckee River Fund- Fall 2025

League to Save Lake Tahoe

Darcie Goodman-Collins
2877 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

O: 530-541-5388

Matisse Geenty

2877 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Membership@keeptahoeblue.org
O: 530-541-5388

Application Form

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 Sgandurra at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada for additional criteria at laurens@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.
 - For projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25% match requirement must be met using cash.

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.

TRF #312 Lake Tahoe AIS Prevention and Eyes on the Lake Citizen Science Program

Amount Requested*

\$35,000.00

Would you be able to implement your project if the full amount is not awarded?*

Yes

Minimum Amount Required to Complete the Project*

If partial funding is available.

\$25,000.00

Project Start Date*

09/01/2025

Project End Date*

12/31/2025

This funding will be used to:*

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

Prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) from Lake Tahoe into the Truckee River system by expanding CD3 boat cleaning stations and strengthening our Eyes on the Lake citizen science program. These dual initiatives will reduce ecological threats to the Truckee River watershed, enhance early detection capacity, and increase public engagement in watershed protection.

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

Organization Name*

League to Save Lake Tahoe

Organization Type*

501(c)(3) Nonprofit

EIN

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

94-6128680

Director of Organization*

Dr. Darcie Goodman-Collins

Project Contact Name*

Matisse Geenty

Project Contact Postion/Title*

Philanthropy Director

Project Contact Email*

matisse@keeptahoeblue.org

Project Contact Phone Number*

(530) 541-5388

Organization Mission*

Established in 1957, The League to Save Lake Tahoe's (Keep Tahoe Blue) mission is to protect and restore the environmental health, sustainability and scenic beauty of the Lake Tahoe Basin. We focus on water quality and clarity for the preservation of a pristine Lake for future generations. Under our current strategic plan, our campaigns are to advance restoration, combat pollution and tackle invasive species.

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: 2014

Project # and Title: TRF #149, Keep Tahoe Blue

Amount of award: \$18,000

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.

The goals and outcomes for Keep Tahoe Blue's work to prevent AIS spread in the Tahoe Basin and Truckee River watershed are set on an annualized basis, and measured against data collected by our team of citizen scientists, TRPA, Lahontan Water Board, and regional partners. This ongoing project is informed by current and projected threats to the watershed.

Goals:

Prevent introduction and spread of AIS at Lake Tahoe, and into the Truckee River watershed, including the high-priority and high-threat golden mussel.

Train and deploy citizen scientists to monitor for invasive species, creating a network of volunteers committed to protecting our watershed.

Reduce risk of AIS transport by recreationists using non-motorized and trailered watercraft.

Educate the public about AIS through direct engagement and digital platforms.

Outcomes are set in accordance with the League's workplan, and are driven by staff and volunteer engagement. In 2025, the League expanded its programmatic staff to include a full-time Engagement Manager who leads all Eyes on the Lake programming. Additionally, the League's Science Director works closely with

partner agencies to fuel expansion of AIS preventing technology basin-wide, organize response efforts to reported outbreaks, and coordinate emergency response efforts to golden mussel sightings.

Measurable Outcomes:

200+ trained volunteers in Eyes on the Lake.

15+ acres of shoreline monitored for AIS (30% increase from 2024 acreage).

14 Marinas (all) trained for AIS identification with materials provided for ongoing prevention.

Expansion of CD3 unit uses recorded in 2024 through the introduction of additional units basin-wide.

100% confirmed AIS sightings reported are addressed in a timely manner by the League and partner organizations.

5+ youth groups engaged through outreach.

Full season use of the League's suite of AIS-management robots including CD3 (Clean, Drain, Dry for non-motorized watercraft), CollecThor and PixieDrone (both stationed at the Tahoe Keys Marina).

Any and all golden mussel sightings are addressed by authorities and tracked accordingly on the League's public-facing maps.

2.) Describe the project location.*

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

Project activities will take place throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin, with strategic focus on sites that contribute directly to the health of the Truckee River headwaters. In 2025, the League's expanded geographic emphasis includes North Lake Tahoe, with increased Eyes on the Lake volunteer presence and targeted outreach around Tahoe City—a critical outflow point where Lake Tahoe feeds into the Truckee River. EOL Trainings in North Lake Tahoe are coordinated with our increased Tahoe Blue Beach effort in adjacent Kings Beach – which is generously sponsored by the North Tahoe Community Alliance.

CD3 cleaning stations and volunteer deployment locations will be prioritized at public access areas with high non-motorized watercraft use. Locations are selected in collaboration with land management partners including the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Tahoe Resource Conservation District, and the U.S. Forest Service, and in 2025 are stationed at: Sand Harbor, Kiva Beach, and Meeks Bay. The League is always eager to work with partners and funders to increase the number of CD3 machines basin-wide, and data from the 2025 EOL and AIS prevention efforts will inform and support the expansion of this simple technology in 2026 and beyond.

This place-based work reflects a key pillar of the League's 2025–2029 Strategic Plan to expand programmatic reach basin-wide while maintaining a strong presence in areas with high ecological sensitivity and recreational pressure. The League is committed to ensuring that prevention efforts at Lake Tahoe's outlet contribute directly to downstream water quality and watershed resilience for the entire Truckee River system.

Map/Photo attachments

Please include no more than 2 maps and no more than 4 photos.

Eyes on the Lake Report Map.png

3.) Project Description*

Lake Tahoe is not only a world-renowned natural resource but also the headwaters of the Truckee River, the drinking water source for more than 400,000 people. Protecting its water quality is essential to the health of the entire Truckee River watershed, and in 2025, the League to Save Lake Tahoe is scaling two of its most effective community-based aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention programs—CD3 Cleaning Stations and Eyes on the Lake (EOL)—to ensure lasting protection from upstream threats.

Aquatic invasive species such as Eurasian watermilfoil, curlyleaf pondweed, and quagga and zebra mussels have already altered ecosystems across the West. Lake Tahoe remains largely uninfested, but faces increasing pressure from 15 million annual visitors and warming water temperatures that create ideal habitat for new introductions, such as the rapidly spreading Golden Mussel. These threats jeopardize water quality, native ecosystems, recreation, and downstream systems like the Truckee River.

The CD3 Cleaning Station program helps non-motorized recreationists—like kayakers and paddleboarders—prevent the unintentional spread of AIS by providing contactless, solar-powered boat-cleaning infrastructure at high-traffic lake access points. These stations are supported by on-site education and signage that encourages “Clean, Drain, Dry” behavior before and after launching watercraft. In 2025-2026 the League has expanded the number of CD3 units in partnership with public land agencies and aims to gather data to support increased presence lake-wide, with a special emphasis on high recreational use, which impact overall water quality and clarity and threaten the integrity of the Truckee River outflow.

Eyes on the Lake, the League’s citizen science program, trains volunteers to monitor shoreline and shallow waters for signs of invasive species. Using the Citizen Science Tahoe App, community members can report real-time sightings that are reviewed by experts and routed to agencies for rapid response. This program not only augments agency capacity but also builds environmental literacy and empowers everyday residents and visitors to protect the lake they love. In 2025, the League has expanded Eyes on the Lake in North Lake Tahoe, allowing these citizen science volunteers to increase efforts on Tahoe City and adjacent tributaries like Ward Creek and Watson Creek, helping create a stronger early detection net at the headwaters.

In addition to these two core programs, the League will host its 28th Annual Tahoe Forest Stewardship Day on September 20, 2025, at Marlett Lake and Creek. This community-powered event unites hundreds of volunteers for a day of hands-on ecological restoration, including invasive species removal, riparian vegetation planting, and forest fuel load reduction. The selected site will be in the greater North Shore region and contribute to upstream resilience for the Truckee River system. Forest Stewardship Day exemplifies the League’s holistic approach to watershed health—pairing habitat restoration with community activation.

Together, these programs reflect the League’s 2025–2029 Strategic Plan commitment to expand basin-wide prevention, increase community-based science, and position Tahoe as a model for upstream conservation in mixed-use watersheds. Our collaborative work will ensure that prevention begins at the top—protecting not just Tahoe, but the full length of the Truckee River system.

4.) Grant priorities*

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

This project aligns with multiple stated priorities of the Truckee River Fund:

Priority I – Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention:

Lake Tahoe is a critical control point for aquatic invasive species that threaten the Truckee River watershed. By deploying CD3 Cleaning Stations and strengthening the Eyes on the Lake citizen science program, the League proactively prevents the spread of harmful species such as Eurasian watermilfoil, curlyleaf pondweed, and the high-risk Golden Mussel. These efforts directly reduce the likelihood of infestations in the Truckee River system by addressing risks at the source.

Priority II – Watershed Improvements:

Aquatic invasives degrade water quality, outcompete native vegetation, and reduce ecological function. Through early detection, direct education, and shoreline monitoring, the League’s work helps protect the biological and hydrological integrity of the Tahoe-Truckee watershed. The Citizen Science Tahoe App

facilitates rapid data sharing with agency partners, ensuring timely response and adaptive management of at-risk sites.

Priority VI – Stewardship and Environmental Awareness:

The League's programs are rooted in community engagement and environmental education. Eyes on the Lake trains and empowers volunteers of all ages to participate in science-based lake protection. CD3 unit locations are supported with educational signage and staffed events to shift behavior around watercraft cleaning.

Additionally, the League's Tahoe Forest Stewardship Day, scheduled for September 20, 2025, brings hundreds of community members together for a full day of hands-on restoration work, including shoreline cleanups, invasive plant removal, and riparian replanting in the broader Truckee River watershed. Volunteers leave with new knowledge and a deeper connection to watershed health. This annual event, now in its 28th year, is a flagship example of sustained public stewardship in the Tahoe-Truckee region.

Beyond this single event, the League operates year-round education initiatives—including youth programming, school presentations, and interpretive outreach at beaches and trailheads—that foster a sense of shared responsibility for protecting water quality at its source.

These programs support the Truckee River Fund's mission by combining prevention, public engagement, and measurable on-the-ground improvements that begin at Lake Tahoe and benefit the full Truckee River system.

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 federal, state, or local permits for implementation. Both the CD3 Cleaning Station program and the Eyes on the Lake citizen science initiative are non-invasive, education- and monitoring-based efforts that do not involve physical alterations to land or water resources.

The CD3 units are solar-powered, mobile, and designed for deployment in collaboration with local land management agencies. Their installation typically occurs at established recreational access points, such as beaches, marinas, or trailheads, where no new ground disturbance or infrastructure modification is needed. The League works closely with public landowners, including the U.S. Forest Service, California State Parks, and local jurisdictions, to coordinate siting, signage, and public use.

Similarly, Eyes on the Lake activities involve shoreline-based visual monitoring by trained volunteers and the use of mobile devices to report observations via the Citizen Science Tahoe App. No collecting, disturbing, or altering of habitat occurs. All monitoring takes place in compliance with local guidelines and in coordination with Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD).

Should any minor permitting or agency agreements be required for new CD3 station locations or public education installations, the League will work directly with the relevant landowner or managing agency to secure appropriate documentation prior to deployment. The League has longstanding relationships with these agencies and a strong track record of operating within regulatory frameworks.

In summary, while formal permits are not anticipated for this scope of work, the League is fully prepared to comply with all applicable land use protocols and interagency coordination procedures.

6.) Future Land Use*

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

There are no anticipated changes in land use or zoning at project sites that would conflict with or compromise the goals of this initiative throughout the funding period. All program activities—including installation of CD3 Cleaning Stations and Eyes on the Lake volunteer monitoring—take place at existing public access points, recreation zones, and shoreline areas within the Lake Tahoe Basin. These locations are managed for public use and conservation by partners such as the U.S. Forest Service, California State Parks, and local municipalities, and are expected to remain protected and accessible for the foreseeable future. The League has a 68 year history of partnering with these agencies, and land-use continuity for AIS prevention efforts is a core part of our working relationship.

Moreover, this project supports—and is fully aligned with—the League to Save Lake Tahoe’s 2025–2029 Strategic Plan, which emphasizes basin-wide expansion of prevention infrastructure, ecosystem resilience, and upstream watershed protection. Strategic Plan Goal 3, “Advance long-term resilience through policy, infrastructure, and natural systems restoration,” explicitly calls for scaling efforts that preserve water quality and habitat function across the Tahoe Basin and into the broader Truckee River watershed.

By enhancing community-based AIS prevention and shoreline monitoring now, the League is investing in long-term conservation practices that will be sustainable regardless of future land use patterns. Additionally, tools such as the Citizen Science Tahoe App and mobile CD3 units are highly adaptable and can be re-deployed as needed in response to future environmental or recreational shifts.

This project also supports interagency coordination and land management planning by providing real-time data that can inform long-range stewardship strategies. In that way, the project does not just withstand future land use changes—it helps shape thoughtful, environmentally sound land use practices across the region.

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

The League to Save Lake Tahoe views this project as part of a multi-year, basin-wide strategy to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and foster long-term watershed stewardship throughout the Tahoe-Truckee system.

Future phases will focus on:

Scaling CD3 infrastructure across more public access points, including underserved or high-use recreation zones.

Expanding Eyes on the Lake volunteer coverage to new tributaries and remote shoreline areas not currently monitored.

Deepening youth engagement through school partnerships and field-based science programs.

Developing and expanding shared data systems with regional agencies for early detection and rapid response coordination.

These efforts align with the League's 2025–2029 Strategic Plan, which prioritizes basin-wide resilience, public education, and scalable infrastructure to protect Lake Tahoe and its downstream watersheds.

To sustain and grow this work, the League will continue cultivating partnerships and seeking funding from local, regional, and national sources. Prospective and current funders include the California Tahoe Conservancy, Tahoe Blue Crew sponsors, Tahoe Truckee community Foundation, Tahoe Community Foundation, North Tahoe Community alliance and many more private and public funders focused on freshwater health and community science. The League also invests internal unrestricted dollars into program growth and staff capacity.

With continued support from the Truckee River Fund and allied partners, these programs can serve as a model for upstream protection that benefits the full Truckee River corridor and the people and ecosystems that depend on it.

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

Courtney Thomson – Engagement Manager

Courtney Thomson oversees the League's extensive volunteer programs and community outreach. As Engagement Manager, she designs and implements public-facing initiatives—including Eyes on the Lake training sessions, marina tabling events, and school-based educational programming. Courtney's leadership ensures that volunteers are well-supported, scientifically literate, and effective at promoting AIS prevention behaviors across the Tahoe Basin. She will coordinate volunteer recruitment, training logistics, and stewardship day engagement for this project.

Laura Patten – Natural Resource Director

Laura Patten provides subject-matter expertise and direction for environmental programs across the organization. She led the multi-year Control Methods Test (CMT) and spearheaded the removal of eight miles of defunct lead-sheathed cable in the Tahoe Keys—demonstrating her ability to manage complex restoration and invasive species control efforts. Laura will provide scientific oversight for the Eyes on the Lake program, coordinate with agency partners for rapid-response protocols, and guide technical evaluation of CD3 unit performance.

Jesse Patterson, PhD – Chief Strategy Officer

Jesse Patterson brings a unique combination of scientific rigor and strategic vision. With a background in marine biology, environmental program development for tribal communities, and decade-long teaching at Lake Tahoe Community College, Jesse ensures each project component is grounded in both data and systems-level thinking. As CSO, Jesse leads the integration of surveillance data from Eyes on the Lake with policy development and cross-jurisdictional coordination. He will also manage the strategic placement of CD3 units and stakeholder alignment with agencies like Tahoe RCD, TRPA, and U.S. Forest Service.

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.

3 full-time, and 6 part-time summer interns

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

200 volunteers (120 in 2024), and estimated 2,000+ volunteer 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.*

Project Timeline:

This project is scheduled to run from September 1, 2025 to August 30, 2026, aligning with seasonal cycles of recreation, allowing for integration of 2025 data on aquatic invasive species (AIS) spread, and volunteer availability. This cycle allows the League to use funding to fuel 2025 tail-end efforts, prepare for 2026, and deploy a summer-long activation in 2026.

Fall 2025 (September – November):

- * Conduct planning meetings with land management partners (USFS, TRPA, Tahoe RCD) to finalize CD3 unit sites for 2026
- * Coordinate volunteer outreach and Eyes on the Lake training sessions
- * Continue public education around AIS risks at late summer events and marinas
- * Host the **28th Annual Tahoe Forest Stewardship Day** (September 20, 2025) with a focus on habitat restoration and invasive species removal in the Truckee River watershed

Winter 2025–26 (December – February):

- * Analyze 2025 program data and refine volunteer training materials
- * Update educational content and signage for the 2026 recreation season
- * Continue agency coordination and prepare for spring deployment
- * Identify and confirm locations for additional CD3 units as applicable

Spring 2026 (March – May):

- * Begin installation or re-deployment of CD3 Cleaning Stations at shoreline access points
- * Ramp up Eyes on the Lake volunteer recruitment and refresher trainings
- * Launch spring education campaign in schools and community centers
- * Participate in Earth Month and Tahoe Basin-wide stewardship activities

Summer 2026 (June – August):

- * Peak season for AIS spread and public outreach
- * Staff CD3 units with volunteers and engagement team
- * Host public tabling and education events at beaches and trailheads
- * Conduct shoreline monitoring and rapid response via Citizen Science Tahoe App
- * Complete data collection, reporting, and stakeholder debrief

Final Reporting (August 2026):

- * Compile program outcomes and evaluation metrics
- * Submit final reports and financial documentation to funders and partners
- * Share outcomes with TRPA, Tahoe RCD, and other stakeholders for regional impact assessment

Should funding from the Truckee River Fund not be available for a 9/1/25, the League is able to adjust grant timelines, including: Q4 2025 start date in October (and using funding for 2026 Tahoe Forest Stewardship Days) or a Jan 1 2026 start date, aligning project outcomes to an annualized cycle.

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

Success for this project will be measured through both quantitative outcomes and qualitative impact aligned with aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention, public engagement, and watershed protection goals. Key indicators include:

Increased volunteer engagement: Successful recruitment and training of at least 200 Eyes on the Lake volunteers, with broad geographic coverage in high-risk areas near the Truckee River outlet.

AIS surveillance and reporting: A measurable number of accurate, actionable AIS reports submitted via the Citizen Science Tahoe App, with response coordination through partner agencies.

CD3 station usage: High utilization rates at cleaning stations, tracked via digital log data or in-person interaction tallies.

Public awareness growth: Demonstrated increase in knowledge of AIS prevention among recreationists, measured via event surveys or partner feedback.

Community participation: Robust turnout and volunteer satisfaction at the 2025 Tahoe Forest Stewardship Day, including restoration activities linked to Truckee River watershed health

Improved interagency coordination: Active data-sharing and joint response planning with partners such as TRPA, Tahoe RCD Lahontan Regional Water Board, and USFS

Match leverage: Successful integration of Truckee River Fund support with matching investments from other public and private funders.

Ultimately, a successful project will prevent the introduction or spread of AIS at Lake Tahoe's critical headwaters, deepen stewardship in the Tahoe-Truckee watershed, and serve as a replicable model for upstream protection.

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 built on strong partnerships with agencies and organizations dedicated to protecting the Lake Tahoe and Truckee River watersheds. The League to Save Lake Tahoe will collaborate with the following entities to deliver effective aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention and public education:

Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD): Co-leads regional AIS prevention efforts, shares program data, and supports coordination for rapid response.

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA): Supports site identification, integrates Eyes on the Lake data into its monitoring programs, and provides permitting and policy alignment.

U.S. Forest Service – Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit: Offers access and logistical support for CD3 station siting and stewardship events.

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board: Collaborates on AIS and water quality protections and incorporates Eyes on the Lake data into watershed health assessments, coordinating closely with our Natural Resource Director.

California Tahoe Conservancy: Provides strategic funding and programmatic collaboration for community-based watershed education and land stewardship.

In addition to these formal partners, the League also coordinates with marina operators, beach concessionaires, and local jurisdictions to deliver targeted outreach at high-use recreation areas.

Other Funding Sought/Awarded:

To ensure program sustainability, the League has secured or pursued several aligned funding sources:

California Tahoe Conservancy – Pending or secured grant funding for education and ecosystem protection

Private foundations and donors – Support unrestricted and program-specific elements, including staff time and volunteer infrastructure

In-kind contributions – Provided by agency partners and volunteers through data collection, site access, and logistical support.

Truckee River Fund support will be strategically leveraged alongside these investments to expand prevention, education, and stewardship activities that protect the Truckee River headwaters and benefit downstream water users.

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

\$657,181.00

Cash

\$657,181.00

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 League will meet the Truckee River Fund's 25% match requirement through a combination of secured philanthropic support (e.g., Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, Tahoe Community Foundation, private foundations), and unrestricted organizational funds. In-kind support includes volunteer hours from Eyes on the Lake participants and staff time for education, outreach, and data management.

The League's committed Board of Directors oversee management of funds and support fundraising efforts on a multi-year basis, allowing for responsive action to emerging AIS threats basin-wide.

Attachments

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.

You are required to use a TRF-approved budget template. Please contact Lauren Sgandurra at laurens@nevadafund.org for the 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_Budget_Filled_Template.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

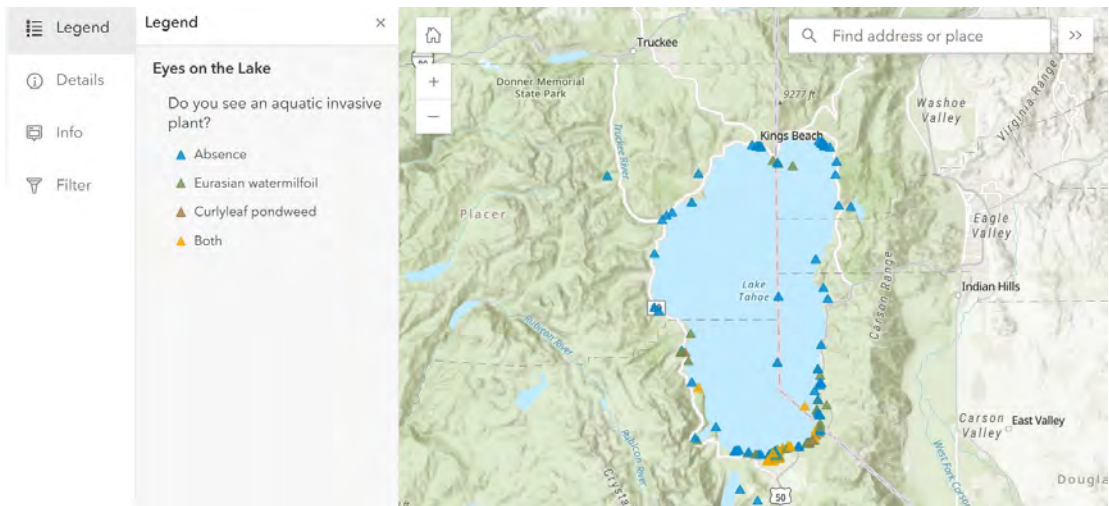
Please attach any additional attachments here.

Pixie-Collec_Thor Flyer-compressed.pdf

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Eyes on the Lake Report Map.png
- TRF_Budget_Filled_Template.pdf
- Pixie-Collec_Thor Flyer-compressed.pdf



Budget Item Description	\$/unit	Quantity	Quantity Type	TRF Funding	Other Funders Match	Total Cost
Project Manager						
Program Manager						
Engineer 2						
Fringe Benefits				\$3,000.00	\$90,122.00	\$93,122.00
Full-Time Employees				\$150,000.00	\$299,453.00	\$314,453.00
Volunteers						
Planning						
Design				\$4,000.00	\$42,036.00	\$46,036.00
Engineering Services during Design					\$24,428.00	\$24,428.00
Environmental / Permitting						
Construction Management						
Materials				\$3,000.00	\$57,138.00	\$60,138.00
Construction Contract				\$10,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$75,000.00
Indirect Costs/Overhead (≤25% of budget)					\$79,005.00	\$79,005.00
Total Project Costs				\$35,000.00	\$657,181.00	\$692,181.00



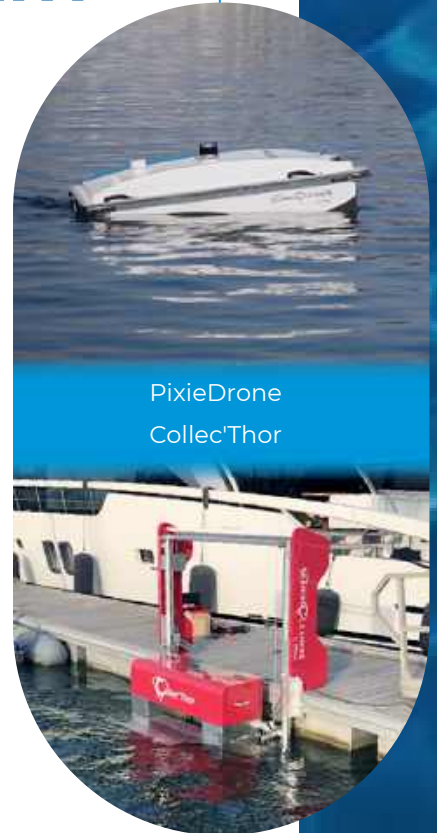
530.541.5388
KEEPTAHOEBLUE.ORG
@KEEPTAHOEBLUE

THE FUTURE OF INVASIVE SPECIES CONTAINMENT

The Tahoe Keys Lagoons and neighboring marina – the Lake's largest – are choked with harmful, aquatic invasive plants that are damaging water quality and creeping into the Lake itself. The League to Save Lake Tahoe is leading a team of public and private partners, including the marina's owner, to implement innovative technologies to ratchet up containment on Tahoe's largest infestation of aquatic invasive weeds.

Two new technologies – each the first of its kind on the West Coast – will hit the water in 2023. The **PixieDrone** is an autonomous and programmable floating skimmer that captures and removes floating weed fragments, litter and even oil slicks. The **Collec'Thor** is another innovative device that will be mounted to a channel wall to collect weed fragments and small debris from the water.

The marina's connection to Lake Tahoe proper is currently outfitted with a double bubble curtain, a device that emits walls of tiny bubbles which corral plant fragments (carried by passing boats and surface currents) before they escape into the Lake. This summer, the bubble curtain is being monitored for effectiveness and optimized to upgrade its performance.



PixieDrone
Collec'Thor

PROTECTING LAKE TAHOE
SINCE 1957.

A technology-driven, multifaceted, public-private partnership that protects Lake Tahoe from the spread of invasive weeds from the Lake's largest marina.

Creates a model for aquatic invasive species containment that can be applied around the Lake and world, backed by scientific data.

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530.541.5388
KEEPTAHOEBLUE.ORG
@KEEPTAHOEBLUE

A MOBILE TOOL FOR INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are an ecological menace that threaten to turn Lake Tahoe's famously clean, blue water to a murky green as they spread. AIS can be introduced as stowaways on kayaks, paddle boards and other nonmotorized watercraft. In the summer of 2023, the League seeks to pilot-test a mobile, solar-powered unit with onboard tools to decontaminate – or "clean, drain and dry" watercraft – to stop the spread of AIS.

The mobile unit, manufactured by CD3, will be deployed at popular, high-use recreation sites around the Basin that lack boat inspection stations or staff, such as Fallen Leaf Lake and Echo Lakes. The machine's visual interest will draw people in, enhancing public education and action for AIS prevention. Built-in data gathering tools will be used to measure utility.

The project will be conducted through a public-private partnership between the League, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and Tahoe Resource Conservation District. It will complement the Tahoe Basin's effective, globally recognized program for inspecting motorized watercraft.



Nonmotorized watercraft
CD3 Decontamination Unit



PROTECTING LAKE TAHOE
SINCE 1957

Promotes responsible recreation and acts an educational tool and a practical means for decontaminating watercraft where infrastructure isn't available.

Extends the reach of invasive species prevention at Tahoe with the ability to be moved from location to location.

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TRF #313 Cultivating Watershed Resilience at the Urban-Agricultural Interface: Advancing Watershed Health, Fire Resilience, Regenerative Urban Agriculture and Community Stewardship

Truckee River Fund- Fall 2025

Reno Food Systems

Lyndsey Langsdale
316 California Avenue #851
Reno, NV 89509

O: 775-815-1113

Lyndsey Langsdale

972 Bates Ave
Reno, NV 89502

info@renofoodsystems.org
O: 775-815-1113

Application Form

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 Sgandurra at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada for additional criteria at laurens@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.
 - For projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25% match requirement must be met using cash.

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.

TRF #313 Cultivating Watershed Resilience at the Urban-Agricultural Interface: Advancing Watershed Health, Fire Resilience, Regenerative Urban Agriculture and Community Stewardship

Amount Requested*

\$46,000.00

Would you be able to implement your project if the full amount is not awarded?*

Yes

Minimum Amount Required to Complete the Project*

If partial funding is available.

\$25,000.00

Project Start Date*

09/01/2025

Project End Date*

08/31/2026

This funding will be used to:*

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

This funding will be used to rehabilitate a degraded flood irrigated 15-acre pasture that flows into Alum Creek and the Truckee River, through native grass seeding, regenerative grazing and watershed protection practices that reduce erosion, nutrient runoff and wildfire risk. It will support native seed production for post-fire restoration and provide seasonal housing for prescribed grazing herds. As a demonstration site led by Reno Food Systems, this project includes hands-on education, workforce training and partnerships with UNR's Desert Farming Initiative, Cooperative Extension, FFA and 4-H. Over 500 volunteers and community members will engage in stewardship activities that preserve our precious agricultural lands, protect our vital watershed, restore ecological function and serve as a replicable model for sustainable land management.

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*

Polygrarian Institute dba Reno Food Systems

Organization Type*

501(c)(3) Nonprofit

EIN

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

81-1021982

Director of Organization*

Lyndsey Langsdale

Project Contact Name*

Lyndsey Langsdale

Project Contact Postion/Title*

Executive Director

Project Contact Email*

lyndsey@renofoodsystems.org

Project Contact Phone Number*

775-815-1113

Organization Mission*

Reno Food Systems (RFS) operates to fulfill our mission to be farmers, mentors and advocates stewarding lands and sharing food and resources for the well-being of our earth, community and future generations. Our work is guided by factors including personal health and wellness, regional economic stimulation and growth, environmental stewardship and regenerative agriculture, and community engagement and advocacy. We are dedicated to our vision of a vibrant, resilient and just local food system cultivated by an empowered community.

We believe that access to nutritious food is a basic human right, and we prioritize working to remove the barriers for marginalized communities. We address food insecurity with a holistic and inclusive approach that includes not only providing free farm fresh food to the community, but also teaching, collaborating and advocating with and for our community to ensure food access needs are being met. Our 5 acre (expanded to 20 acres as of 2025), urban teaching farm is located at Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park, just within Reno's western city limits. We lease this land, a protected parcel of historic ranch land, from Washoe County and use land stewardship principles like regenerative agriculture, agroforestry and permaculture to care for the farm and keep it vital and accessible to all, for many generations to come.

Since 2018 we have trained dozens of beginning farmers and over 1000 volunteers; grown and sold tens of thousands of nourishing, health promoting fruits and vegetables through our weekly farm stand; created pollinator habitat and provided increased and free access of thousands of pounds of produce and seedlings donated to food pantries and underserved communities within the Truckee Meadows through our food justice programming.

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

No

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.

n/a

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.

This project will achieve multiple interrelated goals centered around watershed restoration, improved water quality, upland pasture rehabilitation, education and fire prevention/revegetation.

Improve Water Quality in the Alum Creek Watershed and the Truckee River

Historically, the upland pasture was overgrazed, left fallow and treated with chemical fertilizers—practices that degraded soil, caused erosion and likely contributed sediment, nutrients and pathogens to the watershed. This project will reverse those impacts through regenerative grazing and hydrological improvements that directly support water quality. Managed rotational grazing will prevent overgrazing, increase plant cover and improve soil structure and infiltration. Weeds will be controlled through mechanical and biological means, eliminating chemical runoff. Collapsed irrigation ditches will be redesigned and rebuilt to reduce erosion and ensure efficient use of Truckee River water. These practices will reduce sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, total dissolved solids (TDS) and E. coli entering local waterways.

Measurable Outcomes

Reduction in signs of erosion and bare soil

Increase in soil organic matter

Elimination of synthetic/chemical inputs

Improved infiltration rates observed in managed pasture

Functional, stabilized irrigation ditches

Measurement/Reporting

Baseline soil and water testing

Annual soil testing (organic matter %, infiltration rates, nutrients)

Visual erosion assessments/photographic documentation

Record of grazing rotations/input applications

Annual summary report detailing water quality impact estimates

Photo documentation of ditch improvements

Restore Pasture Health and Biodiversity Through Native Re-Vegetation

Previously, the pasture was compacted and overrun with shallow-rooted weeds and annual grasses, resulting in low biodiversity, poor forage, fire risk and limited water retention. This project will restore 15 acres by

planting native and perennial grasses and implementing rotational grazing. These deep-rooted species will stabilize soil, improve infiltration, suppress invasives and provide quality forage. Over time, this regenerative approach will enhance soil health, build drought resilience and buffer the watershed against fire and climate extremes.

Measurable Outcomes

- 15 acres reseeded with native/perennial grasses
- Increased native species cover and plant diversity
- Improved forage quality and pasture resilience
- Decreased presence of invasive species
- Measurement/Reporting
- Seasonal photo monitoring
- Plant diversity and cover assessments
- Grazing records and adaptive management logs
- Year-end summary of reseeding activities and ecological outcomes

Expand Educational Opportunities and Increase Public Awareness

Through community workshops, volunteer days, on-farm field days and outreach events, we will educate the public, landowners and other land stewards about regenerative grazing and its environmental benefits.

Measurable Outcomes

- 6 community engagement events hosted annually
- 100 community members engaged annually
- Increased awareness of regenerative grazing practices
- Measurement/Reporting
- Sign-in sheets/participant counts for each event
- Testimonials and qualitative feedback
- Annual summary of education and outreach activities

Create a Regenerative Ranching Apprenticeship and Support Workforce Development

In partnership with DFI at UNR, we will launch a Ranching Apprenticeship that complements their existing farmer training program. We will also work with Extension, 4-H and FFA to offer hands-on animal husbandry opportunities for youth, especially those without access to land. These efforts will be supported by experienced consultants and mentors to ensure effective skill-building.

Measurable Outcomes

- 1 new apprenticeship developed
- 1-2 apprentices trained annually
- 10+ youth engaged through 4-H, FFA and Extension
- Measurement/Reporting
- Apprentice training logs, evaluations, exit interviews
- Participation tracking for youth/community partners
- Partner feedback (DFI, Extension, FFA, etc.)
- Year-end summary report of workforce development outcomes

Support Regional Fire Prevention and Post-Fire Restoration

By establishing native grass, we will contribute seed to agencies engaged in post-fire recovery, helping to meet a high demand for genetically appropriate native seed. In addition, our pasture will serve as a seasonal home for goat herds used in prescribed grazing for fire-fuel reduction, supporting this critical strategy in a region increasingly impacted by wildfire.

Measurable Outcomes

- Native grass seed stock developed for restoration use
- At least one agency/land manager partnership
- Seasonal housing made available for goat herds used in prescribed grazing

Measurement/Reporting

Seed harvest tracking (pounds/year, species)

MOU/agreement with goat herding providers/land agencies

Reports or testimonials from fire prevention partners

Year-end report documenting contributions to fire mitigation and restoration efforts

2.) Describe the project location.**Include site map and aerial photos if applicable/possible as an attachment.*

The project area encompasses approximately 20 acres within Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park, a multi-use public park owned by Washoe County and permanently deed-restricted to remain open space and/or agricultural land in perpetuity. This parcel is the last vestige of the historic 6,000-acre Caughlin Ranch. In 1991, rather than sell the remaining land to developers, Betsy Caughlin Donnelly, the last owner of the ranch, a steward of the land valuing our agrarian heritage, decided to gift this acreage to the public, ensuring it would remain in agricultural use for future generations. Since 2018, Reno Food Systems has leased and cultivated the northern 5 acres as an urban regenerative farm focused on education, food justice and environmental stewardship. In May 2025, Reno Food Systems was awarded the lease to steward the adjoining 15-acre southern pasture, which had been historically leased to conventional ranchers for the previous decades.

This location plays a critical ecological role in the Truckee River watershed. The site lies upstream of the Glendale Water Treatment Facility, therefore the condition of water passing through it has direct implications for municipal water quality and treatment needs. Alum Creek, a tributary listed on Nevada's 303(d) list of impaired waters due to elevated temperature and Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), enters the northern end of the pasture and is the repository for the tail waters from the entire 20 acre parcel in question. This property is flood irrigated by the Last Chance Ditch system, the flood waters pass over the acreage, collect in multiple open ditches throughout the property that then flow into Alum Creek, which crosses under Mayberry Drive before entering the Truckee River approximately a half mile north of the farm. During seasonal flooding, surface water spreads across the pasture, picking up sediment and contaminants before draining into the creek and river. The regenerative grazing, native plant restoration, and erosion control strategies planned for this site are designed to reduce sediment, improve infiltration, lower water temperatures through vegetative cover, and filter pollutants before reentering the watershed—offering tangible water quality benefits before they reach the treatment facility.

The south pasture also serves as a neighborhood green space and wildlife corridor. It is regularly used by families, elementary school children commuting to nearby Roy Gomm Elementary School, and individuals enjoying outdoor activities like hiking, dog-walking, kite flying and birding. The area supports a diverse array of native wildlife including deer, coyotes, raptors, pollinators and even occasional bears, reinforcing the importance of managing this land not just for agricultural or hydrological function, but for its multi-benefit role in public health, community wellbeing and habitat conservation.

Map/Photo attachments*Please include no more than 2 maps and no more than 4 photos.*

Truckee River Fund Attachments.pdf

3.) Project Description*

Reno Food Systems (RFS), a nonprofit urban, regenerative and education farm, proposes our Cultivating Watershed Resilience at the Urban-Agricultural Interface Project—a collaborative initiative to restore

degraded urban pastureland, improve the Truckee River Watershed and model sustainable land stewardship practices. Located on 20 acres of protected agricultural land irrigated by Truckee River water (via the Last Chance Ditch with tail waters returning to the river and Alum Creek), this project integrates regenerative agriculture, wildfire prevention, revegetation, public education and watershed protection on publicly owned land.

Past Land Management Challenges:

The 15-acre pasture at the southern end of Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park—leased by RFS as of May 2025—has been degraded by years of conventional grazing. Previously leased to private ranchers, the land was repeatedly overgrazed, especially in winter when livestock remained on-site despite a lack of grazeable forage. Without rest or rotational grazing, the pasture endured severe erosion, poor health, annual reseeding and regular applications of synthetic fertilizers, further damaging soil health. Flood irrigation carried manure, sediment and chemicals into Alum Creek and the Truckee River. With RFS now stewarding the land, this cycle of degradation ends and restoration begins.

Watershed Improvements:

Upstream of the Glendale Water Treatment Facility in the Alum Creek Watershed, our project site is a vital point for improving watershed health. Replacing conventional grazing with regenerative practices—rotational grazing, cover cropping, native seeding and the elimination of synthetic fertilizers—will reduce erosion, improve infiltration and prevent runoff. These improved management practices will naturally filter flood irrigation, lowering nitrogen, phosphorus, TDS, E. coli and other pollutants entering the watershed. As a well-connected demonstration farm, our project will serve as a replicable model for improving agricultural water management regionally and create an opportunity to showcase best management practices to fellow farmers/ranchers to protect our limited water resources.

Re-Forestation and Re-Vegetation:

Rehabilitation will focus on re-vegetating with native/perennial grasses, supported by rotational grazing practices that mimic natural herd movement. These methods improve drought resilience, reduce erosion and sediment runoff and enhance plant biodiversity and soil health—key strategies for increasing watershed resilience in the face of climate stress and urbanization.

Once established, native grass seed will be harvested to support post-wildfire restoration and invasive species control. Demand for regionally adapted native seed is high, and this project will help fill a critical gap by producing appropriate plant materials for public agencies. Additionally, the site will support fire prevention by serving as seasonal housing for goat herds deployed through prescribed grazing contracts. These herds reduce fire-prone vegetation and invasive weeds on public lands nearby. As a rest and staging site between deployments, our pasture will increase access to this low-impact tool for fire-fuel reduction in neighboring landscapes.

Stewardship and Environmental Awareness:

This project goes beyond traditional environmental education by offering hands-on, land-based training that results in real ecological outcomes. In collaboration with UNR's Desert Farming Initiative, RFS will launch a Ranching Apprenticeship focused on regenerative grazing, complementing DFI's farmer training program. Partnerships with Cooperative Extension, 4-H and FFA will offer urban youth hands-on experience with animal care and sustainable agriculture, offering access to agriculture and animal husbandry education for those without access to land. With support from local experts, apprentices, staff, and over 500 active volunteers, RFS will provide training in regenerative practices that build soil health, improve water retention and strengthen pasture resilience. Our model ensures that education and ecological restoration go hand in hand—cultivating new land stewards while repairing the watershed.

A Model for Regional Impact:

Our 20-acre urban farm integrates annual and perennial crops, fruit trees, apiculture, livestock and regenerative grazing into one holistic system. As the only project of its kind in Nevada, it exemplifies how urban agriculture can meet watershed protection goals while strengthening food systems and security, food sovereignty and land stewardship all on public land. With strong community ties and a proven track record, RFS is well-positioned to bring this vision to life. By stewarding the last remaining agricultural land of the

historic Caughlin Ranch—protected to preserve our agrarian heritage—RFS continues a legacy of conservation by modeling practices that restore soil, safeguard water and connect people to the ecosystems that sustain them.

4.) Grant priorities*

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

1. Watershed Improvements

This project directly addresses watershed health by implementing regenerative land management practices on a parcel through which flood irrigation flows directly enter Alum Creek, a designated 303(d) impaired waterway due to elevated temperature and TDS. These flows continue on to the Truckee River upstream of the Glendale Water Treatment Facility, making improvements on this site especially impactful. Through the integration of rotational grazing, erosion control improvements, riparian buffer enhancement and native vegetation reestablishment, the project aims to reduce sedimentation and lower water temperatures before flows reach the creek and river. These nature-based solutions are innovative in that they utilize working lands to perform ecosystem functions typically addressed through engineered systems. By demonstrating that regenerative grazing and low-impact water management can significantly reduce pollutant load while enhancing soil health, the project serves as a model for upstream interventions that reduce the burden on municipal water treatment infrastructure.

2. Re-forestation and Re-vegetation

While this project is not located within a post-wildfire burn area, it directly supports regional wildfire resilience and post-fire restoration through innovative strategies. The project centers on the strategic re-vegetation of a degraded upland pasture located in an urban-agricultural interface—a key ecological transition zone which when well managed can create lasting ecological benefits. This site will be restored using a carefully selected mix of drought-tolerant native grasses, pollinator-friendly species and soil-stabilizing shrubs. These deep-rooted plants will stabilize soil, reduce erosion, increase infiltration, support pollinator populations and suppress invasive species—thereby reducing fuel loads that contribute to catastrophic wildfire spread.

These efforts will also moderate land surface and runoff temperatures, increase water retention, and buffer the landscape against wind, snowmelt and drought—enhancing overall watershed resilience and establishing a green firebreak within a high-risk urban-wildland interface.

A key component of the project is the development of a native grass seed production area on the south pasture. This living seed bank will provide desperately needed regionally adapted, drought-resilient seed stock to agencies engaged in post-fire revegetation/restoration projects. By producing native seed locally, the project reduces dependency on out-of-state suppliers, improves ecological compatibility and ensures faster deployment in response to future fire events—supporting long-term climate adaptation strategies throughout the region.

Complementing this, the project will support a mobile goat herd for regenerative, rotational grazing. Managed both on-site and deployed to surrounding public lands, the goats will reduce invasive weeds and fire-prone biomass while improving soil health—offering a scalable, chemical-free, and community-supported model for proactive fire risk reduction.

Together, the native seed cultivation and targeted grazing efforts create a replicable, climate-resilient strategy for re-vegetation and wildfire prevention—directly supporting the grant's goals of fire-adapted landscapes and long-term ecological resilience in the Truckee River watershed

3. Stewardship and Environmental Awareness

This project is deeply rooted in community engagement, environmental education, and skill-building. RFS operates an active education and demonstration farm on-site, welcoming thousands of visitors annually—including school groups, volunteers, customers, elected officials and neighbors. The expansion into the south pasture will significantly enhance these efforts, offering hands-on workshops and citizen science projects focused on pasture management, regenerative grazing, animal husbandry and pollinator habitat restoration.

As a highly visible site—bordered by two major roads, frequented by thousands of visitors annually -- this living classroom will make the connection between land management and watershed health tangible and relevant.

Importantly, the project also serves as a workforce development platform. Through our internship/apprenticeship programs, we provide structured on-the-ground training in regenerative agriculture, holistic grazing, soil health practices and ecological restoration. These programs support beginning farmers, young adults and community members offering paid opportunities to gain skills, build careers in sustainable land stewardship, and contribute directly to the health of the Truckee River watershed. By coupling environmental education with workforce development, this project ensures that stewardship is not only taught but practiced—empowering the next generation of land and water protectors with the tools, knowledge and values needed to care for their communities and ecosystems.

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.

This acreage is owned by Washoe County and is deed restricted to remain in agricultural use in perpetuity. Therefore any improvements we make through our proposed project are likely to be long lasting.

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

This project represents the foundational phase of a long-term, multi-phase effort to restore degraded pastureland, improve watershed health and develop a sustainable model for regional native seed production and wildfire prevention. The funding requested through this grant is essential to launch the initial aspects of the project. Without this critical early investment, future phases of the project cannot be successfully initiated.

Once established, the project will become increasingly self-sustaining through diversified funding streams and earned income. Anticipated sources of future funding include:

USDA Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP) to support marketing, the Workforce Development component of the project and enhance collaboration.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to fund ongoing regenerative land management and conservation practices;

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative to expand educational and community engagement components;

USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program to support seed production of regionally appropriate native forbs and grasses;

Foundation and philanthropic grants aligned with the mission of RFS, watershed health and ecological restoration;

Corporate sponsorships and individual donations from supporters of land stewardship, regenerative agriculture, food security and fire resilience;

Earned income through native seed sales contracts with local, state and federal agencies engaged in post-fire revegetation, erosion control and habitat restoration.

Each subsequent phase will build upon the momentum and infrastructure developed in this initial effort. By leveraging this early investment, we will unlock long-term funding opportunities and create a replicable, revenue-generating model that contributes to regional ecological restoration and community-based resilience strategies for years to come.

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

Lyndsey Langsdale, Farm Manager and Executive Director, Reno Food Systems

Lyndsey is a founding member of Reno Food Systems and holds a Master's degree in Cultural Anthropology with a specialization in Urban Agriculture. She has successfully led the development of RFS's 5-acre educational farm and secured a long-term public land use agreement with the County. Lyndsey brings a strong track record in managing grants, coordinating cross-sector collaborations and leading beginning farmer training and technical assistance programs. Lyndsey is also a board supervisor for the Washoe Storey Conservation District and a committee member of the Nevada Food Security Council.

Jolene Cook, Program Manager & Director of Marketing and Outreach, Reno Food Systems

Jolene, also a founding member of Reno Food Systems, holds a Master's degree in Nutrition. She has designed and implemented impactful outreach and educational programs, expanded community and producer engagement and played a central role in the development and success of grant-funded food systems initiatives. Jolene is also one of the creators and a project lead for the Nevada Farm Network, an online platform connecting Nevada farmers.

Chuck Schembre, Regenerative Agriculture Consultant, Understanding Ag

Chuck is a highly regarded consultant with expertise in soil health and regenerative grazing systems. A former NRCS conservation specialist, he has provided ecological benchmarking and training to producers across the western U.S. and serves as a trusted advisor on regenerative land management practices.

Neil Bertrando, Consultant: Permaculture, Water Management & Ecological Restoration

Neil is a Reno Food Systems founder and a regenerative designer with more than 14 years of experience in permaculture, ecological restoration and homestead development. He holds degrees in Biology and Environmental Science and has taught permaculture at Oregon State University since 2014. As owner of RT Permaculture, Neil specializes in holistic design strategies, including drip irrigation, erosion control, water harvesting, agroforestry, weed management planning and topsoil regeneration.

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.

Six team members will support this project part-time, including two lead RFS staff, two consultants, three RFS support staff and one apprentice. Together, they bring expertise in planning, implementation, restoration, education and monitoring.

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

We estimate 150 volunteers contributing 500+ hours in year one. Volunteers will assist with restoration, seed sowing, infrastructure, outreach and more. Participants include individuals, school groups, workforce trainees and corporate teams.

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.*

September 1, 2025 – August 30, 2026

September – December 2025

Project launch, coordination with key partners/consultants

Site prep begins: clearing invasive weeds, grading, identifying key locations for project aspects

Begin ordering supplies, materials, seed stock

Outreach to volunteers

Irrigation ditch assessment and begin redesign of compromised ditches

Begin native seed bed preparation and plantings for over-wintering species

Volunteer work days and early community education sessions launched

Perform baseline data collection, install environmental monitoring tools (soil health, water retention, etc.).

Initiate contract with NDA for native grass seed

January – April 2026

Continued maintenance of planted areas

Repair/secure all established fencing

Initiate ditch repair

Spring seed plantings begin for warm-season grasses

Implement volunteer-led weed abatement in new planting areas

Construction and infrastructure for mobile grazing system

Host mid-project coordination meeting with partners to review progress and adjust plans if needed

May – June 2026

Workshops focused on native seed propagation and small-scale seed production

Begin conversations with agencies regarding future seed contract sales

Initiate rotational grazing with goat herd for fuel reduction and pasture management and/or with livestock acquired via partnerships with FFA, 4H, DFI, Extension

July – August 2026

Begin seed harvest

Manage volunteers, workforce development crews and other outreach considerations for seed collection

Begin educational workshops and seed-saving training with community partners

Distribute native seed with regional agencies for post-fire restoration efforts

Host public field day and partner appreciation event to showcase outcomes

Submit reports and share findings with local and regional stakeholders

Evaluation of volunteer hours, ecological impact and knowledge gained

Finalize budget reconciliation and planning for Year 2 expansion

Potential Delay Factors:

Availability of floodwater (significantly decreases in drought years)
 Extreme weather conditions (drought, flooding, wildfire smoke) could delay site prep or planting windows
 Supply chain issues may affect availability of materials
 Scheduling complexities with volunteer groups and workforce teams
 Delays in securing livestock for rotational grazing

With strong partnerships, a flexible timeline, and deep community engagement, RFS is well-positioned to adapt to challenges while maintaining project momentum.

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

Success for this project will be measured by both tangible outcomes and meaningful, lived experiences shared by the people, land and community involved. Our indicators will reflect ecological health, community engagement, capacity-building and the creation of a replicable, place-based model for fire-resilient land stewardship.

Quantitative indicators will include:

Acres of land stewarded through regenerative practices, including grazing, reseeding, weed management and native plant propagation.
 Reduction in pollutants entering the watershed.
 Number of native and drought-resilient species established and harvested for seed.
 Pounds of native grass seed successfully cleaned, stored and readied for future contracts or public land use.
 Number of volunteers engaged (anticipated 150+) and total volunteer hours contributed (estimated 500+ hours).
 Number of educational and volunteer events held; community members and students participating in workshops or field-based learning experiences.
 Measurable improvements in soil health and biodiversity through initial ecological assessments.
 Reduction in visible erosion or sediment runoff in previously disturbed or degraded areas, measured via photo monitoring.
 Water infiltration rates improved through increased ground cover and healthier soils.
 Improvement in soil organic matter and water-holding capacity.
 Number of linear feet of irrigation ditch restored or improved to enhance flow efficiency and reduce water loss.

Qualitative indicators will be equally important and include:

Community members and partners expressing a sense of purpose, connection and increased knowledge related to watershed health, native plant stewardship, seed saving and ecological resilience.
 Increased community pride in the land, particularly among people who have historically had limited access to agricultural or ecological learning opportunities.
 Positive feedback and strengthened relationships with local agencies and public land managers who express interest in purchasing native seed and collaborating on land restoration efforts.
 Observations of improved animal health and well-being through ethical, rotational grazing practices that model humane livestock care.
 Youth and adult participants reporting greater understanding of and motivation to contribute to water conservation, watershed health, fire prevention, ecosystem health and food and seed sovereignty.
 A deepened culture of service, stewardship and land reciprocity through repeated volunteer engagement and storytelling.
 Increased awareness and discussion among volunteers and students about the connection between healthy soils, water retention and watershed health.
 Positive feedback from neighbors or users downstream about decreased runoff or sediment flow.
 Observations of healthier riparian buffer zones and increased habitat for pollinators and wildlife.

While metrics and milestones help keep us accountable and transparent, this project's deeper success will be defined by how well we listen to the land—and how well we align our actions with its needs.

Ultimately, success will mean that this piece of land becomes not just productive, but protective. That it serves not only our farm's mission, but the wider public good—by becoming a teaching ground, a seed source, a firebreak and a living example of regeneration. That neighbors, students, elders and partners feel invited to participate in and benefit from a shared ethic of care.

And finally, true success will be marked by a shift in perspective—when we, and others who walk this land, ask not only what we can do with it, but what we should do. Not what can this land and water do for us, rather what can we do for it. What is the highest and best use for this land? How do we make sure this small patch of soil, and the precious water that sustains it, are used in service of future generations and in alignment with the ecological rhythms that have shaped this place for millennia?

To us, success looks like a living landscape that gives more than it takes—a place where working with the land and water, not against them, becomes the shared, hopeful work of our time.

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.

Over the past seven years, we have successfully cultivated relationships with fellow local food nonprofits, government agencies, conservation organizations, educational institutions, local businesses, food pantries and organizations that serve disadvantaged communities. Our current and proposed programs are grounded in collaboration and rooted in community.

Our primary partners and collaborators include:

Washoe County Parks and Open Space: Through this foundational partnership, RFS stewards underutilized public land and demonstrates the community and ecological benefits of regenerative agriculture. Our ultimate goal is to establish urban agriculture and regenerative land stewardship as prioritized uses in Washoe County's Master Sustainability Plan. We are actively working toward this goal in partnership with the County's new Sustainability Manager.

Desert Farming Initiative (DFI) and the University of Nevada, Reno: RFS is a host site for the DFI apprenticeship program, funded by the Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station. Apprentices provide valuable labor in exchange for educational experience and living wage stipends supported by DFI grants. This partnership strengthens the regional food system and agricultural workforce. RFS staff contribute to the curriculum, provide mentorship and integrate apprentices into farm-based education and land stewardship activities.

Understanding Ag. and EcoSoil Solutions, LLC: Charles Schembre, Certified Professional Soil Scientist, is a lead consultant for this project. His expertise has been instrumental in developing the soil health and grazing plans that underlie our regenerative land management practices. His work informs every aspect of this proposed demonstration project, from soil monitoring to adaptive rotational grazing.

USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): We are proud recipients of funding through the USDA NRCS Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production Grant Program—the first award of its kind in Nevada. This award supports our core program activities, including infrastructure and capacity building for regenerative land stewardship and climate-resilient agriculture. We have also held an EQUIP contract with NRCS for the past 6 years which has supported many conservation practices on our 5 acre farm site. Currently we are in the process of beginning a new contract for this project that will provide agricultural engineering services to help improve flood irrigation.

Patagonia and Intuit: These values-aligned businesses regularly engage their employees in corporate volunteer workdays and are anticipated sources of both hands-on support and potential sponsorship for future project phases.

New Dawn Recovery Center, Crossroads and RISE (Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality): These local organizations partner with RFS to offer meaningful volunteer and workforce development opportunities to program participants, providing mutually beneficial relationships that enhance community well-being and offer individuals a path to connection, purpose and healing.

Educational Institutions and Homeschool Networks: Home and charter school groups participate in site-based experiential learning and volunteering opportunities. This project will create additional opportunities for these youth groups to connect with the land and witness firsthand the integration of native habitat, grazing, and soil restoration.

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

\$16,745.00

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.*

\$16,745.00

Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.*

To support our project, we will utilize volunteer hours as in-kind matching funds. Our dedicated volunteers will contribute their time and expertise to a wide range of project activities, including site preparation, native seed sowing, infrastructure assembly, invasive species removal, monitoring efforts, seed collection, animal husbandry, community outreach, etc. These volunteer efforts will be meticulously tracked and valued according to the prevailing wage rates for similar services, ensuring accurate and fair representation of their contributions.

Our volunteer base will include:

Individual community members passionate about ecological restoration, regenerative agriculture and fire resilience.

Corporate volunteer teams from values-aligned local businesses such as Patagonia and Intuit, which have previously supported RFS programs through hands-on service days.

Workforce development crews, including participants from Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality (RISE), who gain skills and work experience through participation in land stewardship activities.

Community partners and recovery groups such as Crossroads and New Dawn Recovery Center, whose involvement supports both the project and their clients' engagement with meaningful service and wellness-oriented outdoor activities.

Home school and charter school groups, who will participate in age-appropriate environmental learning experiences while contributing to planting and maintenance efforts.

Volunteer involvement not only amplifies the capacity of the project but also fosters community ownership, builds awareness around climate adaptation strategies, and strengthens long-term support for regenerative land management efforts in our region.

This in-kind support underscores the community's commitment to our initiative and leverages local resources to achieve our project goals effectively.

As of 2024, the independent sector value of a volunteer hour used for federal grant matching purposes is \$33.49 per hour (national average). This figure is updated annually by Independent Sector, and many federal agencies (like the USDA, EPA, and AmeriCorps) accept this rate when calculating in-kind contributions of volunteer labor.

Over the course of the initial year of this project, we anticipate the involvement of approximately 150 volunteers, collectively contributing an estimated 500 hours of service. $\$33.49 \times 500 \text{ hours} = \$16,745$

Attachments

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.

You are required to use a TRF-approved budget template. Please contact Lauren Sgandurra at laurens@nevadafund.org for the 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_Reno Food Systems_2025.docx (1).pdf

Supplemental Attachments

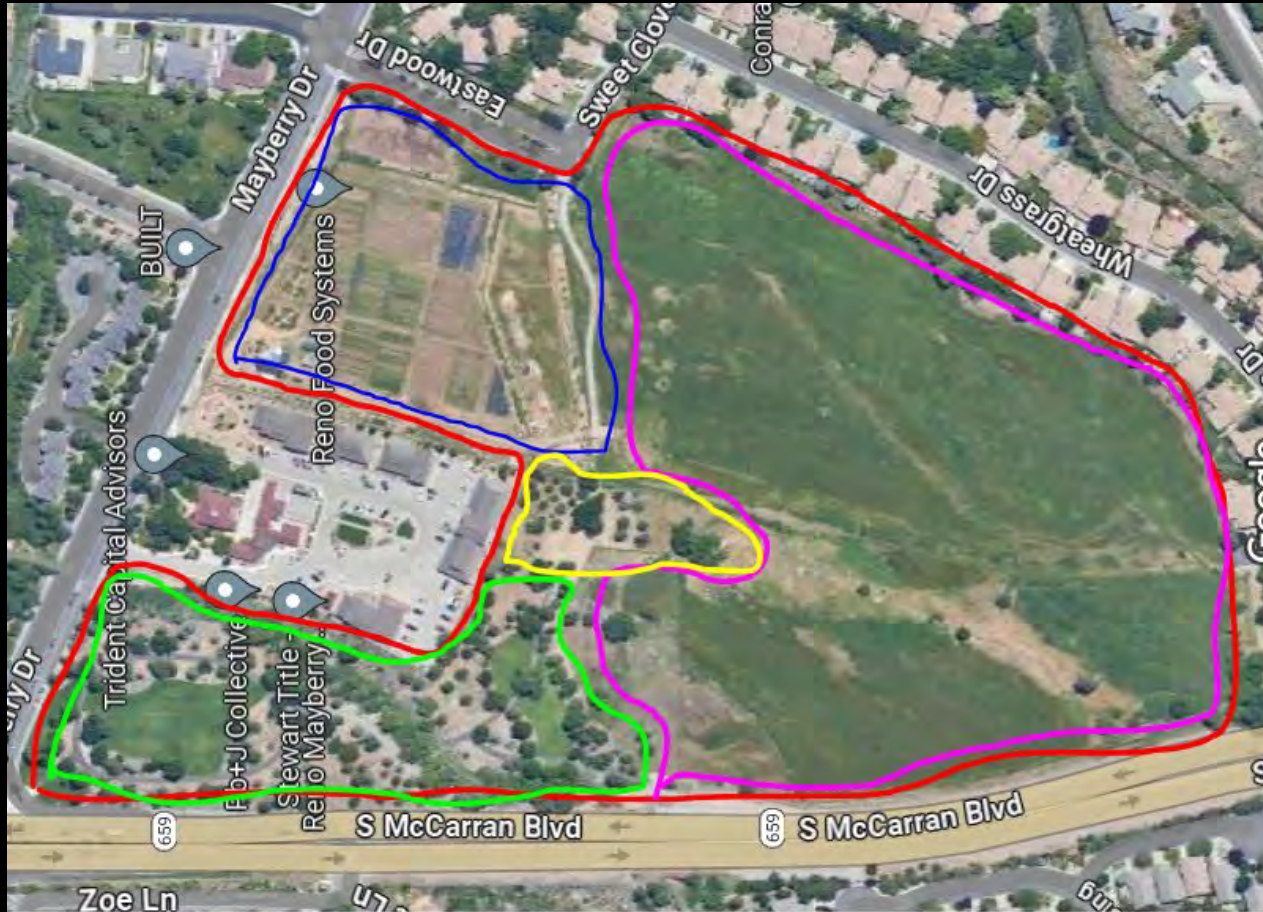
Please attach any additional attachments here.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Truckee River Fund Attachments.pdf
- Budget_Reno Food Systems_2025.docx (1).pdf

Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park



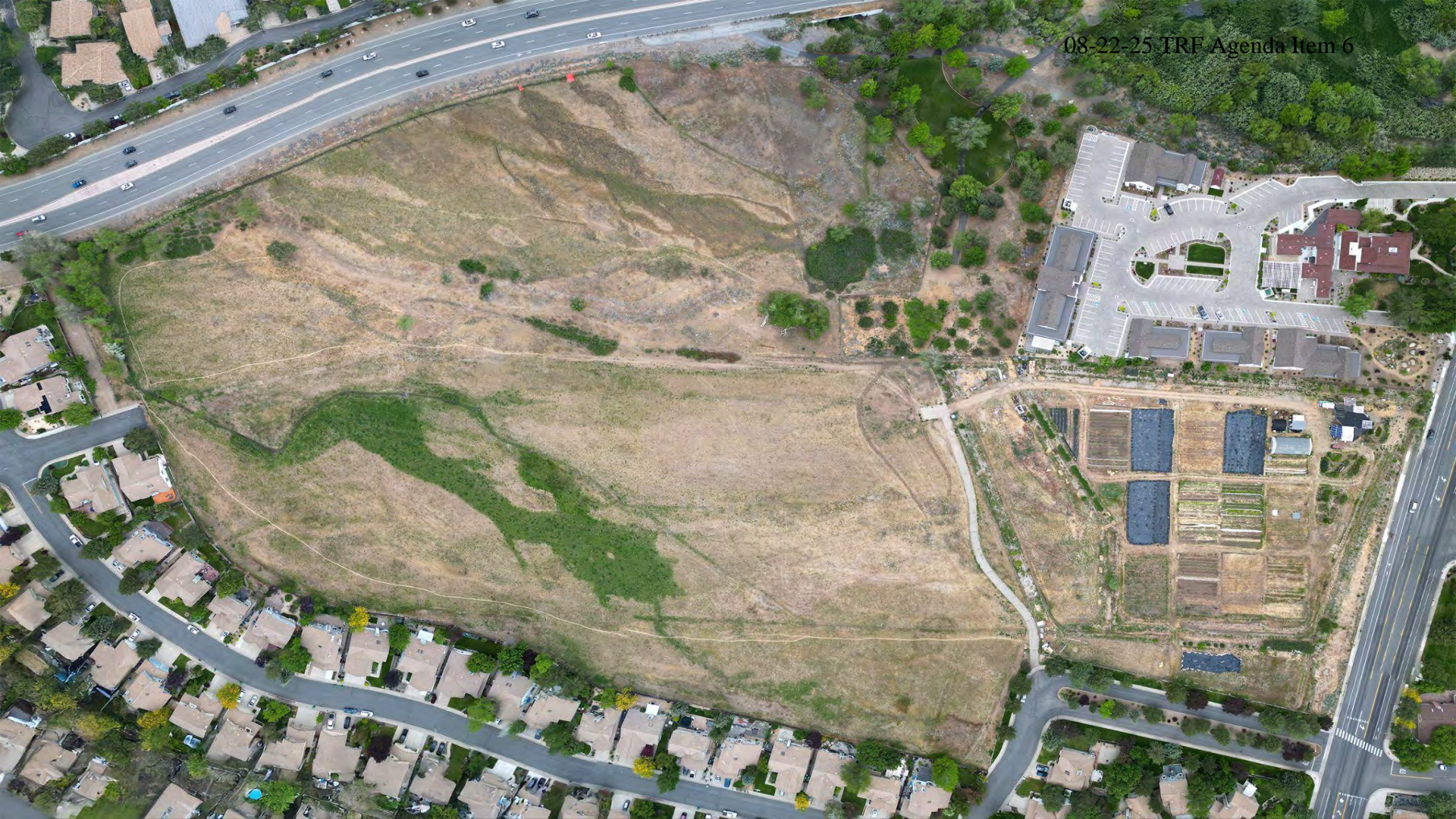
Total Acreage ~30
Includes;

Reno Food Systems
Farm - Leased by RFS
2018 (5 acres)

South Pasture - Leased
by RFS as of 2025 (~15
acres)

Landscaped park on the
corner of Mayberry and
McCarran

Historic Orchard
Acquired by RFS as of
2024







Budget Item Description	\$/unit	Quantity	Quantity Type	TRF Funding	Other Funders	Match	Total Cost
Salaries and Wages							
Program Manager	\$38.00	520	Hours	10,000	\$9,760	0	\$19,760
Engineer 2	0	0	Hours	0	0	0	0
Fringe Benefits	%	15%	Percentage of salary	0	\$4,992	0	\$4,992
Part-Time Employees	\$26.00	520	Hours	10,000	\$3,520	0	\$13,520
Volunteers	\$33.49	500	Hours	0	0	\$16,745	\$16,745
Contractual Construction							
Planning	\$50.00	50	Contract	\$2,500	0	0	\$2,500
Design	\$50.00	50	Contract	\$2,500	0	0	\$2,500
Engineering Services during Design	0	0		0	0	0	0
Environmental / Permitting	0	0		0	0	0	0
Project / Program Management	0	0		0	0	0	0
Construction Management	0	0		0	0	0	0
Materials	\$5,000	1	Materials/Supplies	\$5,000	0	0	\$5,000
Apprentice Stipend	\$20,000	1	Stipend	\$10,000	\$10,000		\$20,000
Total Direct Costs				\$40,000	\$28,272	\$16,745	\$88,017
Indirect Costs/Overhead (≤25% of budget)	%	15%		\$6,000	0	0	\$6,000
Total Project Costs				\$46,0000	\$28,272	\$16,745	\$94,017

The total proposed project budget is \$94,017, with funding contributions from the Truckee River Fund (TRF), committed matching funds and in-kind contributions. The Truckee River Fund is requested to support \$46,000, with an additional \$28,272 in committed funds from other sources, and \$16,745 in in-kind contributions, primarily through volunteer labor.

Personnel

Salaries and wages total \$33,280, including compensation for the Program Manager (\$10,000 from TRF, \$9,760 from other sources) and Part-Time Employees (\$10,000 from TRF, \$3,520 from other sources). Fringe benefits are calculated at 15%, totaling \$4,992, to be fully supported by other funders

Apprentice Stipend

An apprentice stipend of \$20,000 supports one full-year position under our workforce development partnership with Desert Farming Initiative. Half (\$10,000) is requested from TRF; the remaining \$10,000 is confirmed through outside support.

Volunteer Labor (In-Kind)

We estimate 500 volunteer hours, valued at the federal rate of \$33.49/hour, totaling \$16,745 in in-kind match. This reflects strong community engagement and offsets direct personnel costs.

Contractual and Materials

Key project design and planning are reflected in two \$2,500 contracts (\$5,000 total), funded by TRF. Materials and supplies required for site preparation, seed, fencing, infrastructure, etc. total \$5,000, also funded by TRF.

Indirect Costs

Indirect costs are calculated at 15% of the total direct TRF request, equaling \$6,000, and are within the fund's allowable limits.

Funding Sources and Status

- Committed Matching Funds: \$28,272 is secured through partner contributions and organizational resources.
- In-Kind Contributions: \$16,745 through confirmed community volunteer engagement.
- Requested from Truckee River Fund: \$46,000 to support staff time, expert consultation, work force development, materials and project oversight.
- Other Grants: We have been awarded a USDA Urban Agriculture & Innovation Production grant that complements this proposal and helps sustain long-term project goals.
- Additional funding is being pursued through NRCS EQIP, USDA Local Ag Market Program, and foundation grants to support future project phases and expansion.

Phasing

This is Phase One of a multi-year initiative. The funds requested will launch the core project activities for the 2025–2026 cycle: pasture restoration, infrastructure development, goat rotational grazing setup, seed production and education/workforce programming. Future phases will expand seed production, scale grazing efforts, and

serve as a demonstration as to how this model can be replicated across other public lands in Washoe County.

TRF #314 Mount Rose Re-Seeding 2025

Truckee River Fund- Fall 2025

Friends of Nevada Wilderness

Shaaron Netherton	O: 775-324-7667
1360 Greg Street, #111, Sparks, NV 89431-6074	
775-324-7767	
Sparks, NV 89431-6074	

Olivia Wolff

1360 Greg St	owolff@nevadawilderness.org
Suite #111	O: 775-324-7667
Sparks, NV 89431	

Application Form

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 Sgandurra at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada for additional criteria at laurens@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.
 - For projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25% match requirement must be met using cash.

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.

TRF #314 Mount Rose Re-Seeding 2025

Amount Requested*

\$5,000.00

Would you be able to implement your project if the full amount is not awarded?*

Yes

Minimum Amount Required to Complete the Project*

If partial funding is available.

\$4,000.00

Project Start Date*

11/01/2025

Project End Date*

12/31/2025

This funding will be used to:*

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

This funding will be used to reseed areas where musk thistle has been removed with native seeds to protect the water quality of the Truckee River and its watershed. We will host two volunteer projects in the late fall to spread the seeds.

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*

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*

Nora Richter

Project Contact Postion/Title*

Director of Grants and Operations

Project Contact Email*

nora@nevadawilderness.org

Project Contact Phone Number*

(775) 324-7667

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

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: March 2025

Project title: TRF #303 – Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Re-Seeding 2025

Amount of Award: \$24,700

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 Mount Rose Reseeding 2025 project is to complement our invasive musk thistle removal projects from the spring of 2025. During the spring funding cycle, we were asked to cut the budget for our Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Re-seeding 2025 application to accommodate other groups. We lowered our ask by the value of the seeds, knowing we could apply again in the summer cycle. The goal of our spring proposal was to eliminate invasive musk thistle from the Hunter Creek Drainage. This has been an ongoing project for the last 13 years, with the seed spreading component being a more recent addition.

This spring, we hosted 6 volunteer weed removals within the Mount Rose Wilderness, and removed 15,918 musk thistle! We are happy to report that our work sites continue to have fewer recurring musk thistle every year. The goal of the project for this application is to spread a native seed mix in the same sites to help restore the ecosystem to its original state.

We will host two seed spreading projects in late fall or early winter. Native seeds grow most effectively when spread right before an incoming rain or snowstorm. Our project dates must be flexible because of this. Our stewardship staff watches the weather forecast and tries to schedule projects with about a week's notice for volunteers. We anticipate 4 volunteers per project, and each project will be 6 hours long. With our 48 volunteer hours, we will cover a minimum of 10 acres of restored meadow with the native seed mix. We will measure our acreage using GPS coordinates we collect in the field.

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 will be within the Mount Rose Wilderness, specifically in the Hunter Creek watershed of the Truckee River. All seed spreading sites are located within 0.5 to 4 miles of the Truckee River, with many near the popular and frequently used Hunter Creek Trail. Areas of particular concern 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. Our musk thistle removal sites from Spring 2025 will be our target areas for the seed spreading this year.

Map/Photo attachments

Please include no more than 2 maps and no more than 4 photos.

Mount Rose Musk Thistle and Re-Seeding 2025 Map.jpeg

3.) Project Description*

FNW staff will lead volunteers to existing work sites along the Hunter Creek trail. These are sites we have been working in for 10+ years and have seen a significant improvement in increasing native biodiversity. This spring, we saw an increase in native flowers and grasses that are part of our seed mix.

Over the course of our two seed spreading projects, we will explain the importance of biodiversity within the Truckee River watershed to the volunteers. We will cover 10+ acres of ground with our Forest Service biologist-approved seed mix right before an incoming storm. We transfer the seeds into gallon ziplock bags and distribute them among the volunteers to carry in their backpacks. We spread the mix in a grid pattern, making sure the volunteers understand the correct amount of seeds to disperse in an area. The volunteers will leave the project with a sense of community and a better understanding of their connection to the watershed.

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 reintroducing native grasses and flowers, thereby improving watershed resilience. All proposed actions align with recommendations from Forest Service botanists. By decreasing weeds and increasing native flowers and grasses in the Mount Rose Wilderness, we can decrease the spread of invasive 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 'rewilding' an area. 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 and subsequent reseeding are most effective when performed 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. We have seen an increase in native grasses and flowers where we have spread our seed mix.

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 assist with grant and accomplishment reporting, as well as 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.

Fulltime: 0 Part-time: 4

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

We will host 2 seed-spreading projects with 4 volunteers per project. Projects will take approximately six hours from start to finish. Volunteers will donate a minimum of 48 hours for these projects.

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 has already started, and we currently have 20 interested volunteers who have RSVP'd on our website. After confirmation of funds, we will order our biologist-approved seed mix from Comstock Seed in Minden, NV.

Around the beginning of November, stewardship staff begin to watch the weather forecast for incoming rain or snowstorms; seeds germinate most effectively when spread in the winter before a storm. Once a date is decided, interested volunteers will be notified. Both seed-spreading events will take place before the end of 2025.

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

We consider our program successful if we complete deliverables safely, achieve our target acreage of seed coverage, and ensure that volunteers finish the projects with a clear understanding of the importance of native biodiversity 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.

In previous years, FNW has partnered with KTMB, Patagonia, REI, International Gaming Technologies (IGT), Midtown Rotary, NV Energy, UNR, TMCC, and Arrow Electronics. We will reach out to these groups if we need help recruiting volunteers. 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

\$1,260.00

Cash

\$300.00

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.*

\$960.00

Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.*

Volunteer in kind labor - \$1260.00

Unrestricted donations (cash) - \$300.00

Attachments

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.

You are required to use a TRF-approved budget template. Please contact Lauren Sgandurra at laurens@nevadafund.org for the budget template, or download one [here](#).

****Notes:**

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TRF ReSeeding Proposal Budget- 2025.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

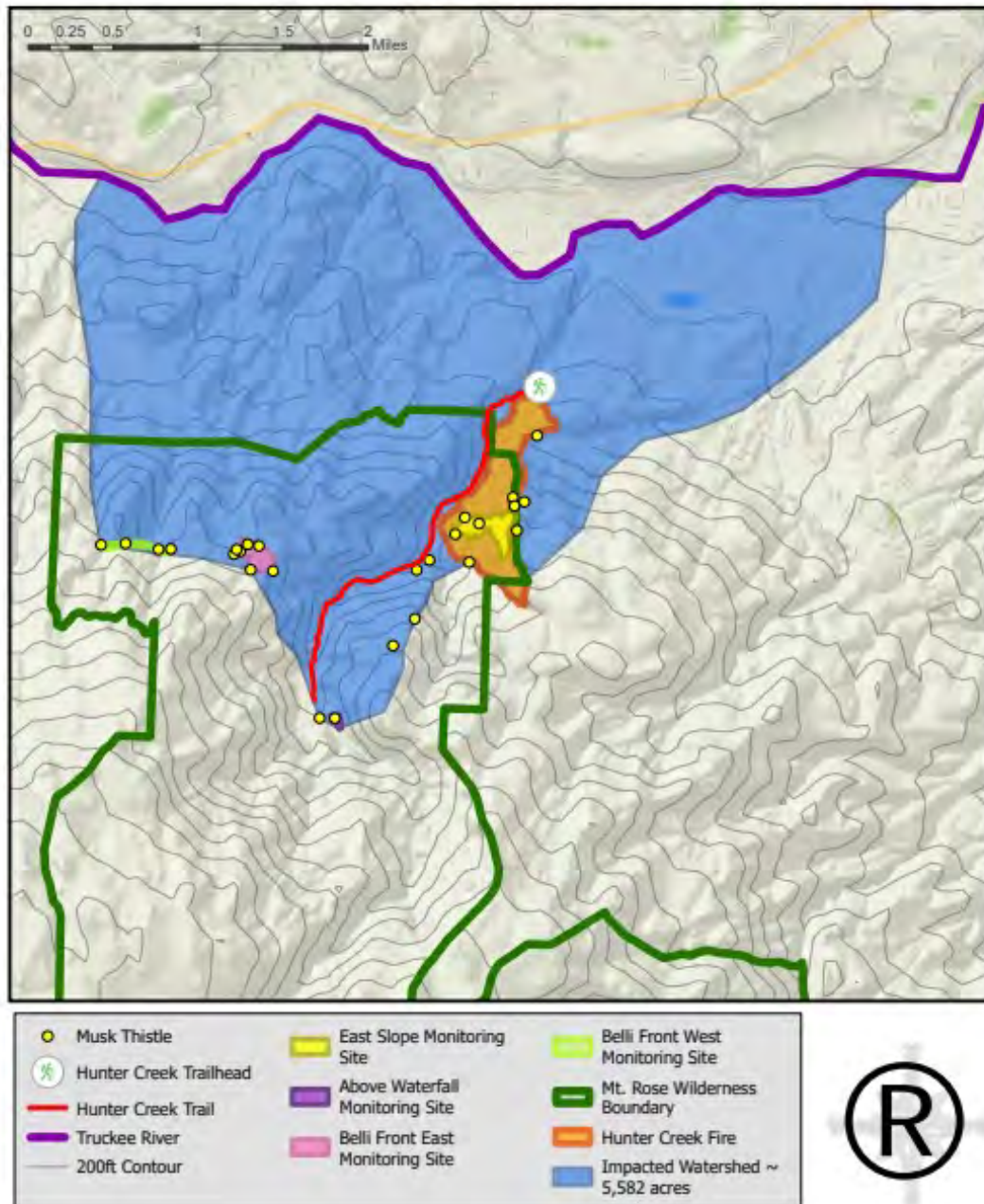
Please attach any additional attachments here.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Mount Rose Musk Thistle and Re-Seeding 2025 Map.jpeg
- TRF ReSeeding Proposal Budget- 2025.pdf

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





FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS

Mount Rose Re-seeding 2025

Budget Item Description	Truckee River Fund	Match Source	Match Amount	Total
Payroll Expenses	\$0	Unrestricted Donations	\$300	\$300
Volunteer Labor (288 hrs at \$20/hr)	0	In-Kind Volunteer Labor	\$960	\$960
Project Supplies	\$5,000			\$5,000
Training Expenses	\$0			\$0
Vehicle Travel (150 miles at \$0.70/mile)	\$0			\$0
Volunteer Food	\$0			\$0
Subtotal	\$5,000		\$1,260	\$6,260
Overhead (at 10%)	\$0			\$0
TOTAL	\$5,000	TOTAL	\$1,260	\$6,260

Budget Narrative:

Payroll Expenses: Payroll match will be for staff time creating social media outreach to promote the projects.

Volunteer Labor: 2 volunteer re-seeding projects with 4 volunteers each for 6 hours at \$20 in-kind/hr for an in-kind total of \$960.

Project Supplies: Used to purchase native seed mix.

TRF #315 Watershed Protection Benefit Project

Truckee River Fund- Fall 2025

One Truckee River

Iris Jehle-Peppard
P.O. Box 18153
Reno, NV 89511

O: 775-450-5489

Iris Jehle-Peppard

P.O. Box 18153
Reno, NV 89511

iris@onetruckeeriver.org
O: 775-450-5489

Application Form

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 Sgandurra at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada for additional criteria at laurens@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.
 - For projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25% match requirement must be met using cash.

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.

TRF #315 Watershed Protection Benefit Project

Amount Requested*

\$75,861.00

Would you be able to implement your project if the full amount is not awarded?*

Yes

Minimum Amount Required to Complete the Project*

If partial funding is available.

\$73,861.00

Project Start Date*

10/01/2025

Project End Date*

09/30/2026

This funding will be used to:*

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

This funding will be used for wages, contract services, and outreach and promotion to continue OTR's work conducted through its Executive Director and consultants under contract to lead OTR's efforts to do coalition building, fund development, and River-Friendly Living efforts focused upstream of the Vista USGS gauge.

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.

Organization Information

Organization Name*

One Truckee River

Organization Type*

501(c)(3) Nonprofit

EIN

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

20-3378838

Director of Organization*

Iris Jehle-Peppard

Project Contact Name*

Iris Jehle-Peppard

Project Contact Postion/Title*

Executive Director

Project Contact Email*

iris@onetruckeeriver.org

Project Contact Phone Number*

775-450-5489

Organization Mission*

One Truckee River's mission is to ensure a healthy, thriving, sustainable river connected to the hearts and minds of its community.

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.

See attachment.

Previous Funding continued

TRF-Funds-to-OTR-and-NLT-OTR - Google Docs.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.

One Truckee River's (OTR) Watershed Protection Benefit Project overarching goal is to collaborate, support, and lead with partners efforts to mitigate threats to water quality and the Truckee River watershed upstream of water treatment facilities.

Specific project goals OTR will implement are: continuing to lead regional coalition building focused on the protection and improvement of the Truckee River, fund development to further support OTR and implement the OTR Management Plan, and education and engagement with residents through OTR's River-Friendly Living (RFL) Program efforts.

Measurable outcomes OTR will report on connected to specific project goals will be measured with analytical data including: # of meetings conducted; # of participants in meetings conducted; # of rafting trips led; # of rafting trip participants; total dollar amount submitted and funds received for OTR efforts; # of public engagement event at Lake's Park RFL Demonstration Garden; # of social media posts, stories, and videos published and # of partners and relevant groups cross-promoting OTR's content with an estimated growth rate of 5%; and # blogs, # newsletters, # of bulk emails, consistent OTR website updates, and # of RFL brochures printed and distributed with an estimated growth rate in website traffic.

2.) Describe the project location.*

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

Project location is within the larger Truckee Meadows region. Project efforts defined, support in general, these collaborative OTR efforts: 1) OTR's coordinated vegetation management efforts focused on the mainstream of the Truckee River from Crystal Peak to Vista Narrows; 2) OTR's Truckee River Urban Tree Workforce Program focused on the riverbank and river-side pocket parks from Lake Street to Galletti Way;

and 3) OTR River-Friendly Living (RFL) efforts focused on Washoe County residents and direct engagement to residents surrounding Lake Park where OTR installed a RFL Demonstration Garden.

Map/Photo attachments

Please include no more than 2 maps and no more than 4 photos.

2025-OTR-Project-Locations - Google Docs.pdf

3.) Project Description*

OTR's Watershed Protection Benefit Project will complete these three main goals: 1) coalition building, 2) fund development, and 3) River-Friendly Living efforts. Specific descriptions per each goal are:

Goal #1: Coalition Building Effort: Lead and coordinate regional coalition building focused on the protection and improvement of the Truckee River through the OTR partnership activities with a focus to support and develop projects that reduce erosion and sedimentation into the Truckee River.

Specifically, OTR will lead bi-annual OTR Partnership Council meetings and coordinate and participate in small group meetings with partners, other relevant entities, and the public, related to ideas, interest, and collaborative project developments to protect the Truckee River led and coordinated by OTR. In May, OTR will lead and coordinate OTR's rafting trips that provide opportunities for OTR partners, OTR technical working group members, local elected officials, and other relevant community members to raft the river in the Reno/Sparks urban core to network with each other and observe and discuss river conditions together to support further implementation of collaborative projects to protect the Truckee River.

In 25/26, OTR's area of focus within this goal is to further the awareness and understanding of OTR's coordination vegetation management efforts and develop buy-in for local agencies and support from the public for more riverbank repair projects utilizing the OTR's vegetation conditions assessment completed.

Goal # 2: Fund Development Work: Lead, coordinate, and submit funding proposals to support OTR and further the implementation of the OTR Management Plan. Specifically, OTR will continue to develop its grants plan through the project period, which will adapt new funding opportunities to be identified, researched, cultivated and grant applications submitted.

In 25/26, OTR's fund development efforts will focus on increasing support for OTR operational expenses to give OTR the ability to manage the Brodhead Riverbank Repair Project funded when the project goes from construction to completion; and the Truckee River Urban Tree Workforce Program conducting ongoing restorative vegetation management work along the Truckee River Corridor; while providing education, on-the-job training, and certification opportunity to community members with barriers to employment.

Goal #3: River-Friendly Living (RFL) Program: Launch OTR's RFL public engagement events at Lake Park's RFL Demonstration Garden in Reno. Host, promote, and lead a walking tour of the garden sharing OTR's RFL practices with the public. Continue to increase the public's understanding of the Truckee River, RFL practices, and efforts underway to protect the Truckee River led by OTR and its partners focused on content to mitigate storm water run-off. Explore how to expand OTR's RFL reach and public education and engagement with contract services and partners' support. Share OTR's RFL messaging to the public.

Specifically, OTR will create, publish, promote, and support cross-promotion of posts, stories, and videos through social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. OTR will create, publish, and distribute blogs, newsletters, website updates, and RFL brochures. In 25/26, OTR will continue to focus on highlighting its River-Friendly Living Yards branch focused on practices residents can implement in their own yard to reduce stormwater run-off and protect the Truckee River.

4.) Grant priorities*

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

OTR's proposed Watershed Protection Benefit Project advances Truckee River Fund's grant priorities that include:

Local Stormwater Improvements: OTR's River-Friendly Living (RFL) Program mitigates storm water run-off due to urbanization of the local watershed through collaborative on-the-ground installation of demonstration projects. With such projects, OTR coordinates with local governmental institutions and multiple departments to develop project concepts, research and apply for funding opportunities, and with funds secured, administrate and coordinate installation projects on public land, such as the RFL Demonstration Garden in Lake Park in Reno. In 25/26, OTR is exploring a possible new RFL Demonstration Garden site to collaborate with the City of Reno Utility Services.

Support the Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses: OTR's coalition building and fund development efforts support the rehabilitation of local tributary creeks, tributaries, and the Truckee River through engagement, coordination, communication, and support to OTR's Partnership Council members to continue to do more implementation projects focused on water quality improvements.

Stewardship and Environmental Awareness: OTR's River-Friendly Living Program develops and implements educational content focused on the region's adult audience related to the watershed protection and promotes direct actions residents can take to mitigate storm water run-off on their private property through continually messaging to the public to build awareness and engagement to care for the Truckee River as an important community asset. The RFL Program is divided into four branches (Yards, Individual Actions, Neighborhoods, and Voices and Hands) providing many options for residents to care for the Truckee River. OTR's RFL content is shared with the public through OTR's website, blogs, newsletters, and social media platforms. From July 1, 2024 to July 1, 2025, the OTR website received 12,241 visits, a 47% increase in one year and OTR RFL posts reach increased by 15% on Facebook, 3,242% on Instagram and 187% on LinkedIn.

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.

None.

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.*

Funds secured through Western Regional Water Commission.

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

Iris Jehle-Peppard, Executive Director of OTR with contract services support.

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.

5

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

One, Lisa Wallace, former Executive Director of Truckee River Watershed Council, to provide consultant mentoring support to OTR's Executive Director. In-kind support estimated at 6 hours a month x \$150/hr. rate = \$10,800 in-kind match provided.

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.*

Q4 2025

Coalition Building: Coordinate and lead an OTR bi-annual Partnership Council meeting and conduct 3 small group meetings.

Fund Development: Research, cultivate, and submit 2 to 4 proposals.

River-Friendly Living:

Plan, coordinate, and prepare OTR's RFL engagement events.

Create and publish 18 social media posts, 3 stories, and 3 videos. Encourage 2 partners and relevant groups to cross-promotion, share OTR's content.

Create and publish 2 blogs, 1 newsletters, 1 bulk email, and conduct OTR website updates as needed.

Design OTR RFL brochure.

Q1 2026

Coalition Building: Conduct 3 small group meetings.

Fund Development: Research, cultivate, and submit 2 to 4 proposals.

River-Friendly Living:

Promote OTR's RFL engagement events.

Create and publish 18 social media posts, 3 stories, and 3 videos. Encourage 2 partners and relevant groups to cross-promotion, share OTR's content.

Create and publish 1 blog, 1 newsletter, and conduct OTR website updates as needed.

Print OTR RFL brochure.

Q2 2026

Coalition Building: Coordinate and lead an OTR bi-annual Partnership Council meeting, conduct 3 small group meetings, and coordinate and lead two OTR rafting trips.

Fund Development: Research, cultivate, and submit 2 to 4 proposals.

River-Friendly Living:

Lead and host 5 OTR's RFL engagement events.

Create and publish 18 social media posts, 3 stories, and 3 videos. Encourage 2 partners and relevant groups to cross-promotion, share OTR's content.

Create and publish 2 blogs, 2 newsletters, 1 bulk emails, and conduct OTR website updates as needed.

Distribute OTR RFL brochures.

Q3 2025

Coalition Building: Conduct 3 small group meetings

Fund Development: Research, cultivate, and submit 2 to 4 proposals.

River-Friendly Living:

Lead and host 5 OTR's RFL engagement events.

Create and publish 18 social media posts, 3 stories, and 3 videos. Encourage 2 partners and relevant groups to cross-promotion, share OTR's content.

Create and publish 2 blogs, 1 newsletters, 1 bulk emails, and conduct OTR website updates as needed.

Continue to distribute OTR RFL brochures.

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

A successful OTR Watershed Protection Benefit Project includes these measurable outcomes achieved per each project goal.

Goal # 1: Coalition Building Efforts: Measured Outcomes Exceeded: 2 OTR Partnership Council meetings conducted with an estimated of 17 OTR partner agencies participating; 12 OTR small group meetings with partners, other relevant entities, and the public; and, 2 OTR rafting trips conducted with at least 35 total participants engaged.

Goal #2: Fund Development: Measured Outcomes Exceeded: OTR will research funding opportunities and apply for at least \$500K in funding to support OTR and the further implementation of the OTR Management Plan.

Goal #3: River-Friendly Living: Measured Outcomes Expected: 10 RFL engagement events, public walking tours and talks planned, promoted, and conducted utilizing the RFL Demonstration Garden at Lake Park, create and publish 72 of social media posts, 12 of stories, and 12 of videos; encourage 6 partners and relevant groups to cross-promote, share OTR's content with an estimated 10% growth rate in of 10%; create and publish 7 blogs, 5 newsletters, 3 bulk emails, consistent OTR website updates with an estimated 3% growth rate in website traffic; and print and distribute 1,000 of RFL brochures to expand the public's understanding of RFL practices.

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.

OTR's Project will collaborate with the OTR Partnership Council that is comprised of 32 representatives from 24 local agencies and nonprofits and OTR's Coordinated Vegetation Management Technical Working Group comprised of 33 representatives from 22 local agencies and nonprofits in 2025 sharing resources and expertise related to the Project goals.

OTR continually seeks other funding sources and recently secured funds through River Network and Nevada Division of Forestry for the OTR Truckee River Urban Tree Workforce Program and funds from the Regional Transportation Commission and Nevada Department of Transportation for the Brodhead Riverbank Repair Project. Limited opportunities are available for OTR's watershed coalition building, fund development, and River-Friendly Living practices, topics that are traditionally funded at the local level.

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

\$70,800.00

Cash

\$60,000.00

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.*

\$10,800.00

Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.*

A total match for 48% of the Project is secured. Cash match funds are secured through an executed reimbursable contract. \$60,000 cash secured from Western Regional Water Commission and \$10,800 in-kind pledged from Lisa Wallace, the former Executive Director from the Truckee River Watershed Council.

Attachments

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.

You are required to use a TRF-approved budget template. Please contact Lauren Sgandurra at laurens@nevadafund.org for the 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.*

OTR-TRF-25-26-Budget.xlsx - Google Sheets.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

Please attach any additional attachments here.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- TRF-Funds-to-OTR-and-NLT-OTR - Google Docs.pdf
- 2025-OTR-Project-Locations - Google Docs.pdf
- OTR-TRF-25-26-Budget.xlsx - Google Sheets.pdf

Funding to One Truckee River through the Truckee River Foundation

Date awarded: September 16, 2024

Project # and Title: TRF #295 – Watershed Coalition Building and River-Friendly Living Efforts

Amount of award: \$81,295

Project # and Title: TRF #283 – Watershed Coalition Building

Amount of award: \$135,138

Date awarded: September 26, 2022

Project # and Title: TRF #268 – OTR Brodhead Park Restoration Project: Phase II

Amount of award: \$79,791.33

Date awarded: March 17, 2021

Project # and Title: One Truckee River Partnership and engagement with the public

Amount of award: \$196,590

Date awarded: September 16, 2021

Project # and Title: TRF #254 – One Truckee River Brodhead Park Restoration Project: Phase 1

Amount of award: \$69,724

Date awarded: September 16, 2021

Project # and Title: TRF #253 – OTR's River-Friendly Landscaping Program Expansion

Amount of award: \$48,000

Note: In 2020, One Truckee River transitioned to its long-term home, the 501 (3) nonprofit Truckee River Foundation, from its prior fiscal agent Nevada Land Trust.

Funding to One Truckee River through the fiscal agent Nevada Land Trust

Date awarded: August 13, 2020

Project # and Title: TRF #235 - One Truckee River Overall Support and Restroom Attendant

Amount of award: \$74,293

Date awarded: August 16, 2019

Project # and Title: TRF #221: River Restroom Project

Amount of award: \$124,976

Date awarded: March 22, 2017

Project # and Title: TRF #188: One Truckee River – Phase 1 Action

Amount of award: \$256,220

Date awarded: September 23, 2016

Project # and Title: TRF #180: One Truckee River – Phase 1 Implementation

Amount of award: \$98,534

Date awarded: March 21, 2012

Project # and Title: TRF #104: Washoe Drive Fire Stabilization and Restoration Effort

Amount of award: \$115,000

Date awarded: December 12, 2011

Project # - Title: TRF #99: Caughlin Fire Emergency Watershed Stabilization & Restoration Effort

Amount of award: \$219,856

Date awarded: October 11, 2011

Project # and Title: TRF #90: Weed Treatments & Revegetation, Truckee River & Tributaries

Amount of award: \$127,500

Date awarded: July 21, 2009

Project # and Title: TRF #70: Weed Treatments & Revegetation, Truckee River & Tributaries

Amount of award: \$125,000

Date awarded: July 21, 2009

Project # and Title: TRF #66: Scope of Work for Truckee River Ecosystem Restoration Coordination, Creation of a Five-Year Weed Control and Restoration Plan for the Truckee River

Amount of award: \$10,000

Date awarded: July 17, 2008

Project # and Title: TRF #46: Weed Treatments & Revegetation, Truckee River & Tributaries

Amount of award: \$112,500



(775) 450-5489 - P.O. Box 18153 Reno, NV 89511 - www.onetruckeeriver.org

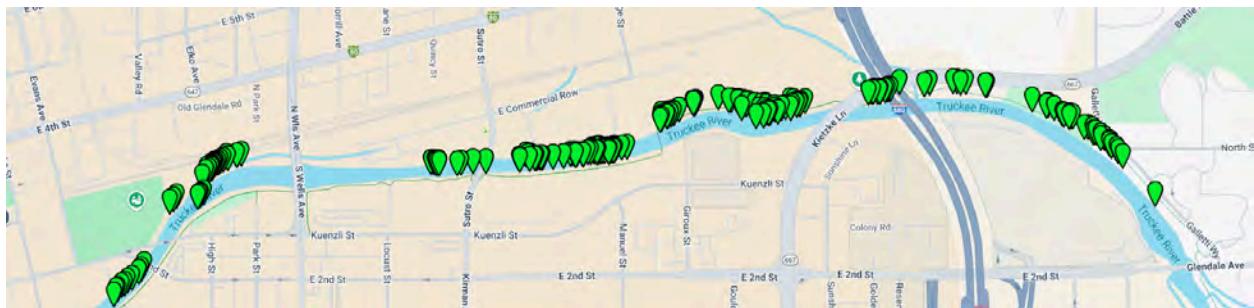
One Truckee River Project Locations

#1 Project Location: OTR's Coordinated Vegetation Management Efforts: Crystal Peak to Vista Narrows along the Mainstream of the Truckee River.



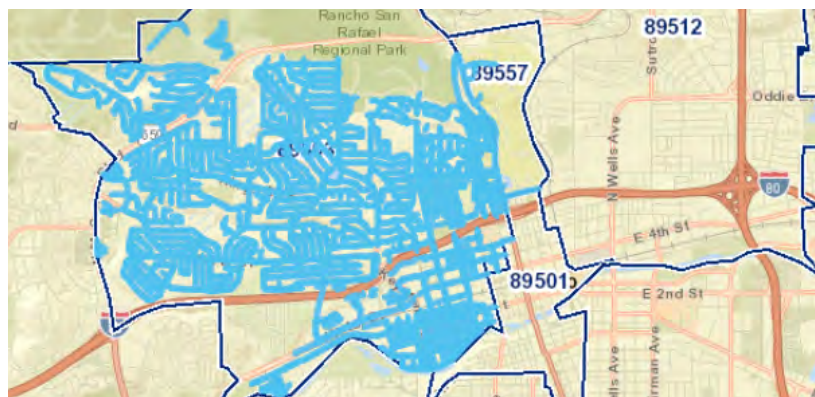
* Color coding in the map above represents the overall vegetation condition of areas along the mainstream of the Truckee River. The live map link can be found at: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ad85e92f50ae438a953c0e1ca9cae3c9>

#2 Project Location: OTR's Truckee River Urban Tree Workforce Program: Lake Street to Vista Narrows along the Mainstream of the Truckee River.



* Green points on the map represent trees planted along the Truckee River by the Workforce Crew from Sept. 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 that include 261. Workforce crew also remove invasive trees and wrap native mature trees from beaver damage.

#3 Project Location: OTR's River-Friendly Living Efforts are focused in Washoe County with direct engagement within the surrounding neighborhoods around Lake Park in Reno here OTR installed a RFL Demonstration Garden.



Watershed Protection Benefit Project

Coalition Building, Fund Development, and River-Friendly Living Efforts

Budget Item Description	\$/unit	Quantity	Quantity Type	TRF Funding Requested	WRWC 25-26 Cash Match Secured	Lisa Wallace 25-26 Support In-Kind Match Secured	Total Cost
Salaries and Wages							
Project Manager, OTR Executive Director wages	70.67	938	Hours	28,492	35,300		63,792
Payroll taxes at 7.65%	0	taxes for wages	Hours	2,180	2,700		4,880
Contract Services							-
Social media/meeting support	73	273	Hours	7,463	500		7,963
River-Friendly Living Program, website, newsletter, and blog development	75	350	Hours	12,500	21,500		34,000
Fund development support	80	150	Hours	6,250	-		6,250
Overall Project support	50	50	Hours	2,000	-		2,000
Pro-bono consultant support to mentor and advise OTR's Executive Director to build the capacity of OTR	150	72	Hours			10,800	10,800
Outreach and Promotion							
Printing River-Friendly Living brochures	0.304	1,000	Per Brochure	304	0		304
Social media boosts	100	15	Boost Order	1,500	0		1,500
Total Direct Costs				60,689	60,000	10,800	131,489
Indirect costs (25% of direct costs)				15,172			15,172
Total Project Costs				75,861	60,000	10,800	146,661
Total Match (cash and in-kind)		Percentage of match provided		48%	60,000	10,800	70,800

Mayberry Park Watershed Protection and Public Restroom Project

Truckee River Fund- Fall 2025

Washoe County - Regional Parks & Open Space

David Solaro
1001 E. 9th Street
Bldg A
Reno, NV 89512

O: 775-328-3600

Connie Lucido

1001 E. Ninth St., Bldg. A
Reno, NV 89512

CLucido@washoecounty.gov
O: 775-530-4299

Application Form

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 Sgandurra at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada for additional criteria at laurens@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.
 - For projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25% match requirement must be met using cash.

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.

Mayberry Park Watershed Protection and Public Restroom Project

Amount Requested*

\$250,000.00

Would you be able to implement your project if the full amount is not awarded?*

No

Minimum Amount Required to Complete the Project*

If partial funding is available.

\$0.00

Project Start Date*

01/01/2026

Project End Date*

01/01/2027

This funding will be used to:*

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

Funding will be used to begin the work of design, permit, and install a permanent, ADA-accessible, water-efficient public restroom facility at Mayberry Park along the Truckee River. This project will provide critical sanitation infrastructure to protect water quality, support public health, and enhance equitable access for the park's growing number of visitors.

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

Organization Name*

Washoe County Community Services Department

Organization Type*

Governmental Entity

EIN

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

88-6000138

Director of Organization*

Eric Crump

Project Contact Name*

Brett Steinhardt

Project Contact Postion/Title*

Senior Project Manager

Project Contact Email*

bsteinhardt@washoecounty.gov

Project Contact Phone Number*

775-328-2049

Organization Mission*

Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space (Parks) is responsible for managing over 13,000 acres of parks, trails and open space including some of the most popular parks in the area. These resources take advantage of the County's natural wonders and provide the region with an economic benefit that attracts new visitors while providing a quality of life that is treasured by a majority of the residents making this area a unique place to work and live.

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.

March 26, 2019, Weed Treatment and Revegetation Project - TRF #220, \$45,000

Sept 18, 2020, Truckee River Parks and Open Space Weed Management and Revegetation - TRF #340, \$45,000

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.

Goal 1: Ensure equitable access to clean, safe, and dignified public restroom facilities for all Mayberry Park visitors.

Outcome: Install ADA-accessible, family-friendly restrooms to support the needs of diverse users, including cyclists, seniors, youth, and underserved populations.

Goal 2: Protect the Truckee River and surrounding natural resources from human waste contamination.

Outcome: Reduce unsanitary conditions caused by the absence of permanent restrooms by providing an environmentally responsible sanitation option near river access points.

Goal 3: Incorporate sustainable water management by installing water-efficient restroom infrastructure.

Outcome: Use low-flow fixtures and explore opportunities to connect to reclaimed water systems to reduce demand on potable water supplies and model smart water use.

Goal 4: Increase public use and stewardship of Mayberry Park by improving essential amenities.

Outcome: Encourage longer visits, more frequent use, and enhanced community perception of Mayberry Park through the addition of permanent restrooms.

Measurable Outcomes

Outcome | Measure | Target | Timeframe

1. Improved Access | permanent restroom units installed at Mayberry Park Design & Permitting for 1 ADA-compliant dual restroom facility (2 stalls) | Within 9 months of funding
2. Environmental Impact Mitigated | Reduction in unsanitary waste-related cleanup incidents (tracked by Parks maintenance logs) | 75% decrease | Within 6 months post-installation
3. Water Efficiency Achieved | Gallons of water saved using water-efficient fixtures | Minimum 20% less than standard fixtures (per manufacturer specs) | Tracked over first 12 months
4. Public Satisfaction Increased | Percent of positive visitor feedback mentioning restrooms (via kiosks, QR survey, or online forms) | At least 30% increase over baseline survey | Within 9 months post-installation
5. Park Engagement Boosted | Increase in special use permits (e.g., for events, school outings) and daily park visits | 10–15% increase (using prior year as baseline) | Within 1 year of installation

2.) Describe the project location.*

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

Mayberry Park is a 15-acre public recreation area located approximately four miles west of downtown Reno, Nevada. Nestled along the south bank of the Truckee River, the park is managed by Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space and serves as a key access point to the river and the Tahoe-Pyramid and Tom Cooke Trail networks. Popular for hiking, biking, bird-watching, angling, and tubing, the park includes paved trails, picnic sites, and river access, and is fully ADA-accessible. Surrounded by riparian habitat and adjacent to growing residential neighborhoods, Mayberry Park functions as both a beloved community gathering space and a critical watershed interface—making it an ideal location for public health and water quality infrastructure improvements.

Map/Photo attachments

Please include no more than 2 maps and no more than 4 photos.

Mayberry Toilet Utility Map.pdf

3.) Project Description*

Washoe County proposes the installation of a permanent, ADA-accessible, dual-stall public restroom facility at Mayberry Park to meet increasing visitor demand, protect the Truckee River watershed, and demonstrate responsible, sustainable water management practices. As one of the County's most heavily used river-access parks, Mayberry currently lacks permanent restroom infrastructure—forcing reliance on seasonal portable toilets or leaving visitors without sanitation options, which presents both public health and environmental concerns.

The project aligns with the Washoe County Parks Master Plan goals to preserve natural resources, support regional park infrastructure, and promote public health and recreation. It directly addresses the growing need for resilient public infrastructure as visitation to Mayberry Park and the Truckee River corridor continues to expand. With over 4.9 million annual park visitors system-wide and population projections continuing upward, it is critical that Washoe County modernize facilities at key regional assets like Mayberry.

Project Methods and Design

The selected restroom facility will be a prefabricated, vandal-resistant concrete structure designed for long-term outdoor use. It will include two single-user stalls (gender-neutral), fully ADA-compliant entryways, low-

flow fixtures, hands-free faucets, LED solar lighting, and ventilation for year-round usability. The location will be strategically sited near high-traffic areas, including trailheads and river access, and within proximity to existing utility connections to reduce costs and environmental disturbance.

Water-efficient fixtures will be installed to reduce potable water usage by at least 20% compared to standard models, demonstrating smart water use consistent with the goals of local water authorities.

Construction and utility work will be completed using licensed contractors through a competitive bidding process in accordance with county procurement policies. Project oversight will be provided by the Washoe County Community Services Department, Parks Division, with input from the Washoe County Engineering Division and regional water utility providers to ensure code compliance, water system efficiency, and project integration.

Sustainability and Environmental Impact

This project directly supports watershed health and water quality protection along the Truckee River. Permanent restrooms will eliminate reliance on portable units, which are prone to tipping, overflow, and leakage—especially during spring runoff and high-use periods. By providing safe, clean, and fixed restroom infrastructure, the project minimizes human waste exposure to soils and waterways and supports One Truckee River's river stewardship and health goals.

The inclusion of low-flow technology and potential use of reclaimed water ensures a significant reduction in potable water use over time. Additionally, the durable construction and reduced maintenance burden will prevent resource waste and unscheduled repairs, increasing fiscal and environmental sustainability.

Project Longevity and Ongoing Maintenance

The restroom facility has an anticipated lifespan of 25+ years, with concrete structure and stainless-steel components designed to endure freeze-thaw cycles, floodplain conditions, vandalism, and heavy use. Annual maintenance will be funded through existing Parks operational budgets. Washoe County will incorporate the new facility into its existing inspection and cleaning routes, which are supported by a full-time maintenance crew.

To ensure continued performance, Parks will monitor user feedback via QR surveys and track visitation changes through existing trail counters and permit applications. Preventive maintenance schedules will be added to the county's CMMS (computerized maintenance management system), ensuring long-term upkeep and accountability.

4.) Grant priorities*

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

Watershed Improvements:

The project directly supports the TRF's goal of reducing bacterial pollutants in the Truckee River watershed. Mayberry Park is adjacent to the Truckee River and currently lacks permanent restroom facilities. The absence of adequate sanitation infrastructure increases the risk of human waste entering surface waters during peak use seasons. Installing a permanent, sanitary restroom mitigates this threat by preventing fecal contamination from entering runoff or leaching into the river corridor.

Local Stormwater Improvements:

Public restrooms will reduce the likelihood of unsanitary waste being deposited in areas that contribute to stormwater runoff, especially during spring melting and summer thunderstorms. This reduces the biological load on downstream stormwater systems, helping protect the river's water quality and supporting TMWA's mission to safeguard drinking water sources.

Stewardship and Environmental Awareness:

The project enhances the overall stewardship of a highly trafficked public park along the Truckee River, reinforcing community expectations of clean, safe, and responsible recreation infrastructure. Educational signage near the restrooms can also promote water conservation and responsible park use.

Public Benefit and Benefit to TMWA Customers**Public Health Protection:**

By reducing exposure to human waste in a high-use river-access park, the project protects the health of local residents and visitors, including many TMWA customers—who use the Truckee River for recreation and live downstream of this location.

Supports Drinking Water Protection:

The project occurs upstream of water treatment infrastructure and protects a known public drinking water source. Preventing bacterial contamination at the source reduces the burden on treatment systems and lowers operational risk for TMWA.

Equity and Access:

The addition of ADA-compliant, family-friendly restrooms ensures that all members of the public—including seniors, people with disabilities, and families with small children—can safely enjoy the park. This meets the grant's requirement that government-funded projects deliver clear and substantial public benefit.

Quality of Project Design and Sustainability**Appropriate Project Methods:**

The use of a pre-fabricated, ADA-accessible, low-maintenance restroom facility ensures efficient installation and long-term durability. Water-saving fixtures or potential reclaimed water hookups align with TRF's focus on sustainable water use and conservation.

Sustainability and Longevity:

With a projected 25+ year lifespan and integration into Washoe County's ongoing maintenance routes and systems, the project is designed for long-term impact. Infrastructure investments are planned with both environmental conditions (freeze-thaw cycles, floodplain) and operational budgets in mind.

Public Infrastructure Investment:

The project represents a one-time capital investment with decades of recurring community and environmental benefit—precisely the kind of outcome TRF prioritizes.

Leverage and Readiness**Matching Commitment:**

Washoe County will meet or exceed the required 25% match through a combination of cash and in-kind support (planning, staff oversight, permitting, and post-installation maintenance).

Shovel-Ready Project:

The site is publicly owned, no major permitting obstacles are anticipated, and construction can begin within 6 months of grant award. Design plans are based on proven models used throughout the region.

In summary, the Mayberry Park Public Restroom Project is a highly appropriate use of Truckee River Fund support. It addresses bacterial pollution risk, protects a vital water source, improves public health and access, and demonstrates lasting value to TMWA customers through environmentally sound infrastructure—all while being designed for longevity, sustainability, and efficient implementation.

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.

Pic-Impaired Water Ways.png

Initial planning and permitting 12 months.

6.) Future Land Use*

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

There are no known or anticipated zoning changes, development pressures, or land use amendments planned for Mayberry Park or its surrounding area. The park is located within a stable residential zone and is designated as a permanent open space under Washoe County's land use plans. It is protected as a public recreational asset and managed by the Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space Division, with no plans for conversion, development, or privatization. All future improvements will focus on enhancing public access, environmental stewardship, and water quality infrastructure in alignment with long-term parks planning documents and the Washoe County Master Plan.

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

Planning and permitting for this restroom installation at Mayberry Park represents the first phase of a broader, multi-phase infrastructure and watershed protection initiative along high-use sections of the Truckee River corridor. By addressing critical sanitation needs at one of the region's most heavily trafficked riverfront parks, this project lays the groundwork for future phases that will installation of water-efficient restroom installations, erosion control improvements, and stormwater management enhancements at other vulnerable park sites. Each phase will build upon the success and public benefit demonstrated here, leveraging data, community feedback, and environmental monitoring to secure future funding and scale impact throughout the Truckee River watershed.

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

Washoe County's Community Services Department (CSD) brings extensive expertise and a proven track record in managing capital infrastructure projects, park operations, and watershed stewardship. The project will be led by a multidisciplinary team that includes licensed civil engineers, experienced park planners, environmental specialists, and certified maintenance professionals. These staff have successfully delivered numerous park facility upgrades and river-adjacent improvements across the region, often in coordination with regulatory agencies, community partners, and grant funders. Their familiarity with permitting processes, sustainable design principles, and water-efficient technologies ensures a smooth, compliant, and cost-effective implementation. Post-construction, the Parks Division will incorporate the new facility into its established operations and maintenance framework, which is supported by full-time field staff trained in sanitation, environmental safety, and long-term asset preservation. This internal capacity allows Washoe County to ensure high-quality execution, fiscal accountability, and long-term stewardship of TRF-funded improvements.

This project will be implemented using existing staff capacity within the Washoe County Community Services Department (CSD), which includes divisions for Engineering, Parks, Planning, and Operations. Rather than hiring new personnel, the project will be folded into the County's regular capital improvement and parks infrastructure workflow. Approximately four to six part-time staff members—including a project manager, civil engineer, park planner, maintenance supervisor, and procurement analyst—will contribute time to planning, permitting, contractor coordination, and quality control during construction. Once installed, the

restroom facility will be maintained by existing full-time Parks Operations staff assigned to the region, with no increase to staff headcount required. This internal delivery model ensures continuity, accountability, and long-term sustainability of the investment.

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.

2 - hourly

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

internal model, no volunteers on project

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.*

Start Date: January 1, 2026

Estimated Completion: December 2026

Phase Task Estimated Timeline

1. Project Kickoff Internal kickoff meeting, coordination with engineering, parks, and procurement teams
January 2026

2. Site Preparation & Design Finalization Confirm final restroom location, utility access, restroom model, and civil site plan January – February 2026

3. Permitting Submit and secure necessary local permits (grading, sewer, ADA, utility) February – April 2026

The following Phases pending future funding sources

4. Procurement Prepare bid documents, advertise RFP, evaluate proposals, select contractor April – May 2026

5. Construction Mobilization Site prep, grading, trenching for utilities, foundation pad construction June 2026

6. Facility Delivery & Installation Delivery and crane-set of prefabricated restroom, utility tie-ins, finish work July – August 2026

7. Final Inspections & Commissioning Conduct final building and accessibility inspections, signage install, punch list September 2026

8. Public Opening Facility opens to public with media release and signage acknowledging funders October 2026

9. Final Reporting Submit completion report, financials, and outcome measures to TRF November – December 2026

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

1. Environmental Protection Outcomes

Reduction in human waste incidents: Documented decrease in informal waste cleanup needs (via maintenance logs).

Decrease in visible sanitation-related impacts (e.g., toilet paper, waste in vegetation) near riverbanks and trailheads.

Improved water quality protections: Less potential for bacteria/pathogen loading into the Truckee River from recreational use areas.

2. Public Use & Satisfaction

Increased park visitation: Measurable bump in trailhead counts, event permits, or general park usage post-installation.

Positive visitor feedback: Survey results or comment cards showing improved satisfaction with amenities and park cleanliness.

Increased length of stay: Observational or survey data indicating visitors are staying longer due to basic facilities.

3. Infrastructure Performance

Restroom remains operational 100% of the time after installation, with no unplanned service disruptions in the first 12 months.

Low maintenance burden: Maintenance records show manageable service needs within existing staffing and budget.

Fixtures operate within water efficiency targets, verified by water use data from meters or maintenance reports.

4. Stewardship & Education

Increased public awareness of responsible recreation through signage and user engagement at the restroom site.

Reduction in complaints related to sanitation from park users, neighborhood associations, or visitor centers.

5. Long-Term Viability

Integrated into Washoe County Parks' preventive maintenance system, with assigned staff and schedule logged.

No significant vandalism or facility failure within the first year, indicating site suitability and design effectiveness.

Ongoing utility and O&M costs within projected budget, confirming financial sustainability.

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.

These partnerships reflect a collaborative, cross-sector approach to sustainable public infrastructure. Each partner brings technical expertise, regulatory alignment, or community support—all of which contribute to a successful, high-impact, and fund-worthy project.

1. Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA)

Role: Technical advisor and stakeholder

TMWA's mission to protect water quality aligns directly with this project. Their input on watershed protection, especially near drinking water intakes, would inform best practices in siting, fixture selection, and potential for future reclaimed water use. A letter of support from TMWA would demonstrate alignment with the fund's purpose.

2. Washoe County Health District – Environmental Health Services**Role: Sanitation standards and public health oversight**

This partner ensures that the restroom facility meets all sanitation codes and environmental health requirements. Their review and approval of plumbing and septic/sewer connections helps safeguard public health and compliance.

3. One Truckee River / Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB)**Role: Stewardship, outreach, and education**

These community partners are actively engaged in river corridor protection and public education. They could support signage, volunteer cleanup events, and help reinforce messaging about proper restroom use and watershed protection.

4. Washoe County Engineering and Capital Projects Division**Role: Civil engineering and construction management**

This internal partner provides engineering support for site prep, utility tie-ins, and ADA compliance, ensuring the project meets all structural and drainage standards while minimizing environmental disruption.

5. Washoe County Parks Maintenance Team**Role: Long-term operations and upkeep**

Responsible for day-to-day upkeep, this team ensures the facility remains clean, operational, and safe. Their input was critical in selecting a restroom model with low maintenance demands and high durability.

6. Local Community Groups or Homeowners Associations (optional)**Role: Community buy-in and volunteer support**

Engaging nearby residents or trail user groups promotes local ownership and can reduce vandalism through peer accountability. These groups could also assist with park beautification or provide informal monitoring of the facility.

7. Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP)**Role: Regulatory support (as needed)**

Depending on proximity to flood zones or sensitive hydrology, NDEP could play a role in permitting or environmental review. Early consultation ensures regulatory compliance and risk mitigation.

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

\$62,500.00

Cash

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.*

\$62,500.00

Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.*

Sr. Project Manager – 100 hours: \$10,805

Project Manager – 100 hours: \$9,855

AC Patch for utility - \$33,840

Water Rights - \$8,000

Attachments

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.

You are required to use a TRF-approved budget template. Please contact Lauren Sgandurra at laurens@nevadafund.org for the 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 Summary - CSD.docx

Supplemental Attachments

Please attach any additional attachments here.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

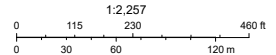
- Mayberry Toilet Utility Map.pdf
- Pic-Impaired Water Ways.png
- Budget Summary - CSD.docx

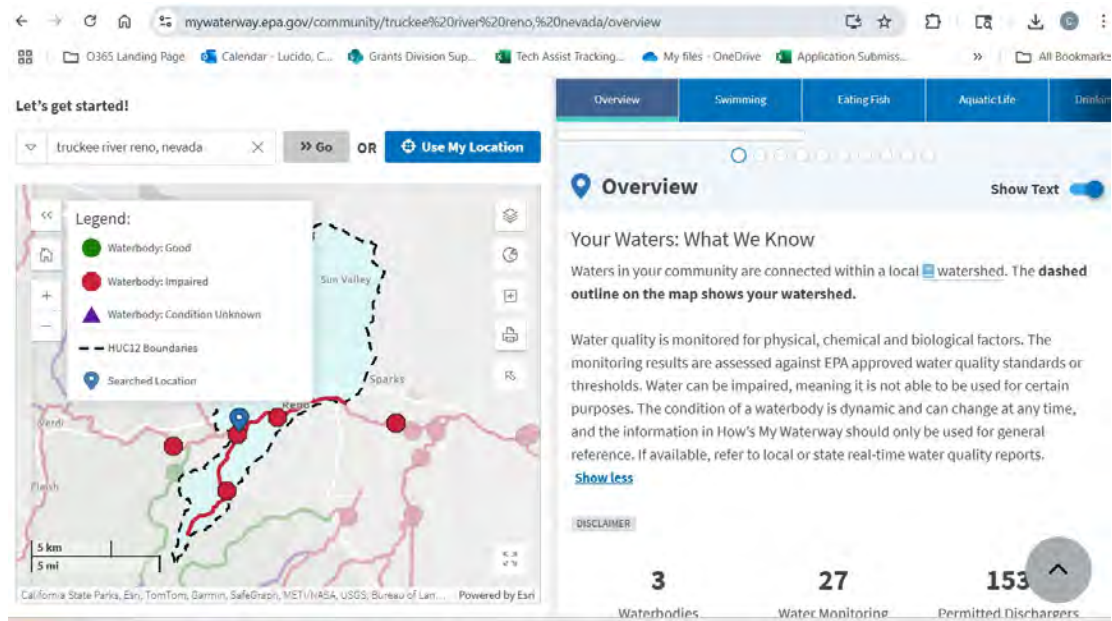
Mayberry Park Toilet Install

08-22-25 TRF Agenda Item 7



Proposed Sewer Line ————
Proposed Water Line ————
Proposed Power Line ————





Washoe County – Truckee River Fund
Budget

Budget Item Description	\$/unit	Quantity	Quantity Type	TRF Funding	Match	Total Cost
Contractual Construction						
Initial Utility installation	\$100,000	1	Contract	X		\$100,000
Initial Utility Install	\$33,841	1	County provided		X	\$33,841
Planning						
Engineering Service for Design and Construction	\$55,000	1	Contract	X	-	\$55,000
Permitting TMWA \$30,000 NV Energy \$50,000 City of Reno \$15,000	\$95,000	1	Fees	X	-	\$95,000
Project / Program Management						
Indirect Costs & Overhead	\$20,659	1	Hours	-	X	\$20,659
Water Rights	\$8,000	1	.24 ac/ft		X	\$8,000
Project Total	\$312,500					\$312,500