

Official Notice and Agenda

Truckee River Fund Advisory Committee Thursday August 27, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

Meeting Location:

Community Foundation of Northern Nevada
50 Washington Street, Suite 300
Reno, NV 89503
Or Via Remote Technology

To join the meeting via ZOOM click the link below and enter the **Passcode: CFNN**.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8785686516?pwd=K29WZIN1a0Q2Wm1YbnplR1I1SzJUUT09>

Webinar ID: 878 568 6516

Meeting Information & Public Disclosures

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/meetin/> or you can contact Adriana Albarran at (775) 834-8002 or aalbarran@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. on August 19th. 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. **Approval of the May 29, 2026 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. **#326 May Arboretum Society:** Peavine Creek Watershed Protection Demonstration Project, \$79,000
 - b. **#327 Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful:** KTMB 2027, \$97,192.10
 - c. **#328 Sierra Nevada Journeys:** Watershed Education Initiative, \$22,542.19
 - d. **#329 One Truckee River:** Strengthening OTR's Projects and Programs to Protect the Truckee River, \$100,000
 - e. **#330 National Forest Foundation:** Forest Ambassador Program on the Carson District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, \$100,000
 - f. **#331 FARMily:** Healthy Watershed for a Healthy Foodshed: A Youth Education and Community Stewardship Project, \$43,770
 - g. **#332 Reno Food Systems:** Cultivating Watershed Resilience at the Urban-Agricultural Interface: Advancing Watershed Health, Fire Resilience, Regenerative Urban Agriculture and Community Stewardship, Phase 2, \$75,000
7. **Discuss possible Fall fieldtrip opportunities (for possible action)**
8. **Committee and staff comments***
9. **Upcoming Meetings (for possible action)**
 - a. Friday November 20, 2026 at 8:30am
10. **Public comment (limited to no more than three minutes per speaker)***
11. **Adjournment***

MEETING MINUTES (TRANSCRIPT SUMMARY)

TRUCKEE RIVER FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 29, 2026

(Meeting via Zoom and In-Person)

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, April 28, 2026, 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, Bill Bradley, Mike Brisbin, Peter Gower, Don Mahin, Dave Stanley.

Also: Lauren Sgandurra, Community Foundation of Northern Nevada; Kara Steeland and Hannah Lukasik, TMWA; Sarah Ferguson, Council for TRF; Susan Merideth, TRF Minutes Recorder.

Members of the Public:

- + 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: Bill Bradley motioned to approve the agenda for the May 29th meeting, and Brian Bonnenfant seconded the motion. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item #4: Approve the February 20, 2026 summary meeting minutes: Terri Svetich motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes (Transcript Summary) for February 20, 2026 and Don Mahin seconded the motion. The summary meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Agenda Item #5: Approve the April 28, 2026 summary meeting minutes: Bill Bradley motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes (Transcript Summary) for April 28, 2026 with the following revision to the section *Geographic extent*: The Committee agreed that proposals

for projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin that comply with TRF guidelines will be considered, and TRF advisors may at times solicit proposals for the Tahoe Basin for projects that align with current priorities.

Brian Bonnenfant seconded the motion to approve the April 28, 2026 summary meeting minutes with revision, and the minutes were unanimously approved by the Committee. Don Mahin, Peter Gower and Terri Svetich abstained from the vote, since they were not present at the meeting April 28th meeting.

Agenda Item #6: Fund balance report*:

The projected fund balance for Fall 2026 & Spring 2027 funding cycles is \$819,553.33, including an \$800,000 distribution from TMWA in July and \$19,553.33 carryover from Spring 2026.

Agenda Item #7: Discuss nomination of officers

TRF Committee Chair position is up for election. Jim Smitherman nominated Terri Svetich for the Chair position, and she accepted the nomination. Jim motioned and Mike Brisbin seconded the motion to elect Terri Svetich as TRF Chair, and it passed unanimously.

Bill Bradley motioned to elect Neoma Jardon for the position of Vice-Chair vacated by Terri. Brian Bonnenfant seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously by the Committee.

Agenda Item #8: Review and possible approval of the draft revisions to the Truckee River Fund Request for Proposals (RFP)

The Committee reviewed the draft RFP and Bill Bradley motioned to accept the revised RFP as written. Brian Bonnenfant seconded the motion and the new RFP was unanimously approved by the Committee.

Agenda Item #9: Discuss process for new Advisory Committee Member Orientation

Jim Smitherman suggested the following to be included with an Advisory Committee Member Orientation package:

1. Ron Penrose paper
2. TRF Agreement
3. Open Meeting Law overview
4. RFP Proposal Criteria
5. Past meeting minutes
6. Mike Brisbin's article on invasive species
7. Mike Brisbin offered to make his historical meeting notes available

Jim motioned to make a new member orientation package available in electronic form to all new Committee Members. Mike Brisbin seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #10: Review completed projects*:

- a. **#264 Truckee River Watershed Council:** Lower Hoke Meadow and State of Donner Lake, \$206,000:

Mike Brisbin reported that the hydrologic metal restoration and revegetation project of 25 acres of meadow exceeded expectations and goals, finding statistically significant changes before and after project implementation. They also successfully collected monitoring data for 2022, 2023 and 2025 regarding the state of Donner Lake.

- b. **#281 City of Reno:** Lake Park Watershed Project, \$30,832:

The Lake Park Watershed Project was designed to install three landscaped floating wetlands to improve water quality at Lake Park Pond, revegetate the shoreline with native pollinator plants to improve plant diversity, and develop and install permanent educational STEM signage for schools and the public to learn how wetlands benefit plant and animal ecosystems and water quality.

Mike Brisbin reported that the City of Reno met their goal of designing a STEM-based education program, and Daniel Moss presented a stormwater education diorama and led a tour of the Lake Park wetlands and interpretive signs to three groups of Noah's Ark summer school students (1st-7th graders). Signage was installed and has remained in great condition, however trackable QR codes for the signage were never included due to technical issues with graphic design licensing.

They achieved limited success with revegetation, with a die-off rate of 33% (shoreline plants) and 55% (island plants) of replanted vegetation instead of meeting the goal of 25% maximum die-off.

They did not meet their goals for nutrient reduction, with more biomass (islands) needed to accomplish this.

- c. **#284 Truckee River Watershed Council:** South Euer Valley Road Improvement Project, \$151,081.48:

Bill Bradley reported on the successful completion of the TRWC's road improvement project to reduce sedimentation in south Prosser Creek.

d. **#287 RISE:** River Stewards, \$201,593.45:

The goal of the River Stewards was to decrease pollution in the areas within 100 feet on either side of the Truckee River by focusing on homeless encampments identified by the Reno Clean & Safe Team and other outreach service providers. Neoma Jardon provided a report that they completed the activities specified in the proposal, meeting their expectations and stated goals.

e. **#295 One Truckee River:** Watershed Coalition Building & River-Friendly Living Efforts, \$81,295:

The goals of OTR's Watershed Coalition Building & River-Friendly Living Efforts are to expand and continue to lead, coordinate, and resource the OTR partnership, increase the public's understanding of the Truckee River, OTR RFL practices and efforts to protect the Truckee River led by OTR and its partners and to expand OTR's RFL neighborhoods activities. Jim Smitherman reported that OTR met or exceeded each of the goals stated in the proposal and deemed the project a success.

f. **#296 KTMB:** 2025 Great Community Cleanup, Truckee River Cleanup, Adopt-A-River Program, & Adult and Community Education Program, \$97,410.32:

Funding to KTMB was used to expand Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful's Great Community Cleanup, Truckee River Cleanup, Adopt-A-River Program, and Community Education Program. Peter Gower reported that KTMB completed and exceeded the activities specified in the proposal and exceeded expectations for waste removal, education and community engagement.

g. **#299 Sierra Nevada Journeys:** Watershed Education Initiative, \$20,000:

SNJ's Classrooms Unleashed program, part of the Watershed Education Initiative, aims to provide 700 students within the urban Truckee River Corridor with watershed education, including a classroom lesson, field day at a site with access to the local watershed, and providing teacher resources and extension lessons. Jim Smitherman reported that SNJ completed its stated goals and exceeded expectations by delivering WEI programs to 442 K–8th grade students and providing 18 teachers with WEI extension lessons.

h. **#300 RISE:** River Stewards, \$85,000:

River Stewards funding was used to decrease pollution in the areas within 100 feet on either side of the Truckee River. Neoma Jardon reported that the River Stewards completed the activities specified in the proposal, meeting expectations and stated goals.

- i. **#301 Great Basin Outdoor School:** Youth Watershed Education and Protection Projects on the Truckee River, \$7,500:

GBIS funding was provided to support Tahoe Truckee Snapshot Day water sampling event to be held the campus of Mountain View Montessori School and critical watershed education for elementary and middle school-aged students at Spring and Summer Adventure Day Camps. Jim Smitherman reported that GBOS completed activities as specified in the proposal and met some but not all of their goals and expectations. GBOS was able to engage 226 students (goal of 270) and educate 15 students in the Spring and 166 students in the Fall (goal of 50 and 180 students, respectively). They exceeded their student engagement goal for Snapshot Day, serving 45 students.

Agenda Item #11: Review and discuss article “Invasive Species of the Truckee River Main Stem and Pyramid Lake” by Mike Brisbin

Mike Brisbin reviewed his manuscript providing a comprehensive inventory of invasive plant and animal species documented in the mainstem of the Truckee River and Pyramid Lake, focusing on species that pose significant threats to native ecosystems, and the Committee discussed the implications.

Agenda Item #12: Committee and staff comments *

None.

Agenda Item #11: Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Thursday, August 27, 2026 at 8:30 am
- b. Friday, November 20, 2026 at 8:30 am
- c. Fall fieldtrip, proposed locations
 - i. TRWC- Cold Stream Canyon

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

Agenda Item #13: Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:42am.

Funded?	Proposal #	Grantee	Grant Description	Proposal Amount	Able to Implement w/o full amount?	Minimum Award Amount Possible	Match - Monetary	Match - In Kind	Match total	Project Advisor
	326	May Arboretum Society	Peavine Creek Watershed Protection Demonstration Project	\$79,000.00	Y	\$75,000.00	\$20,997.50	\$0.00	\$20,997.50	
	327	Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful	KTMB 2027	\$97,192.10	Y	\$85,000.00	\$208,000.00	\$38,000.00	\$246,000.00	
	328	Sierra Nevada Journeys	Watershed Education Initiative	\$22,542.19	Y	\$18,000.00	\$7,514.06	\$0.00	\$7,514.06	
	329	One Truckee River	Strengthening OTR's Projects and Programs to Protect the Truckee River	\$100,000.00	Y	\$92,000.00	\$63,658.00	\$10,800.00	\$74,458.00	
	330	National Forest Foundation	Forest Ambassador Program on the Carson District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest	\$100,000.00	Y	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	
	331	FARMily	Healthy Watershed for a Healthy Foodshed: A Youth Education and Community Stewardship Project	\$43,770.00	Y	\$31,770.00	\$8,142.50	\$2,800.00	\$10,942.50	
	332	Reno Food Systems	Cultivating Watershed Resilience at the Urban-Agricultural Interface: Advancing Watershed Health, Fire Resilience, Regenerative Urban Agriculture and Community Stewardship, Phase 2	\$75,000.00	Y	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$18,750.00	\$18,750.00	
\$	-			\$517,504.29		\$401,770.00				
Funds Available to Spend: \$419,053										

TRF #326 Peavine Creek Watershed Protection Demonstration Project

Truckee River Fund- Fall 2026

May Arboretum Society

Frances Munoz
PO Box 6225
Reno, NV 89513

O: 775-234-8040

Brooke O'Byrne

550 W Plumb Ln
Ste B #141
Reno, NV 89509

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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.

I. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS): Projects/Programs that support the prevention or control of aquatic invasive species in the mainstem Truckee River, and other tributaries and water bodies in the Truckee River system.

II. 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/>.

III. 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.

IV. 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 wildfires.

V. Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses: Projects to support water quality improvement in creeks and tributaries to the Truckee River.

VI. 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.

Grant Requirements and Guidelines

GRANT REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

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

- TRF funds are to be used and/or disbursed exclusively for the charitable uses and purposes.
- TRF funds 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%** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding from the applicant and/or in-kind services.
 - For projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25% match requirement must be met with cash funds from the applicant.

OTHER GUIDELINES

The following guidelines shall also be applied to applications to the Fund:

- TRF will not fund the acquisition of any titled property (e.g., land, buildings, vehicles).
- TRF will not fund travel to or attendance at conferences, including but not limited to conference fees, lodging, transportation, or per diem.
- For government entities, TRF will support labor costs associated with projects proposed by government entities, but will not fund entirely new government positions or 100% of labor costs for a government position associated with the proposed project.
- Indirect/overhead expenses shall not exceed 25% of the total project cost as reflected in the proposed budget that accompanies the application.
- TRF will not fund projects within the Lake Tahoe Basin, except along the mainstem of the Truckee River below Lake Tahoe Dam. However, the Committee reserves the right to evaluate proposals related to emerging threats within the Lake Tahoe Basin at its sole discretion.

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.

TMWA Board of Director's Discretion

TMWA 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.

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 #326 Peavine Creek Watershed Protection Demonstration Project

Amount Requested*

\$79,000.00

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

Yes

If you received a reduced award amount, please describe how your proposed project would be impacted.*

The May Arboretum Society would work with the Truckee River Fund to evaluate options if a reduced award were provided. Depending on the amount of the reduction, the Society would explore whether the project could be modified or implemented in phases while maintaining the integrity of the overall design. At this time, we are not able to determine which components could be deferred without further evaluation because the bridge replacement, grading, Zuni bowl stormwater management features, and site restoration are interconnected.

Minimum Amount Required to Complete the Project**If partial funding is available.*

\$75,000.00

Project Start Date*

10/01/2026

Project End Date*

09/30/2027

This funding will be used to:*

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

This funding will be used to replace a failing culvert and pedestrian bridge, install Zuni bowl stormwater management features, and stabilize the surrounding hillside with trees and vegetation to reduce erosion and improve stormwater infiltration. The project will also develop interpretive signage that educates visitors about drought-tolerant landscaping, stormwater management, and watershed stewardship.

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*

May Arboretum Society

Organization Type*

501(c)(3) Nonprofit

Brooke O'Byrne

May Arboretum Society

EIN

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

88-0205838

Director of Organization*

Frances Munoz

Project Contact Name*

Luke Sorenson

Project Contact Position/Title*

Horticulturist

Project Contact Email*

lsorenson@washoecounty.gov

Project Contact Phone Number*

775-785-4153

Organization Mission*

To advocate for and invest in the advancement of the Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden. Our vision is to Ensure the Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden has the resources to become a world-class destination for future generations. We value stewardship, education, and preservation.

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.

For nearly 40 years, the May Arboretum Society has inspired northern Nevadans through horticulture, environmental education, and stewardship of one of the region's most diverse public gardens. The Peavine Creek Watershed Protection Demonstration Project extends that mission by restoring an eroding drainage crossing within the Wilbur D. May Arboretum while creating a permanent demonstration of watershed stewardship. Funding will support replacement of an undersized culvert and pedestrian bridge, installation of a series of Zuni bowls to slow and infiltrate stormwater, stabilization of approximately 0.7 acres of hillside with vegetation, and an interpretive exhibit that help visitors understand how thoughtful landscape design protects local water resources.

The project's overall goal is to protect water quality within the Peavine Creek watershed by reducing erosion, slowing and infiltrating stormwater runoff, and demonstrating practical watershed management techniques that reduce sediment transport to the Truckee River.

The project will be evaluated through the following measurable objectives and outcomes.

Objective 1: Improve Stormwater Management

By September 2027, replace the existing drainage crossing with green infrastructure that slows, disperses, and infiltrates stormwater through installation of a new pedestrian bridge and a series of Zuni bowls.

Measures

- One pedestrian bridge replaced
- Zuni bowl system installed and functioning as designed
- Estimated annual stormwater management capacity of approximately 977,554 gallons

Expected Outcome

Stormwater runoff will be dispersed and infiltrated rather than concentrated, reducing runoff velocity and improving infiltration throughout the project area.

Objective 2: Reduce Erosion and Sediment Transport

By September 2027, stabilize approximately 0.7 acres of eroding hillside through grading, erosion-control practices, and restoration with native, drought-tolerant vegetation.

Measures

- Approximately 0.7 acres stabilized
- Vegetation established
- Before-and-after photo documentation of site conditions
- Post-construction inspections following significant storm events

Expected Outcome

Reduced soil erosion and sediment transport from the project site into downstream drainageways within the Peavine Creek watershed, helping protect water quality before runoff reaches the Truckee River.

Objective 3: Expand Public Understanding of Watershed Stewardship

By September 2027, create a permanent watershed demonstration area by installing one interpretive exhibit explaining Zuni bowls, stormwater management, watershed protection, and drought-tolerant landscaping.

Measures

- One interpretive exhibit installed
- Educational content developed and maintained
- Approximately 85,000 annual visitors provided access to watershed education through the demonstration site

Expected Outcome

Visitors will better understand how stormwater management and water-wise landscaping can be incorporated into homes, neighborhoods, and public spaces throughout the Truckee River watershed.

Project performance will be documented through construction records, photo documentation, annual visitation data, maintenance logs, and post-construction inspections. The May Arboretum Society will report progress toward each objective, including completion of project infrastructure, educational installations, and long-term site performance. These measures will demonstrate

2.) Describe the project location.*

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

The Peavine Creek Watershed Protection Demonstration Project is located within the Wilbur D. May Arboretum at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park in Washoe County, Nevada. The approximately 0.7-acre project area is situated on the Arboretum's north slope along the upper pedestrian trail leading to the Lear Garden, where the trail crosses an existing drainage culvert.

The project is located within the Peavine Creek-Truckee River Watershed, as identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Stormwater from the upstream drainage area is conveyed through the existing culvert, where concentrated flows have resulted in recurring erosion, sediment movement, and localized flooding before continuing downstream toward the Truckee River.

The location occupies an important position within the watershed. It lies immediately downstream of the Peavine Creek Source Water Protection Area identified by the Washoe County Clean Water Program and east of the Highland Ditch within the broader Rancho San Rafael landscape. It drains into the Herman's Pond and the Evans Creek Wetland Area. Steep slopes descending from Peavine Mountain and the McCarran/Virginia intersection concentrate stormwater at the drainage crossing, making the site particularly vulnerable to erosion during significant storm events.

A site location map, watershed map, and photographs are included as attachments to illustrate the project location, the upstream drainage area, and the downstream connection to the Truckee River.

Map/Photo attachments

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

MAS- Site Map and Location.pdf

3.) Project Description*

The Peavine Creek Watershed Protection Demonstration Project will restore an eroding drainage crossing within the Wilbur D. May Arboretum using green infrastructure that slows and infiltrates stormwater, stabilizes native vegetation, and creates a permanent demonstration landscape where visitors can see watershed stewardship in action. The project improves an existing drainage system while helping visitors understand how thoughtful landscape design protects local water resources.

The project addresses a documented erosion problem within the Peavine Creek-Truckee River watershed. On the Arboretum's north slope, an existing pedestrian trail crosses a drainage culvert immediately downstream of the Peavine Creek Source Water Protection Area. During significant storm events, runoff becomes concentrated at the crossing, overtops the trail, and erodes the surrounding hillside. The resulting flooding, exposed soils, sediment transport, debris accumulation, and invasive vegetation continue to degrade the site and reduce its ability to absorb and slow stormwater.

The need for this project is supported by adopted regional planning documents. The 2020 Integrated Source Water and 319(h) Watershed Protection Plan and the Watershed Management and Protection Plan for Tributaries to the Truckee River identify erosion reduction, stormwater infiltration, low-impact development, and watershed restoration as priorities for protecting water quality. Likewise, the Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Master Plan identifies hillside restoration, sustainable drainage, native revegetation, and environmental education as long-term priorities for the park. This project implements those recommendations at a documented erosion site within the Peavine Creek watershed.

The proposed improvements restore watershed function by slowing, spreading, and infiltrating stormwater before it continues downstream toward the Truckee River. By reducing runoff velocity and increasing infiltration, the project will stabilize disturbed soils, reduce sediment transport, improve vegetation establishment, and manage an estimated 977,554 gallons of annual stormwater runoff.

The project includes four integrated components:

Stormwater Management and Infrastructure

The existing railroad-tie pedestrian bridge and undersized drainage crossing will be replaced with a wider, elevated bridge designed to safely accommodate stormwater flows while improving pedestrian access through the Arboretum.

Above the crossing, a series of Zuni bowls will intercept concentrated runoff. These rock-lined basins slow water by directing it through a sequence of shallow pools, allowing sediment to settle while dispersing and infiltrating runoff into surrounding soils. The system reduces erosion, naturally irrigates adjacent vegetation, and restores more natural stormwater movement through the site.

Hillside Restoration

Approximately 0.7 acres of disturbed hillside will be stabilized through grading, erosion-control measures, and restoration with deep-rooted, drought-tolerant native vegetation. These improvements will strengthen soil stability, improve infiltration, suppress invasive species, and reduce sediment transported during storm events.

Visitor Access

Replacing the deteriorated bridge will improve pedestrian safety while ensuring visitors can continue to access the Arboretum's trail system and demonstration gardens throughout the year.

Education and Demonstration

For nearly 40 years, the May Arboretum Society has helped northern Nevadans discover plants and gardening practices that thrive in our region. This project expands that mission by creating a permanent watershed

demonstration landscape where visitors can see practical stormwater management techniques integrated into a beautiful public garden.

An interpretive exhibit will explain Zuni bowls, stormwater harvesting, watershed protection, drought-tolerant landscaping, and the connection between upland landscapes and the health of the Truckee River watershed. Visitors will leave with practical ideas they can apply in their own landscapes, extending the project's benefits well beyond the Arboretum.

4.) Grant priorities*

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

The Peavine Creek Watershed Protection Demonstration Project directly advances the Truckee River Fund's mission to protect and enhance the water quality and water resources of the Truckee River and its watershed. The project implements recommendations from the Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Master Plan, the 2020 Integrated Source Water and 319(h) Watershed Protection Plan, and the Watershed Management and Protection Plan for Tributaries to the Truckee River while advancing four Truckee River Fund funding priorities.

1. Watershed Improvements

The project addresses a documented erosion site within the Peavine Creek watershed where concentrated stormwater has degraded the hillside and transports sediment downstream during storm events. Restoration activities include grading, erosion-control measures, revegetation, and installation of Zuni bowls to stabilize approximately 0.7 acres of disturbed landscape, reduce runoff velocity, increase infiltration, and decrease sediment transport before runoff continues toward the Truckee River.

2. Local Stormwater Improvements

The project replaces an undersized drainage crossing with green infrastructure designed to safely convey and manage stormwater. A series of Zuni bowls will slow, spread, and infiltrate runoff while reducing localized flooding and erosion. Together, these improvements are expected to manage approximately 977,554 gallons of annual stormwater runoff, improving stormwater performance through natural, low-impact design.

3. Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses

The project restores watershed function at an eroding drainage crossing immediately downstream of the Peavine Creek Source Water Protection Area. By reducing sediment movement, restoring native vegetation, and increasing infiltration, the project improves the condition of a tributary drainage corridor before runoff continues downstream toward the Truckee River. The project demonstrates how targeted restoration at a small but strategic location can improve watershed health.

4. Stewardship and Environmental Awareness

Stewardship and education are central to the May Arboretum Society's mission. The project creates a permanent watershed demonstration landscape where visitors can experience green infrastructure integrated into a public garden. An interpretive exhibit will explain stormwater harvesting, Zuni bowls, watershed protection, and drought-tolerant landscaping, while the Society's Education Coordinators incorporate the project into existing education programs and engage visitors throughout the year.

With approximately 85,000 annual visitors and more than 125 educational programs and events each year, the May Arboretum Society is uniquely positioned to extend the project's impact beyond the restoration site. Visitors will leave with practical ideas they can apply in their own landscapes, multiplying the project's long-term benefits throughout the Truckee River watershed.

Long-Term Stewardship

The May Arboretum Society is committed to maintaining the project as a permanent watershed demonstration landscape. Staff and volunteers will conduct routine inspections, remove debris following storm events, maintain the bridge and Zuni bowls, monitor erosion and vegetation establishment, maintain interpretive exhibits, and incorporate the site into ongoing educational programming. These activities will ensure the project continues to provide watershed protection and public education for years to come.

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 project will require permits from Washoe County for the proposed grading and culvert construction activities. The May Arboretum Society will require the selected construction contractor to obtain all required permits, prepare and submit permit applications, coordinate required inspections, respond to County review comments, and secure final approval prior to project completion. This approach is consistent with the Society's standard practice for contracted construction projects and will be incorporated into the contractor's scope of work. Successful completion of all required inspections and permit closeout will be a condition of final payment.

Prior to construction, the May Arboretum Society will execute a Third-Party Agreement with Washoe County Parks outlining the project scope, construction activities, maintenance responsibilities, and project coordination requirements. Following contractor selection, the Society and contractor will coordinate with Washoe County to confirm permit requirements, preconstruction submittals, and inspection schedules associated with the final construction plans. Nevada 811 will be contacted before any ground-disturbing activities begin to identify and protect existing underground utilities.

Permitting activities will begin immediately following contractor selection and contract execution. The contractor will obtain the required permits before construction begins, and the project schedule includes sufficient time to accommodate County review, permit issuance, and required inspections prior to the start of earthwork. Because permitting is included within the construction contract, permit application fees and associated administrative costs are incorporated into the construction contract budget rather than identified as a separate line item.

6.) Future Land Use*

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

The Peavine Creek Watershed Protection Demonstration Project is located within the Wilbur D. May Arboretum at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, a permanent regional park within the Washoe County Parks system. The May Arboretum Society operates and maintains the Arboretum in partnership with Washoe County, providing long-term stewardship of this public landscape.

The proposed project is consistent with the adopted Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Master Plan (2024), which identifies the Arboretum as a distinct destination within the park and supports continued investment in botanical collections, demonstration gardens, environmental education, sustainable landscape practices, and visitor improvements. The Master Plan also identifies hillside restoration, sustainable drainage, and ecological enhancement as long-term priorities that align directly with the proposed project.

The May Arboretum Society is not aware of any current or foreseeable zoning changes, land use modifications, or development plans that would conflict with the proposed improvements. Because the

project is located within an established regional park dedicated to public recreation, conservation, and education, the watershed demonstration landscape is intended to remain a permanent feature of the Arboretum.

Following construction, the May Arboretum Society will maintain the bridge, Zuni bowls, native vegetation, and an interpretive exhibit in coordination with Washoe County. Routine stewardship will include storm damage inspections, debris removal, erosion monitoring, vegetation management, and incorporation of the watershed demonstration landscape into the Arboretum's ongoing educational programming.

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

There are no planned future phases of this project.

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

The May Arboretum Society will serve as the lead organization for the Peavine Creek Watershed Protection Demonstration Project. Since 1984, the Society has partnered with Washoe County to operate and maintain the Wilbur D. May Arboretum within Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. As northern Nevada's premier public arboretum, the Society welcomes approximately 88,258 visitors annually (2025) and delivers 125 educational programs and events each year through eight educational initiatives focused on horticulture, conservation, and environmental stewardship.

Project oversight will be provided by the Grounds and Capital Improvement Committee, a standing committee of the May Arboretum Society Board of Directors. The committee is chaired by Lianne Eberle (Board Member) and includes Rod Dimmitt (Board Member), Frances Munoz (Ex Officio), and Luke Sorenson (Ex Officio). The committee will oversee project planning, budget management, contractor procurement, coordination with Washoe County, and overall implementation.

Day-to-day project management will be led by Luke Sorenson. Mr. Sorenson is employed by Washoe County as the May Arboretum's Horticulturalist. Mr. Sorenson will coordinate construction, landscape restoration, volunteer activities, and long-term stewardship of the completed improvements. He has more than 16 years of professional landscaping and horticultural experience, has been a Certified Arborist since 2016, earned a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture, Cum Laude, and has taught arboriculture, drought-tolerant landscaping, tree care and maintenance, and greenhouse production.

The May Arboretum Society has successfully completed numerous landscape restoration and capital improvement projects within the Arboretum, including:

- Songbird Garden Restoration: Converted irrigated turf into a drought-tolerant demonstration garden featuring permeable pathways, upgraded irrigation, and interpretive exhibits.
- Erosion Control and Hillside Restoration Project (2021): Planned and constructed approximately 100 yards of retaining wall to stabilize an eroding hillside and protect the surrounding landscape.
- Arboretum Interpretive Sign Initiative (2023): Designed and installed 23 interpretive exhibits that expanded educational opportunities throughout the Arboretum, including child-friendly learning features.

The project will also be supported by the May Arboretum Society's active volunteer program, which contributes approximately 1,803 volunteer hours annually and is valued at more than \$62,700, maintaining the Arboretum and enhancing the visitor experience. Volunteers will assist with native planting, site restoration, and ongoing stewardship of the watershed demonstration landscape following construction.

The Society's experienced leadership, active Board oversight, professional horticultural expertise, and dedicated volunteer program provide the organizational capacity to successfully implement and sustain the project.

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.

1 full-time and 2 part-time staff members. Luke Sorenson, Horticulturist, will lead project management and implementation. Two part-time landscapers will support project implementation.

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

Approximately 20 volunteers will contribute an estimated 250 hours through project planning, native planting, site restoration, and ongoing stewardship of the watershed demonstration landscape.

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 period is anticipated to run from October 2026 through September 2027. The project is shovel ready and can begin immediately upon grant award. The primary scheduling constraint is seasonal weather, as it is expected that earthwork cannot begin until April 1 due to winter conditions.

Timeframe & Milestone

October 2026 Finalize project design, including the number and placement of Zuni bowls and final bridge dimensions.

November 2026 Prepare and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for construction services and obtain contractor bids.

November–December 2026 Execute the Third-Party Agreement with Washoe County and complete project coordination.

January 2027 Select contractor, procure materials, and complete pre-construction planning. No earthwork will occur during winter conditions.

February 2027 Submit all permit applications to Washoe County for grading and construction

April 2027 Begin construction by removing deteriorated infrastructure, including the existing railroad-tie bridge.

April–July 2027 Complete grading, drainage improvements, installation of the replacement bridge, construction of the Zuni bowl system, and installation of interpretive exhibits.

August–September 2027 Complete native planting and site restoration, conduct final inspections, and transition the watershed demonstration landscape to ongoing stewardship and educational programming.

September 2027 Complete final project acceptance and submit the final grant report.

Potential Delays- The project is not anticipated to encounter permitting delays. The primary factor that could affect the schedule is weather. Earthwork, grading, and erosion-control activities will be completed outside the winter season, while native planting is scheduled for late summer and early fall to maximize establishment under northern Nevada growing conditions. Contractor availability or material procurement

could also affect construction timing; however, the schedule includes sufficient flexibility to accommodate these contingencies while completing the project within the grant period.

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

We will consider the Peavine Creek Watershed Protection Demonstration Project successful when it demonstrates measurable improvements in stormwater management, erosion control, watershed protection, and public education. The Society will evaluate success through completion of the planned improvements and verification that they perform as intended.

Stormwater Management

Success will be demonstrated by:

- Replacement of the existing pedestrian bridge and drainage crossing
- Installation of a fully functioning Zuni bowl system designed to manage an estimated 977,554 gallons of annual stormwater runoff
- Annual inspections confirming the stormwater management features remain stable, functional, and free of debris

Erosion Control

Success will be demonstrated by:

- Stabilization of approximately 0.7 acres of disturbed hillside
- Successful establishment of native, drought-tolerant vegetation
- Before-and-after photo documentation showing improved site conditions
- Post-storm inspections documenting reduced erosion, sediment movement, and channelization

Watershed Protection

Success will be demonstrated by:

- Reduced concentrated runoff and sediment transport from the project area
- Improved stormwater infiltration through functioning green infrastructure and restored vegetation
- Long-term stability of the drainage crossing documented through routine inspections and maintenance records

Public Education

Success will be demonstrated by:

- Installation of one permanent interpretive exhibit
- Integration of the watershed demonstration landscape into the Arboretum's educational programming
- Approximately 85,000 annual visitors having the opportunity to observe practical watershed stewardship and water-wise landscaping in a public garden setting

During the first year following construction, the May Arboretum Society will inspect the project after major storm events to verify that the stormwater management features are functioning as designed, identify any maintenance needs, and document project performance. Findings will be incorporated into the Society's ongoing stewardship of the watershed demonstration landscape.

Together, these measures will demonstrate that the project is reducing erosion, improving stormwater infiltration, stabilizing the landscape, and providing lasting educational value within the Peavine Creek watershed. While the project is not intended to directly measure changes in Truckee River water quality, it will document implementation of recognized best management practices that protect downstream water resources and advance the Truckee River Fund's mission.

13.) Collaboration*

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

The Peavine Creek Watershed Protection Demonstration Project brings together public, nonprofit, and private partners to restore a documented erosion site while creating a lasting watershed demonstration landscape within Rancho San Rafael Regional Park.

Washoe County owns and manages Rancho San Rafael Regional Park and has partnered with the May Arboretum Society since 1984 to operate and maintain the Wilbur D. May Arboretum. The proposed project implements priorities identified in the Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Master Plan (2024), including hillside restoration, sustainable drainage, environmental education, and continued investment in the Arboretum. Washoe County will provide project oversight through the required Third-Party Agreement and coordinate with the Society throughout implementation.

The May Arboretum Society will serve as project manager, providing horticultural expertise, construction oversight, volunteer coordination, educational programming, and long-term stewardship of the completed improvements. Following construction, Society staff and volunteers will maintain the bridge, Zuni bowls, native vegetation, and interpretive exhibit to ensure the watershed demonstration landscape continues to provide lasting environmental and educational benefits.

A qualified construction contractor, selected through a competitive procurement process, will obtain all required permits, complete the drainage improvements, bridge/culvert replacement, Zuni bowl system, grading, erosion control measures, associated site restoration, and coordinate required inspections through project completion.

The Society is contributing significant matching resources to the project, including staff time, volunteer labor, donated trees, irrigation materials, and long-term operation and maintenance of the completed improvements.

At this time, the May Arboretum Society has not sought or secured additional grant funding for this project. Because the proposed improvements directly advance the Truckee River Fund's mission to protect and enhance water quality within the Truckee River watershed, the Society is requesting support from the Truckee River Fund as the primary funding source for implementation.

Grant Match

All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25%** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding from the applicant and/or through in-kind services. If Volunteer Labor is used, it must be documented and valued at a maximum of \$35.00 per hour.

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% match requirement must be met with cash from the applicant.

Total grant match to be provided.*

Total Match = Cash + In-Kind

\$20,997.50

Cash

\$20,997.50

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

Yes

In-Kind

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

\$0.00

Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.*

The May Arboretum Society is requesting \$79,000 from the Truckee River Fund and will provide \$20,997.50 in matching cash and in-kind contributions, exceeding the Fund's required 25% match. These matching contributions demonstrate the Society's commitment to the successful implementation and long-term stewardship of the project and include staff labor, irrigation supplies, trees, and plant materials essential to project completion.

The Society will contribute 500 hours of staff labor for project installation, including irrigation installation, planting of trees and vegetation, support with construction of the Zuni bowl erosion control features, and overall site restoration.

The Society will also provide irrigation supplies necessary to establish newly planted vegetation during the initial growing period. In addition, the Society will contribute all trees and plants used in the restoration. These plantings are a critical component of the project, providing long-term soil stabilization, reducing erosion, increasing stormwater infiltration, and improving the resilience of the landscape while creating a living demonstration of drought-tolerant landscaping and watershed stewardship.

These matching contributions represent the May Arboretum Society's commitment to protecting water quality within the Truckee River watershed while leveraging Truckee River Fund resources to maximize environmental and public education benefits.

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.*

MAS- Budget.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

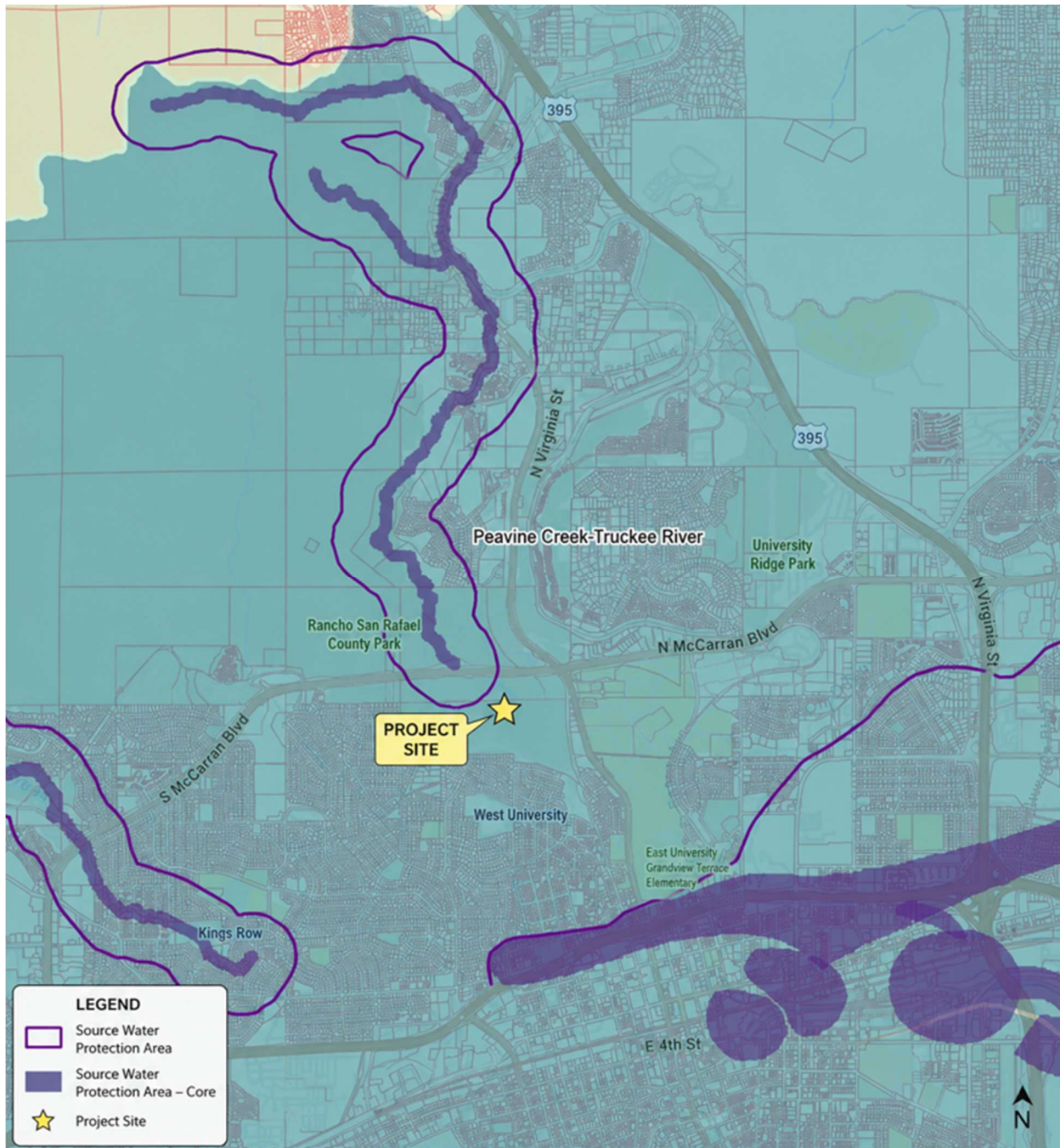
Please attach any additional attachments here.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- MAS- Site Map and Location.pdf
- MAS- Budget.pdf

Site Map & Location







View from Pedestrian Bridge

Looking up toward the proposed Zuni Bowl site.



View from McCarran/Virginia Intersection

Looking down toward the existing culvert and proposed Zuni Bowl site.

Budget

Budget Item Description	\$/unit	Quantity	Quantity Type	TRF Funding	Other Funders	Match	Total Cost
Salaries and Wages							
Landscape, Brian Guerra	\$28.92	250	Hourly			\$7,230.00	\$7,230.00
Landscape, Eddie Garcia	\$28.39	250	Hourly			\$7,097.50	\$7,097.50
Contractual Construction							
Installation Contract (inclusive of permits)	\$79,000	1	Contract	\$79,000			\$79,000.00
Engineering Services during Design							
Environmental/Permitting							
Project/Program Management							
Irrigation Supplies	\$5	134	Unit			\$670.00	\$670.00
Trees	\$500	10	Unit			\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Plants	\$25	40	Unit			\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Total Direct Costs							\$99,997.50
Indirect Costs/Overhead							\$0.00
Total Project Costs							\$99,997.50

Budget Narrative

Brian Guerrero, Landscaper- Brian Guerrero will commit 250 hours to project implementation at an hourly rate of \$28.92, totaling \$7,230, which the May Arboretum Society will provide as matching funds. Mr. Guerrero will participate in installation of irrigation infrastructure, planting of native vegetation and trees, and construction of the Zuni bowl erosion control features. His work will ensure proper installation of project elements designed to reduce erosion, improve stormwater infiltration, and enhance the long-term health of the watershed.

Eddie Garcia, Landscaper- Eddie Garcia will commit 250 hours to project implementation at an hourly rate of \$28.39, totaling \$7,097.50, which the May Arboretum Society will provide as matching funds. Mr. Garcia will assist with irrigation installation, tree and native plant installation, and construction of the Zuni bowl erosion control features. His labor supports successful project implementation and long-term stabilization of the project area.

Construction Contract- The May Arboretum Society will procure one qualified contractor through a competitive bidding process to complete site preparation, earthwork, removal of failing infrastructure, installation of the new culvert and pedestrian bridge, and associated site restoration. The contractor's scope of work will include obtaining all required permits, coordinating inspections, and completing all work necessary to achieve project closeout. The

total construction contract is estimated at \$79,000, inclusive of labor, materials, supplies, permitting, and associated construction costs, which is requested from the Truckee River Fund.

Irrigation Supplies- The May Arboretum Society will install irrigation to establish newly planted trees and native vegetation surrounding the Zuni bowl stormwater features. Irrigation supplies are estimated at \$670 and will be provided as matching funds. We anticipate 134 linear feet at an estimated rate of \$5 per foot. Irrigation is essential to ensure successful establishment of drought-tolerant plantings that will stabilize soils, increase infiltration, and reduce long-term erosion.

Trees- The project includes the purchase and installation of 10 trees at an average cost of \$500 per tree, totaling \$5,000, which is provided as match. Trees will be strategically planted throughout the project area to stabilize soils, intercept rainfall, increase stormwater infiltration, and provide long-term erosion control. As the trees mature, their root systems will strengthen the hillside while enhancing habitat and demonstrating climate-resilient landscaping practices for the public.

Plants- The project includes the purchase of 40 native plants at an average cost of \$25 each, totaling \$1,000, which is provided as match. Native plants will be installed throughout the restoration area to stabilize disturbed soils, reduce erosion, slow stormwater runoff, and improve infiltration. These species are adapted to northern Nevada's climate and will require minimal long-term irrigation while serving as demonstration plantings that support public education about water-wise landscaping and watershed stewardship.

Match- The project budget totals \$99,997.50 and requests \$79,000 from the Truckee River Fund. The May Arboretum Society will contribute \$20,997.50 in matching funds (26.5% of the grant request), exceeding the required 25% match. Matching contributions include staff time, and donated materials that directly support project implementation and long-term stewardship.

TRF #327 KTMB 2027

Truckee River Fund- Fall 2026

Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful

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O: 775-851-5185

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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.

I. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS): Projects/Programs that support the prevention or control of aquatic invasive species in the mainstem Truckee River, and other tributaries and water bodies in the Truckee River system.

II. 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/>.

III. 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.

IV. 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 wildfires.

V. Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses: Projects to support water quality improvement in creeks and tributaries to the Truckee River.

VI. 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.

Grant Requirements and Guidelines

GRANT REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

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

- TRF funds are to be used and/or disbursed exclusively for the charitable uses and purposes.
- TRF funds 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%** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding from the applicant and/or in-kind services.
 - For projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25% match requirement must be met with cash funds from the applicant.

OTHER GUIDELINES

The following guidelines shall also be applied to applications to the Fund:

- TRF will not fund the acquisition of any titled property (e.g., land, buildings, vehicles).
- TRF will not fund travel to or attendance at conferences, including but not limited to conference fees, lodging, transportation, or per diem.
- For government entities, TRF will support labor costs associated with projects proposed by government entities, but will not fund entirely new government positions or 100% of labor costs for a government position associated with the proposed project.
- Indirect/overhead expenses shall not exceed 25% of the total project cost as reflected in the proposed budget that accompanies the application.
- TRF will not fund projects within the Lake Tahoe Basin, except along the mainstem of the Truckee River below Lake Tahoe Dam. However, the Committee reserves the right to evaluate proposals related to emerging threats within the Lake Tahoe Basin at its sole discretion.

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.

TMWA Board of Director's Discretion

TMWA 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.

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 #327 KTMB 2027

Amount Requested*

\$97,192.10

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

Yes

If you received a reduced award amount, please describe how your proposed project would be impacted.*

We would have to scale back our work capacity, specifically in terms of volunteers, amount of work done, and deliverables.

Minimum Amount Required to Complete the Project*

If partial funding is available.

\$85,000.00

Project Start Date*

01/01/2027

Project End Date*

12/31/2027

This funding will be used to:*

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

On public lands under the direction of Washoe County, City of Reno, City of Sparks, Sun Valley General Improvement District (SVGID), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM), KTMB will enhance the health of our watershed through active community involvement in removing litter, tackling invasive weeds through hands-on methods, wrapping trees, and planting native plants/trees along our Truckee River corridor. Additionally, KTMB will educate participants about the health of our 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

Darcy Phillips

Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful

Director of Organization*

Darcy Phillips

Project Contact Name*

Darcy Phillips

Project Contact Position/Title*

Executive Director

Project Contact Email*

darcy@ktmb.org

Project Contact Phone Number*

7758515185

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.

Please find attached.

Previous Funding continued

Funding received from the Truckee River Fund_7.24.26.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.

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

- 1.) Expand work in removing invasive weeds for river health and fire mitigation, planting native flora and trees, and wrapping native trees along the Truckee River to lessen beaver damage through 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 Truckee Meadows. The measurable outcomes of this project are detailed below.

Goals 1, 2, and 3:

Adopt-A-River 2027 - With our current 30+ active AAR adopter partners along the Truckee River corridor, participate in at least 2-3 watershed projects per year/group (litter and green waste cleanup, planting projects, weed removal, tree wrapping/painting, etc.), for a minimum of 60 watershed projects; engage 300 volunteers in watershed projects 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 2027 - 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 50 tons (110, 231 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 2027 - 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 2027 - 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 2027 - 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 5-7 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, Truckee River Clean-Up, and Adopt-A-River are conducted throughout the Truckee River watershed at locations along the river corridor and tributaries in our Truckee Meadows. Educational presentations, workshops, and service-learning events 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 2027 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 Adopt-A-River program will:

- 1.) Recruit new volunteers and manage existing volunteers to conduct watershed cleanup projects along our Truckee River corridor;
- 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 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 through a hands-on approach, 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 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 2025, we removed 84,715 pounds of weeds, planted 2,780 plants, and planted 30 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 2025, KTMB volunteers and staff stenciled 300 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. KTMB does not use pesticides/herbicides in removing invasive weeds. Instead, our volunteers utilize hand tools to physically remove invasives along our Truckee River corridor under the direction of our municipal partners. Project locations 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.

We work under the direction of County, City, USFS, and BLM partners on public lands. Our work does not require permitting.

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. Our Illegal Dumping Task Force will continue to work on issues around illegal dumping in our region with municipal leaders and community partners. 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 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 recreation 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, Wildwood Open Land Foundation, Sierra Club - Humboldt Toiyobi, Northern Nevada Bird Alliance, Bee Friendly Nevada, 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.

7 part-time staff

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.*

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.

GCC 2027 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 2027 Timeline: Spring/Summer: Compile survey data from the spring GCC waste removal and weed pull projects and resurvey sites for cleanliness. Plan TRC event. Fall/Winter: Hold Fall TRC and re-survey the length of the river for cleanliness.

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: Conduct 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 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 60 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. All invasive weed removal will be done by hand; no pesticides are used.

The success of KTMB's 2027 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 50 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 2027 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 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: 7 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; Truckee Meadows Community College; 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%** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding from the applicant and/or through in-kind services. If Volunteer Labor is used, it must be documented and valued at a maximum of \$35.00 per hour.

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% match requirement must be met with cash from the applicant.

Total grant match to be provided.*

Total Match = Cash + In-Kind

\$246,000.00

Cash

\$38,000.00

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.

\$208,000.00

Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.*

Matching funds include SVGID (\$5,000), City of Reno (\$5,000), NNPH (\$10,000), City of Sparks (\$5,000). In-Kind donations include support from municipal partners (time). In-kind donation support in terms of services include: HERO Environmental, Milne Towing, Lakin Tire, and ACE Hardware. Volunteer match is for the approximately 2,000 volunteers, 5,000 hours multiplied by \$35/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.*

TRF KTMB Budget 2027.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

Please attach any additional attachments here.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Funding received from the Truckee River Fund_7.24.26.pdf
- TRF KTMB Budget 2027.pdf

Date Awarded

Date Awarded	September 2025
Project title:	TRF #311 Keeping Truckee Meadows Beautiful
Amount of Award:	\$74,635.32
Date Awarded	September, 2024
Project title:	Keeping Truckee Meadows Beautiful
Amount of Award:	\$97,410.32
Date Awarded	September 2023
Project title:	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
	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
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	1600.00	Hours	\$ 39,360.00	\$ 25,000.00		\$ 64,360.00
Program Managers	\$ 33.47	500.00	Hours	\$ 16,735.00	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 26,832.10
Fringe Benefits	X	18.00	Percent	\$ 10,097.10			\$ 10,097.10
Project Partner Match (Partner time, donated supplies)						\$ 31,000.00	\$ 31,000.00
Volunteers	\$ 35.00	5000.00	Hours			\$ 175,000.00	\$ 175,000.00
Project / Program Management							
Materials: Dumpsters, Port-o-Potties, plants, tools, tree wrap, gloves, etc.			Contract	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 15,000.00
Volunteer support, picnic/thank you			Contract	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
Marketing and educational materials			Contract	\$ 9,000.00			\$ 9,000.00
Total Direct Costs				\$ 97,192.10			
Indirect Costs/Overhead (≤25% of budget)	X						
Total Project Costs				\$ 97,192.10	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 208,000.00	\$ 343,289.20
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 Wilderness, 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 \$35 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 #328 Watershed Education Initiative

Truckee River Fund- Fall 2026

Sierra Nevada Journeys

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

O: 775-355-1688

Audrey Bergmann

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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.

I. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS): Projects/Programs that support the prevention or control of aquatic invasive species in the mainstem Truckee River, and other tributaries and water bodies in the Truckee River system.

II. 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/>.

III. 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.

IV. 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 wildfires.

V. Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses: Projects to support water quality improvement in creeks and tributaries to the Truckee River.

VI. 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.

Grant Requirements and Guidelines

GRANT REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

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

- TRF funds are to be used and/or disbursed exclusively for the charitable uses and purposes.
- TRF funds 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%** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding from the applicant and/or in-kind services.
 - For projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25% match requirement must be met with cash funds from the applicant.

OTHER GUIDELINES

The following guidelines shall also be applied to applications to the Fund:

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- TRF will not fund travel to or attendance at conferences, including but not limited to conference fees, lodging, transportation, or per diem.
- For government entities, TRF will support labor costs associated with projects proposed by government entities, but will not fund entirely new government positions or 100% of labor costs for a government position associated with the proposed project.
- Indirect/overhead expenses shall not exceed 25% of the total project cost as reflected in the proposed budget that accompanies the application.
- TRF will not fund projects within the Lake Tahoe Basin, except along the mainstem of the Truckee River below Lake Tahoe Dam. However, the Committee reserves the right to evaluate proposals related to emerging threats within the Lake Tahoe Basin at its sole discretion.

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.

TMWA Board of Director's Discretion

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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.

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.

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- 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 #328 Watershed Education Initiative

Amount Requested*

\$22,542.19

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

Yes

If you received a reduced award amount, please describe how your proposed project would be impacted.*

Our program is designed to be scalable and is structured around per-student costs. In the event of a reduced award amount, we would proportionally reduce the number of scholarships offered to schools experiencing financial barriers.

Minimum Amount Required to Complete the Project*

If partial funding is available.

\$18,000.00

Project Start Date*

09/01/2026

Project End Date*

12/15/2026

This funding will be used to:*

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

With our Classrooms Unleashed program, we will provide 500 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 Position/Title*

Advancement Manager

Project Contact Email*

audreyb@sierranevadajourneys.org

Project Contact Phone Number*

7753551688

Organization Mission*

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

Previous Funding from Truckee River Fund

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.

03/18/2026, TRF#317 Watershed Education Initiative, \$31,543.13
 09/22/2025, TRF#308 Watershed Education Initiative, \$31,543.13
 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 500 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 20 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.
- 65% of students will demonstrate improvement from pre- to post-assessment
- 30% 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 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 500 students in approximately 20 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, Senior 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 35 volunteers (including parent volunteers) and an estimated 180 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 500 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 2027 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 500 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 20 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%** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding from the applicant and/or through in-kind services. If Volunteer Labor is used, it must be documented and valued at a maximum of \$35.00 per hour.

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% match requirement must be met with cash from the applicant.

Total grant match to be provided.*

Total Match = Cash + In-Kind

\$7,514.06

Cash

\$7,514.06

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

Yes

In-Kind

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

\$0.00

Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.*

7514.06 from the Redfield Foundation.

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 2026 Budget Excel.xlsx

Supplemental Attachments

Please attach any additional attachments here.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Watershed Education Initiative Photos.pdf
- TRF Fall 2026 Budget Excel.xlsx

Watershed Education Initiative Photos





Budget Item Description	\$/unit	Quantity	Quantity Type
Salaries and Wages			
Project Manager	X	X	Hours
Program Manager	\$ 36.00	179	Hours
Engineer 2	X	X	Hours
Fringe Benefits		25%	percentage of personnel costs
Full-Time Employees	\$ 20.00	514	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 bussing stipends for teachers, 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
			\$ -
\$ 4,833.00		\$ 1,611.00	\$ 6,444.00
			\$ -
\$ 3,135.75		\$ 1,045.25	\$ 4,181.00
\$ 7,710.00		\$ 2,570.00	\$ 10,280.00
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
\$ 2,355.00		\$ 785.00	\$ 3,140.00
			\$ -
\$ 4,508.44		\$ 1,502.81	\$ 6,011.25
\$ 22,542.19		\$ 7,514.06	\$ 30,056.25

TRF #329 Strengthening OTR's Projects and Programs to Protect the Truckee River

Truckee River Fund- Fall 2026

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.

I. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS): Projects/Programs that support the prevention or control of aquatic invasive species in the mainstem Truckee River, and other tributaries and water bodies in the Truckee River system.

II. 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/>.

III. 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.

IV. 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 wildfires.

V. Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses: Projects to support water quality improvement in creeks and tributaries to the Truckee River.

VI. 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.

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- 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 #329 Strengthening OTR's Projects and Programs to Protect the Truckee River

Amount Requested*

\$100,000.00

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

Yes

If you received a reduced award amount, please describe how your proposed project would be impacted.*

OTR's public strategy messaging will be postponed until future funding is secured estimated in 27/28.

Minimum Amount Required to Complete the Project*

If partial funding is available.

\$92,000.00

Project Start Date*

10/01/2026

Project End Date*

09/30/2027

This funding will be used to:*

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

This funding will be used for wages, contract services, printing/postage, and outreach/promotion to continue and expand OTR's work, led by its Executive Director with partner and consultant support, to lead OTR's coalition building, urban restoration, River-Friendly Living program, and fund development efforts focused on the protection and improvement of the Truckee River in Nevada, upstream of the Vista USGS gauge.

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*

One Truckee River

Organization Type*

501(c)(3) Nonprofit

EIN

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

20-3378838

Iris Jehle-Peppard

One Truckee River

Director of Organization*

Iris Jehle-Peppard

Project Contact Name*

Iris Jehle-Peppard

Project Contact Position/Title*

Executive Director

Project Contact Email*

iris@onetruckeeriver.org

Project Contact Phone Number*

7750450-5489

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.

Strengthening OTR's Projects and Programs to Protect the Truckee River 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 and program goals OTR will implement are:

Coalition Building: continuing to lead regional coalition building focused on the protection and improvement of the Truckee River.

Urban Restoration: execute on the ground restoration and riverbank repair project to increase water quality protection.

River-Friendly Living continues education and engagement with residents, building awareness and engagement to care for the Truckee River; reviewing OTR's identity and developing a strategic foundation to increase OTR's ability to build awareness of the Truckee River in Nevada as an important community asset worthy of investment and protection; and building a new River-Friendly Demonstration Garden at Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park in Reno.

Fund development to further support OTR and implement the OTR Management Plan.

Measurable outcomes OTR will report on are connected to specific project and program goals that will be measured with analytical data including: # of meetings conducted; # of participants in meetings conducted; # of on-site river talks and walks led; # of river talk and walk participants; total dollar amount submitted and funds received for OTR efforts; # of public engagement event at OTR's RFL Demonstration Gardens; # of social media posts, blogs, and reels 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.

Strengthening OTR's Projects and Programs to Protect the Truckee River locations are:

Coalition Building work location is within the larger Truckee Meadows region, with its efforts defined to support OTR's collaborative efforts, including OTR's coordinated vegetation management efforts focused on the mainstream of the Truckee River from Crystal Peak to Vista Narrows

Urban Restoration: OTR's Truckee River Workforce Program focused on the riverbank and riverside pocket parks from Lake Street to Galletti Way. OTR's Brodhead Riverbank Repair Project is located along the south riverbank within Brodhead Memorial Park in Reno.

OTR's Alum Creek Restoration Project is along the creek within Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park; OTR River-Friendly Living (RFL) efforts focused on Washoe County residents and direct engagement with Reno residents surrounding Lake Park and, starting in 2026, the Caughlin Ranch neighborhood near Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park, where OTR will install its 2nd RFL Demonstration Garden.

Map/Photo attachments

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

2026-OTR-Project-Program-Locations - Google Docs.pdf

3.) Project Description*

OTR proposed Project goals are:

Goal #1: Coalition Building: Lead and coordinate regional coalition building focused on the protection and improvement of the Truckee River in NV through OTR partnership activities supporting and developing projects that reduce erosion and sedimentation into the river. OTR will continue to 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, interests, and project development to move OTR Management Plan priorities forward. Coordinate and lead NV River Talks and State of the Riverbank Walks providing opportunities for partners, technical working group members, elected officials, and the public to observe the river together, network and discuss river related issues. OTR's focus continues to further the awareness of OTR's coordinated vegetation management efforts and develop buy-in for more riverbank repair/restoration projects.

Goal #2: Urban Restoration: Momentum from plans to implementation scheduled for 26/27: Brodhead Riverbank Repair Project awarded funding by TRF, NDOT and a donor is at 100% design. Construction scheduled for spring 2027. OTR, with this proposal, requests funds from TRF to cover the gap in project match required for construction. Lessons learned through this project will have far-reaching implications and benefits for future NV riverbank repair projects. It will improve ecological function and resilience along the river by targeting riverbank erosion. The permitting pathway for future projects is being more clearly defined. The design was developed in coordination with CTWCD to avoid flood conveyance impacts and provide riverbank stabilization. CTWCD confirmed a 408 permit will not be required for the project. Alum Creek Restoration Project was recently awarded NDEP funding to start in 2026. OTR, with this proposal, requests funds from TRF to cover the gap in project match required for Oct 2026 to Sept 2027. The project will increase native riparian vegetation along Alum Creek on Washoe County land, conduct outreach and engagement in the nearby neighborhood working to build relationships with the HOA for a possible phase II restoration project. Willow stakes will be collected and installed by hand in with fiber rolls staked. Native seeds including grasses and forbes will be raked in and lightly mulched in sparsely vegetated areas along drainage pathways to the creek.

Goal #3: River-Friendly Living (RFL) Program: Continue to increase the public's understanding of the Truckee River, RFL practices, and efforts underway to protect the river focused on content to mitigate storm water run-off. OTR's RFL public education and engagement online and through garden talks will continue and expand. Evolve OTR's identity narrative, analyze and improve the nonprofit's positioning and messaging strategy for broader watershed stewardship engagement. OTR will navigate how to take its origin concept of "one river" and evolve OTR to be known as "the source" for the region to work together to protect the river. OTR coordinates work to keep the river healthy. Its next opportunity is to become known as The Source: the first place residents, partners, and volunteers turn for knowledge, connection, and coordinated action on behalf of the river. A public narrative, defined audience profiles, and an OTR messaging framework will be developed, stakeholder input incorporated, and final deliverables completed. Within the Alum Creek Project, OTR will install a RFL demonstration garden on a .5 acre portion of Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park. The garden will be planned, designed, and installed to promote stormwater infiltration and capturing sediment and nutrients that would otherwise go into Alum Creek. Project partners will provide guidance and direction in the garden design and the public will be invited to play a part through volunteering to plant the new garden. Residents will have a new community space where they can learn about methods of protecting the local watershed. The garden design and installation will build on the lessons learned from the RFL Lake Park

demonstration garden completed in 2025. The garden will showcase ways residents can decrease nonpoint pollution with a rain garden, native and pollinator plants, and educational signage.

Goal # 4: Fund Development Work: Lead, coordinate, and submit funding proposals to support OTR and further the implementation of the OTR Management Plan. OTR will continue to develop its grants plan through the project period, adapting to new funding opportunities as they are identified, researched, cultivated, and grant applications submitted. In 26/27, OTR's fund development focus is to increase support for operational expenses to give OTR the ability to manage riverbank repair projects through construction to completion and OTR Workforce conducting ongoing restorative vegetation management work along the river.

4.) Grant priorities*

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

OTR's proposed Strengthening OTR's Projects and Programs to Protect the Truckee River advances Truckee River Fund's grant priorities that include:

Local Stormwater Improvements: OTR's River-Friendly Living (RFL) Program mitigates stormwater runoff 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, administer and coordinate installation projects on public land, such as the RFL Demonstration Garden in Lake Park in Reno. In 2027, OTR will install a new RFL Demonstration Garden at Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park in coordination with WC.

Support the Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses: OTR's Brodhead Riverbank Repair and Alum Creek Restoration Project are in implementation, on the ground, rehabilitation of a local tributary creek and the mainstream of the Truckee River. 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. Consistent public messaging will build awareness and engagement and encourage caring for the Truckee River, which is 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. OTR website received 5.4K visits - a 150% increase over Q1 2025. 1,119 from Nevada. 4,073 from the U.S. 1,246 from unknown US states (per user privacy). 790 visits from social media: Facebook (604), Instagram (184), and LinkedIn (2). The most frequently visited OTR website pages were Home, (983), River-Friendly Yards (411), The Truckee River Water Trail (305), River-Friend Landscaping - Firescaping blog (299), and Things to do on the Truckee River. (267). OTR newsletters in Q1 2026: on January 28, February 26, and March 30 received an average open rate of 43.8% and a click rate of 11.0%. These numbers are considered strong for bulk email sending according to data from Constant Contact.

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.

Required permits and approvals for the Brodhead Riverbank Repair Project are:

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): Because funding for implementation was originally sourced from a federal agency, the Project must comply with the NEPA. The Project falls under a Categorical Exclusion and does not require preparation of Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement. NDOT and the Washoe Regional Transportation Commission are advancing the NEPA process in coordination with OTR.

Flood Conveyance and CTWCD Approval: The Martis Creek Lake Operations and Maintenance Manual (USACE 1973) (known as the “Martis Creek Agreement”) sets forth the specific parameters for Truckee River channel conveyance capacity maintenance from the NV-CA state line downstream to the Glendale Avenue Bridge. Under this agreement, the CTWCD maintains the 14,000-cfs conveyance capacity in the Truckee River based upon assurances from Washoe County and the City of Reno that they would maintain their reaches of the river. Much of the Project area lies within the 14,000-cfs conveyance zone and would therefore be subject to the requirements of the Martis Creek Agreement. OTR coordinated with CTWCD throughout the design process to include only actions to maintain the river bank without impacting flood conveyance capacity. CTWCD confirmed a 408 permit will not be required for the project.

City of Reno Excavation and Encroachment Permit. Due to the slight overlap of the Project Area with the City of Reno right-of-way for Kuenzli Street (see Topographic Survey Section), an Excavation and Encroachment (EAE) Permit will be required. The contractor will be required to be licensed and bonded. Based on email conversations in August 2023, the City of Reno will work with OTR to issue a no-fee EAE permit.

City of Reno Grading and Site Permit. No person shall excavate, fill, or otherwise alter the existing grade of any property without first obtaining a grading permit (18.08.606(b)). The selected contractor will be required to submit a Grading/Site Improvement Permit Application.

Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH) Dust Control Permit. The selected contractor will be required to submit a Dust Control Permit Application including a site map and information regarding the scope of work. As of February 2025, the permit application fee for a 1.3-acre project size is \$503. A daily dust control log and the permit must be kept on site and signage meeting NNPH requirements must be posted.

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Working in Waterway Permit. The Working in Waterways Temporary Permit, administered by NDEP, covers temporary working in surface waters of the State such as channel clearing and minor repairs to intake structures. The permits require the establishment and use of appropriate best management practices to minimize water quality impacts. Although this Project will not require work in the channel, due to the proximity of work near the Truckee River, Wildscape recommends that the selected contractor obtain a Working in Waterways permit to ensure compliance with regulations. As of February 2025, the permit application fee is \$350.

NDEP Construction Stormwater Permit. The selected contractor will be required to obtain a Construction Stormwater Permit because the project would discharge to Waters of the U.S. and will disturb more than one acre (1.3 acres including the staging areas). Wildscape will develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for the contractor’s review and approval prior to permit application. As of February 2025, the permit application fee is \$300.

See attached Brodhead Riverbank Repair Report and Design.

OTR has confirmed from NDEP that a Construction Stormwater Permit is not required for the Alum Creek Restoration Project. Direction and guidance from Washoe County will be followed as OTR plans and implements project work.

6.) Future Land Use*

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

There are not any known or 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.*

Anticipated future source of funding that could be secured is through NV Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), and Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC).

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.

8

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

41

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 2026 - Goal #1: coordinate/lead a winter Partnership Council meeting. Conduct meetings with partners and lead NV River Talks and Walks each quarter through the project period. Goal #2: Brodhead: advertises RSOQ for construction work. Reviews, interviews, and select a construction company. Permit applications submitted. Alum Creek: plant in sparsely vegetated areas, rake in seeds and apply mulch near the creek to continue through the project period. Design, produce and install signage along the creek. Goal #3: coordinate/lead meetings to build relationships with landowners near Donnelly Park and nearby HOA board members/staff to support future creek restoration work. Review OTR's existing material, conduct stakeholder interviews and complete an audit of other nonprofits focused on the river. Complete the design and plant selection for the new RFL garden. Goal #4: research, cultivate, and submit proposals each quarter through the project period.

Q1 2027 - Goal #1: continue with work defined in Q4 2026. Goal #2: Brodhead: construction mobilization with onsite engineer. Alum Creek: continue with work defined in Q1 2026. Goal #3: design/distribute RFL mailer to residents. Create OTR's full story, positioning statement, narrative, and matrix that characterizes OTR's identity. Plan, promote, and lead volunteer events. Remove invasive weeds in the space where the new RFL garden will be installed. Produce and install educational signage in the new garden.

Q2 2027 - Goal #1: coordinate/lead a summer Partnership Council meeting. Continue with work defined in Q4 2026. Goal #2: Brodhead: plant implementation starts and is completed. Alum Creek: continue with work defined in Q4 2026. Goal #3: continue with work defined in Q4 2026. Conduct RFL presentations continue in

Q3 2027. Develop OTR elevator pitches. Define OTR's audiences. Continue with work defined in Q1 2027. Install a rain garden, native/pollinator plants, spread seeds, apply mulch to the garden installed. Lead a garden grand opening.

Q3 2027 - Goal #1: continue with work defined in Q4 2026. Goal #2: Brodhead: engage with residents and river users to care for the restored riverbank, close out permits, collect data and analyze it. Alum Creek: continue with work defined in Q4 2026. Goal #3: continue with work defined in Q4 2026 and Q2 2027. Coordinate/lead garden event. Compile all OTR narrative work, receive input, incorporate input and execute work conducted. Conduct replanting as needed in the garden.

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

A successful Strengthening OTR's Projects and Programs to Protect the Truckee River includes these measurable outcomes achieved for each project goal.

Goal # 1: Coalition Building Efforts: Measured Outcomes Expected: Two OTR Partnership Council meetings conducted with an estimated 17 OTR partner agencies participating; 12 OTR small group meetings with partners, other relevant entities, and the public; and 24 OTR NV River Talks or Walks conducted with at least 120 total participants engaged.

Goal #2 Urban Restoration: Measured Outcome Expected: Brodhead: reduce bare soil cover by at least 25%; achieve establishment of at least 80% of plants installed during implementation; increase species richness by 10 species; and reduce abundance of invasive plants by 50% in plots and across project area. Alum Creek: photo-documentation and maps of areas where invasive species were removed and seeds were places, and mulch spread; list of species removed, seeded, and planted with quantities included; photo-documentation and maps of areas where invasive species were removed and seeds were places, and mulch spread; list of species removed, seeded, and planted with quantities included; .8 acres restored with native vegetation along Alum Creek; and sign in sheets documenting participants engaged with five working/educational volunteer Alum Creek days.

Goal #3: River-Friendly Living: Measured Outcomes Expected: Public Engagement and Education: documentation of OTR RFL website updates, OTR event content and registration management, four blogs, four newsletters, and 50 social media posts published on OTR platforms; design and compete RF mailer with receipt documenting that the mailer was distributed to a total of 9,650 households; list presentations and meetings conducted and # of participants: copy of presentation shared with participants. Sign-in sheets of participants engaged in for four presentations; sign-in sheets of participants for the RFL event conducted at the new RFL Demonstration Garden. Building a Watershed Stewardship Engagement Strategy: Discovery Synthesis Report; Interview Findings Summary; Competitive Snapshot Report; OTR Watershed Stewardship Engagement Strategy Report including a) the expanded, detail-rich OTR story, new content messaging that conveys the importance of the Truckee River to residents, an OTR positioning statement, statements expressing OTR's identity, OTR elevator pitches, specific OTR audiences defined with content on each group's general motivations and barriers to consider, and audience-specific OTR messaging; Feedback received and edits made to the report; and the strategy is executed, OTR materials and communications updated to increase the number of residents that understand the importance and act on their watershed stewardship to protect the Truckee River. A new RFL Demonstration Garden: a completed design and plant list for the new RFL garden; sign in sheets documenting two working and educational volunteer garden days; photo-documentation of the grand opening of the new RFL Garden and link to media, if covered; documentation of the area worked; maps, species list and quantities of vegetation planted; photo-documentation and map of area where invasive species were removed; photo-documentation and map where the rain garden was installed (included linear footage); photo-documentation and map where the rain garden was installed (included linear footage); photo-documentation of the area where native and pollinator plants were seeded and planted including a list of seeds and plants installed with quantities included; copy of RFL signage The anticipated threshold of plant survivorship is 70%.

Goal #4: Fund Development: Measured Outcomes Excepted: 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.

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 33 representatives from 23 local agencies and nonprofits and OTR's coordinated vegetation management Technical Working Group comprised of 30 representatives from 21 local agencies and nonprofits in 2026 sharing resources and expertise related to project goals.

OTR continually seeks other funding sources and recently secured funds through Conserve Nevada for the Idlewild Habitat and Riverbank Stabilization Project, additional funds from River Network and Kromer Investments Inc. for the OTR Workforce. Limited opportunities are available for OTR's watershed coalition building, match available for riverbank and restoration work, River-Friendly Living practices, topics that are traditionally funded at the local level; and fund development to continue to gain and increase support to protect and improve the Truckee River in Nevada.

Grant Match

All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25%** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding from the applicant and/or through in-kind services. If Volunteer Labor is used, it must be documented and valued at a maximum of \$35.00 per hour.

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% match requirement must be met with cash from the applicant.

Total grant match to be provided.*

Total Match = Cash + In-Kind

\$74,458.00

Cash

\$63,658.00

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 (cash and in-kind) of 42% of the Project is secured. Cash match funds are secured through a reimbursable contract from Nevada Division of Environmental Protection to OTR. In-kind match is secured through a pledged support by 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 six hours a month x \$150/hr. rate = \$10,800 in-kind match provided. See attached letter from Ms. Wallace.

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-26-27-Budget-Final.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
- 2026-OTR-Project-Program-Locations - Google Docs.pdf
- OTR-TRF-26-27-Budget-Final.xlsx - Google Sheets.pdf

Funding to One Truckee River through the Truckee River Foundation

Project # and Title: TRF #315 - Watershed Protection Benefit Project

Date awarded: September 18, 2025

Amount: \$75,861

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

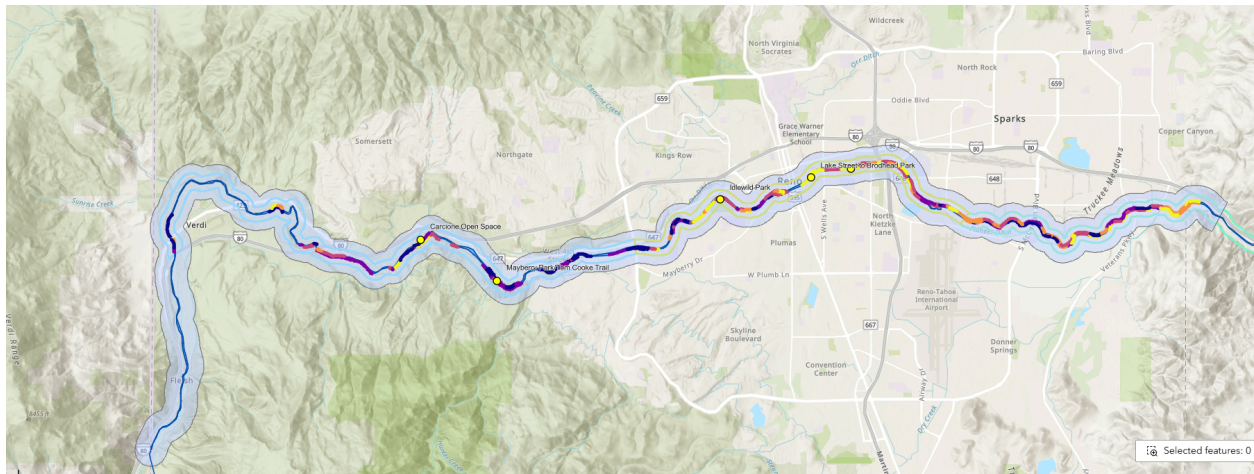


(775) 450-5489 - P.O. Box 18153 Reno, NV 89511 - www.onetruckeeriver.org

One Truckee River Project and Program Locations

#1 Project Location: Coalition Building work including:

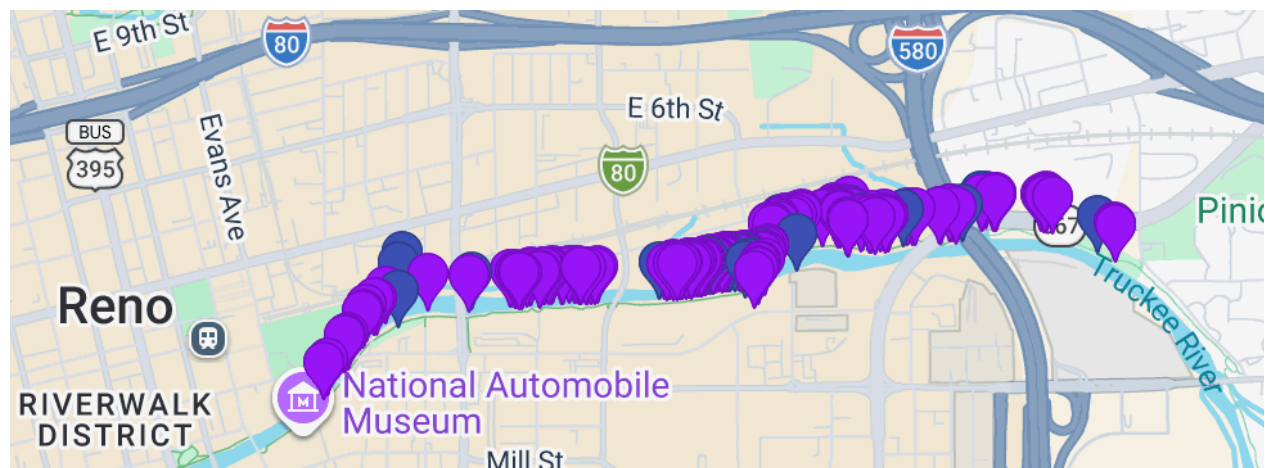
OTR's Coordinated Vegetation Management Efforts: Crystal Peak to VistaNarrows along the Mainstream of the Truckee River.



* 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: Urban Restoration work including:

OTR Workforce: Lake Street to Galletti Way and Gold Ranch Fire Burn Area in Verdi along the Mainstream of the Truckee River.



* Location of Workforce efforts conducted from Sept 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026 from Lake Street to Galletti Way.



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OTR Brodhead Riverbank Repair Project: Brodhead Memorial Park in Reno, NV.



** Location of Project at 100% admin with construction set for spring 2027.*

OTR Alum Creek Restoration Project



** Waiting for NDEP's final contract to start project work along Alum Creek on Washoe*

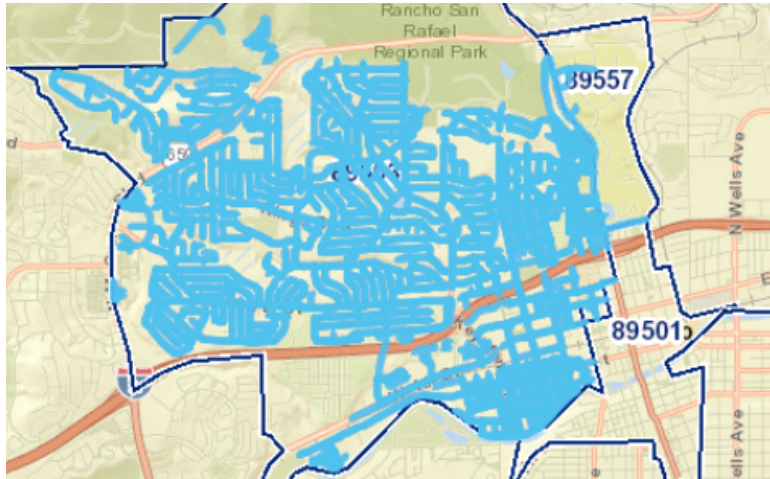


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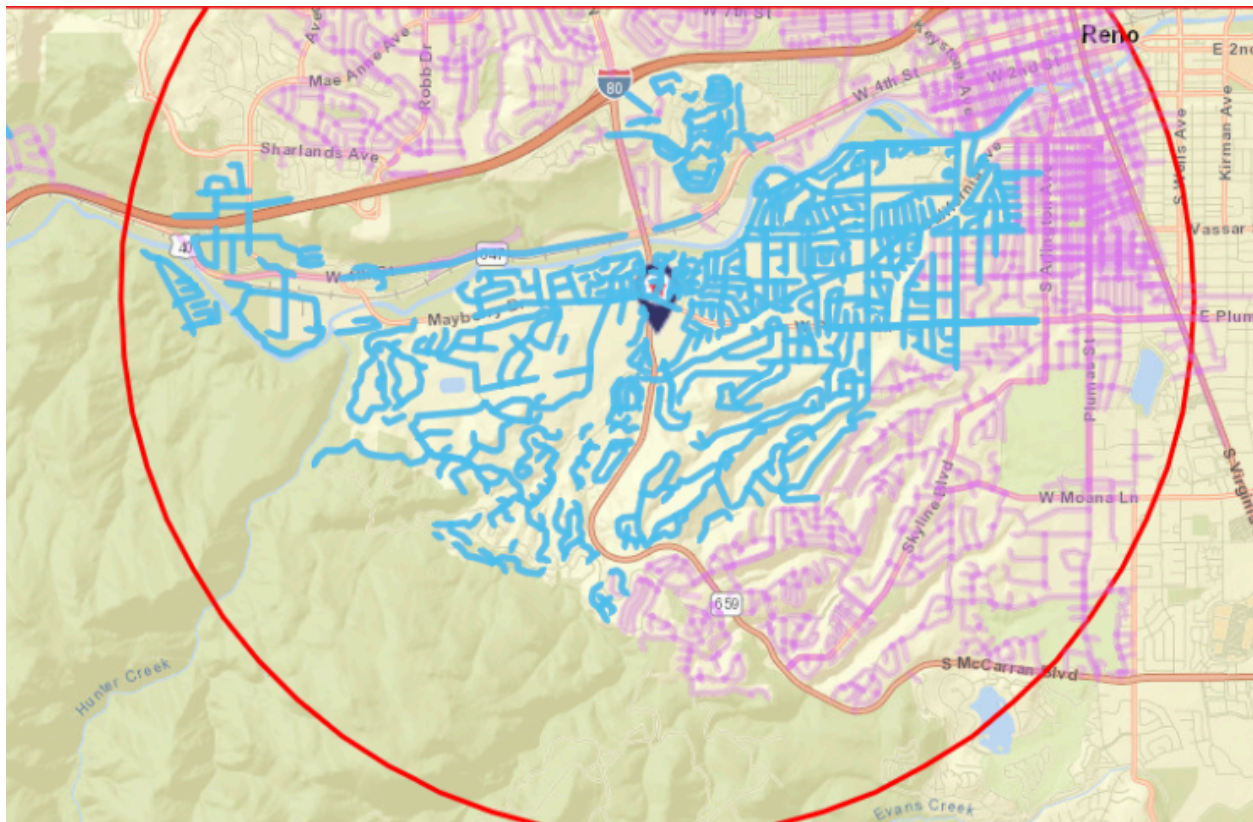
County land off of McCarren and Mayberry Drive.

River-Friendly Living

Efforts are focused in Washoe County with direct engagement within the surrounding neighborhoods around Lake Park in the area below in Reno:



In Caughlin Ranch neighborhood location below near Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park in Reno:





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Location of the new River-Friendly Living Garden in yellow in the map below to be built at Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park in Reno:



One Truckee River

October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027 (12 months)

Strengthening OTR's Projects and Programs to Protect the Truckee River

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

Budget Item Description	\$/unit	Quantity	Quantity Type	TRF Funding Requested	NDEP Cash Match Secured	Lisa Wallace 26-27 Support In-Kind Match Secured	Total Cost
Salaries and Wages							
Project Manager, OTR Executive Director wages	71.52	516	Hours	36,904	14,047		50,951
Payroll taxes at 7.65%	7.65%	Taxes	Hours	2,823	1,075		3,898
Pro-bono consultant support from Lisa Wallace to mentor and advise OTR's Executive Director to build the capacity of OTR						10,800	10,800
Supplies							
Alum Creek restoration work on WC land: Plant stock \$600, seeds \$30, rebar \$50, wood stakes \$225, fiber rolls \$438, hand tools \$260, gloves \$90 and large bags to carry out green material \$150	Details in line item	Details in line item	Per Item	-	1,843		1,843
OTR's RFL garden to be build on WC land: native and pollinator plant stock \$3,600, growing medium/soil amendment \$2,100, and trash bags to remove invasive species and plant debris \$150	Details in line item	Details in line item	Per Item	-	5,850		5,850
Printing and Postage							
Printing of RFL educational brochures to distribute at events	0.60	1,333	Per Brochure	800	-		800
Printing, postage & mailing services for mailers to residents in the nearby neighborhoods including Caughlin Ranch HOA focused on education on how to protect the watershed	2	3,103	Per Bulk Mailing	-	6,206		6,206
Purchase and install educational signage	4	592	Per Sign	-	2,368		2,964
Outreach and Promotion							
Social media boosts	15	61	Boost Order	915	-		915
Contract Services							-
Website, newsletters, social media posts, sign design, story development and publications and event registration management	75	1,067	Hours	25,433	-		25,433
Create a communication foundation for OTR including a public narrative, defined audience profiles and practical messaging framework to create more watershed stewardship engagement	135	75	Hours	10,125	-		10,125
Research, plan, coordinate, draft and submit proposals to support OTR's efforts to implement the OTR Management Plan, work to gain more private funding, and updates to OTR Salesforce database system	80	35	Hours	3,000	-		3,000
Provide supplemental project labor when needed such as planting native grass seed, removing invasives species from project areas, hauling away green materials, and any other work needed to support Alum Creek restoration work	6.5	1,459	Per Day For Work Crew	-	9,484		10,943
Landscape design and plant selection for the RFL demonstration garden	150	113	Hours	-	16,950		17,063
Install the rain garden feature including labor and irrigation parts	4	1,459	Per Day For Work Crew	-	5,836		7,295
Total Direct Costs				80,000	63,658	10,800	158,085
Indirect costs (25% of direct costs)				20,000	-		20,000
Total Project Costs				100,000	63,658	10,800	178,085
				Total Match			74,458
				Percentage of match provided			42

TRF #330 Forest Ambassador Program on the Carson District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Truckee River Fund- Fall 2026

National Forest Foundation

Dieter Fenkart-Froeshl
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Ste 3
Missoula, MT 59804-7212

O: 408-542-2805

Ryan Reger

27 Fort Missoula Rd
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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.

I. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS): Projects/Programs that support the prevention or control of aquatic invasive species in the mainstem Truckee River, and other tributaries and water bodies in the Truckee River system.

II. 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/>.

III. 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.

IV. 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 wildfires.

V. Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses: Projects to support water quality improvement in creeks and tributaries to the Truckee River.

VI. 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.

Grant Requirements and Guidelines

GRANT REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

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

- TRF funds are to be used and/or disbursed exclusively for the charitable uses and purposes.
- TRF funds 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%** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding from the applicant and/or in-kind services.
 - For projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25% match requirement must be met with cash funds from the applicant.

OTHER GUIDELINES

The following guidelines shall also be applied to applications to the Fund:

- TRF will not fund the acquisition of any titled property (e.g., land, buildings, vehicles).
- TRF will not fund travel to or attendance at conferences, including but not limited to conference fees, lodging, transportation, or per diem.
- For government entities, TRF will support labor costs associated with projects proposed by government entities, but will not fund entirely new government positions or 100% of labor costs for a government position associated with the proposed project.
- Indirect/overhead expenses shall not exceed 25% of the total project cost as reflected in the proposed budget that accompanies the application.
- TRF will not fund projects within the Lake Tahoe Basin, except along the mainstem of the Truckee River below Lake Tahoe Dam. However, the Committee reserves the right to evaluate proposals related to emerging threats within the Lake Tahoe Basin at its sole discretion.

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.

TMWA Board of Director's Discretion

TMWA 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.

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 #330 Forest Ambassador Program on the Carson District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Amount Requested*

\$100,000.00

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

Yes

If you received a reduced award amount, please describe how your proposed project would be impacted.*

The Forest Ambassador Program would continue if a reduced award were received, but at a lower capacity. For the past five field seasons, the Forest Ambassador program consisted of a six-month term for one individual. The National Forest Foundation would seek additional funding and leverage partner support to maintain core program functions. However, a reduced award would likely result in a shorter Forest Ambassador term, reduced geographic scope, or fewer stewardship and outreach activities, prioritizing the highest priority needs of the Carson Ranger District recreation department. Full funding is important to maximize on-the-ground visitor education, resource stewardship, and watershed protection efforts in high-use recreation areas.

Minimum Amount Required to Complete the Project**If partial funding is available.*

\$50,000.00

Project Start Date*

01/01/2027

Project End Date*

12/01/2028

This funding will be used to:*

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

The National Forest Foundation (NFF), in partnership with the Carson Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (HTNF), will deploy and administer a Forest Ambassador to support recreation management, visitor education, stewardship, and resource monitoring in priority watershed areas of the Carson Ranger District. The Forest Ambassador will engage visitors at high-use trailheads, trails, recreation sites, and community events in the Reno area to promote responsible recreation and educate visitors on forest health and watershed protection while identifying recreation-related impacts on natural resources.

This project is on:*

Check all that apply

Public land

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

No

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

No

Organization Information

Organization Name*

National Forest Foundation

Organization Type*

501(c)(3) Nonprofit

EIN

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

52-1786332

Director of Organization*

Dieter Fenkart-Froeschl

Project Contact Name*

Ryan Reger

Project Contact Position/Title*

Eastern Sierra & Great Basin Coordinator

Project Contact Email*

rregger@nationalforests.org

Project Contact Phone Number*

(530) 416-5049

Organization Mission*

NFF partners with communities to protect and restore forests through wildfire resilience, watershed restoration, and recreation improvements. By bringing together local partners, volunteers, and supporters, the NFF turns people's love of nature into lasting, on-the-ground conservation that benefits forests, wildlife, water, and communities.

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.

NFF was funded by the Truckee River Fund for the Perazzo Meadows Watershed Restoration & Erosion Control Project (grant #201). This was awarded in March of 2018 for \$148,000. The project improved water quality and watershed function in the Little Truckee River watershed by reducing erosion, sediment loading, and other pollutants through road improvements and restoration activities along Henness Pass Road. The project also restored meadow and floodplain hydrology to increase water storage and enhance stream and riparian habitat. This project was implemented successfully and met its objectives of delivering long-term watershed, water quality, and habitat benefits.

A primary focus of the project was addressing drainage issues along Henness Pass Road within Perazzo Meadows that were contributing significant sediment loads to both the meadow and the Truckee River. Through a subaward to Sierra County, this funding supported implementation at 10 of the 15 originally proposed project sites. While higher-than-anticipated costs and schedule constraints required adjustments to the original scope, the project successfully corrected key drainage deficiencies and significantly reduced sediment delivery to the restored meadow system and river. Overall, the project achieved its core objectives of improving watershed function, protecting water quality, and supporting ongoing meadow restoration efforts.

- Date awarded: April 6, 2018
- Project # and Title: TRF #201 Perazzo Meadows Watershed Restoration & Erosion Control Project
- Amount of award: \$148,00

Previous Funding continued

Narrative Requirements

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

All projects are required to have measurable outcomes.

The Forest Ambassador Program will protect and enhance watershed resources and promote recreation stewardship on the Carson Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (HTNF) through visitor education, on-the-ground stewardship, and resource monitoring. Key outcomes include maintaining a visible Forest Service presence in high-use recreation areas and providing public outreach on responsible recreation as well as Leave No Trace principles, wildfire prevention, and watershed protection. The Forest Ambassador will complete trail and site stewardship projects and improve the Forest Service's ability to identify and address resource concerns in priority areas.

Measurable outcomes will include:

Number of patrol days completed.

Number of visitor contacts and educational interactions conducted.

Number of outreach events, trailhead information stations, and community events staffed.

Quantity and type of stewardship activities completed, including trash removal, trail maintenance, vegetation restoration, and infrastructure improvements.

Number of recreation-related resource concerns documented, including social trails, dispersed campsites, erosion issues, and maintenance needs.

Completion of a geospatial inventory and end-of-season summary report documenting accomplishments, recreation impacts, and management recommendations.

Progress will be tracked through daily activity logs, visitor contact records, event attendance data, stewardship project records, and GIS-based field data collection. Results will be summarized and reported to project partners through seasonal accomplishment reports and a final project report.

2.) Describe the project location.*

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

The HTNF Carson Ranger District encompasses 406,292 acres of public land, much of which overlaps the Truckee River and Steamboat Creek watersheds. The project will focus on high-use recreation areas within these watersheds where increasing visitation is creating impacts on natural resources, watershed health, and recreation infrastructure. The Forest Ambassador will provide Forest Service uniformed presence at trailheads, trails, visitor centers, interpretive sites, and OHV staging areas throughout the project area. Focus areas will include:

- a) Upstream of Mt. Rose Water Treatment Plant: This is a high-use recreation area, where stewardship activities will focus on trail maintenance and restoration, social trail rehabilitation, dispersed campsite monitoring, litter removal, visitor education, and reducing recreation-related impacts that could affect watershed health and water quality.
- b) Mt. Rose Wilderness: This wilderness area has heavily visited trails and camping areas that require trail maintenance and restoration, inventory and monitoring of developed and dispersed campsites, litter removal, and visitor outreach promoting responsible recreation and wildfire prevention.
- c) Tahoe Meadows: This multi-use recreation area receives high visitation in both winter and summer seasons and requires ongoing maintenance, restoration, OHV and OSV encroachment mitigation, litter removal, restoration, and visitor education focused on sustainable recreation and resource protection.
- d) Additional Areas: Approximately 20% of Forest Ambassador time may be utilized in additional areas. Work in additional areas will focus on professional development opportunities and other impacted recreation sites in the Carson District of the HTNF and is to be determined based on HTNF needs.

Map/Photo attachments

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

3.) Project Description*

The Carson Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest is experiencing significant and increasing visitation from Reno, Carson City, the Tahoe region, and other cities throughout California and Nevada. Heavy recreation use in sensitive watershed areas has resulted in trail proliferation, dispersed campsite expansion, litter accumulation, erosion, vegetation damage, and other impacts that threaten watershed health and water quality, particularly in areas upstream of the Mt. Rose Water Treatment Plant.

To address these challenges, the National Forest Foundation (NFF) has partnered with the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (HTNF) and local partners to deploy a full-time Forest Ambassador for a six-month field season over the past 5 field seasons. The Forest Ambassador Program started in 2022 with a \$100,000 investment from the Truckee Meadows Water Authority. This initial investment was originally intended to support two seasons of the Program. The National Forest Foundation leveraged this initial investment to

double the funds and support the Program for an additional two years. With recent USFS staffing cuts, it is increasingly necessary to provide on-the-ground presence at high-use sites on the District.

Since its establishment in 2022, the Forest Ambassador Program has evolved from a trail-based education effort into a comprehensive stewardship and outreach program. As recreation use has increased, the program has expanded its impact through community events, guided hikes, volunteer engagement, resource monitoring, and direct visitor education, while trail visitation within the program area has more than doubled since the program's first season.

Working independently or in small teams of volunteers and partner staff, the Ambassador will provide on-the-ground stewardship, visitor education, resource monitoring, and restoration support in priority watershed areas including Whites, Galena, Thomas, Jones, and Dry Creeks, the Mt. Rose Wilderness, and Tahoe Meadows. Approximately 80% of program time will be dedicated to these priority areas, with the remaining time available for additional stewardship and professional development opportunities.

The Forest Ambassador will reduce recreation-related threats to watershed resources by educating visitors on responsible recreation, Leave No Trace principles, wildfire prevention, and the importance of protecting local water resources. The Ambassador will also conduct guided hikes, litter removal, trail maintenance, restoration activities, and geospatial inventories of recreation impacts such as unauthorized trails, dispersed campsites, erosion concerns, and other conditions that may contribute to water quality degradation. By increasing stewardship capacity and promoting public awareness, the project will support long-term watershed resilience and protect drinking water sources that serve Reno and the Truckee Meadows community.

4.) Grant priorities*

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

The Forest Ambassador Program most strongly aligns with Stewardship and Environmental Awareness (Priority VI), Watershed Improvements (Priority II), and Tributary Rehabilitation (Priority V) by reducing recreation-related threats to watershed health, improving stewardship of tributaries upstream of drinking water infrastructure, and educating the public on practices that protect water quality and watershed resources.

Stewardship and Environmental Awareness:

Public education and stewardship are core components of the Forest Ambassador Program. The Forest Ambassador will educate visitors in high-use areas through conversations about responsible recreation, Leave No Trace practices, wildfire resilience, and watershed health. The Forest Ambassador will also lead by example through stewardship activities including trail maintenance, litter removal, restoration, and volunteer engagement. By helping visitors understand the connection between recreation practices and resource impacts, the program promotes stewardship and encourages behaviors that reduce erosion, litter, habitat disturbance, and other threats to watershed health.

Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses:

A major focus of the program is the stewardship and protection of the Whites, Galena, Thomas, Jones, and Dry Creek watersheds. Through monitoring, restoration and maintenance activities, as well as visitor outreach, the program will reduce recreation-related impacts such as litter and erosion that affect water quality and watershed function within these tributary systems.

Watershed Improvements:

The Forest Ambassador Program directly supports watershed improvement by reducing recreation-related impacts that contribute to erosion, sedimentation, vegetation loss, and pollutant inputs within priority watershed areas. In previous years, the Forest Ambassador assisted in the reconstruction of the Tahoe Meadows Boardwalk, providing protection to adjacent water sources by reducing erosion from foot traffic. The Ambassador will identify and document erosion concerns, social trails, dispersed campsites, unauthorized fire rings, and other resource impacts while assisting with trail maintenance, restoration, litter removal, and visitor education designed to prevent future degradation.

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.*

NFF aims to sustain the Forest Ambassador program beyond the timeframe of this funding. This funding will enable NFF and partners including HTNF and others to develop a diverse funding strategy that leverages support from public agencies and private foundations. Future funding opportunities will be pursued to maintain and expand the program's capacity to protect watershed resources, support stewardship activities, and provide visitor education in high-use areas. Building on a successful track record of leveraging funding from multiple sources, NFF and its partners are committed to sustaining and growing the Forest Ambassador Program beyond the grant period.

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

The project will be led by the National Forest Foundation (NFF) in coordination with the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Carson Ranger District. NFF will be responsible for procuring a local administrative entity through a competitive bid process and support the Forest Ambassador in overall program scope and professional development. The subcontracted organization will hire and manage the Forest Ambassador and provide administrative support. HTNF recreation staff will provide day-to-day operational guidance, project identification, and field supervision. The Forest Ambassador will implement on-the-ground stewardship, monitoring, and outreach activities. Additional coordination and support will be provided by project partners and other local stakeholders, as appropriate.

National Forest Foundation:

Ryan Reger, Eastern Sierra & Great Basin Project Coordinator

Sophie Castleton, Eastern Sierra & Great Basin Program Manager

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest:

Brian Hansen, Recreation Officer

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.

1 full-time Forest Ambassador position (6-month term) will be supported with this funding for two years. NFF and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest staff will contribute part-time support for project administration.

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

The project is expected to engage approximately 40-60 volunteers over the course of the grant period, contributing an estimated 430 volunteer hours total.

11.) Timeline of Project*

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

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

January – March 2027: NFF will solicit bids through a competitive procurement process to select the administrative entity for the Program. This entity will be responsible for hiring and employing the Forest Ambassador.

April–May 2027: Finalize annual work plan, coordinate with partners, hire and onboard Forest Ambassador, and complete required training.

May–October 2027: Conduct visitor outreach and education, patrol high-use recreation areas, complete stewardship and trail maintenance projects, support restoration efforts, and collect recreation-impact monitoring data within priority watershed areas.

November 2027–March 2028: Analyze data, complete reporting, coordinate volunteer stewardship opportunities, and plan priorities for the 2028 field season.

April–October 2028: Continue visitor education, stewardship, monitoring, restoration support, and community outreach activities during peak recreation season.

November–December 2028: Complete final project reporting, summarize accomplishments and watershed benefits, and develop recommendations for future program implementation.

Potential factors that could affect implementation include severe weather, wildfire activity, temporary area closures, staffing delays, or other unforeseen conditions that limit field access. NFF and HTNF have established processes for adapting annual work plans to changing conditions while maintaining project objectives.

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

A successful project will be demonstrated through a consistent Forest Ambassador presence in high-use recreation areas and meaningful engagement with forest visitors on responsible recreation, watershed protection, wildfire prevention, and Leave No Trace principles. Success will be measured by the number of patrol days completed, visitor contacts made, outreach events staffed, volunteer hours leveraged, and stewardship activities completed, including trail maintenance, litter removal, and restoration projects.

The project will also be successful if it improves the Forest Service's understanding of recreation-related impacts in priority watershed areas through the collection and reporting of geospatial data on social trails, dispersed campsites, erosion issues, unauthorized fire rings, and other resource concerns. Completion of

annual reports documenting accomplishments, resource concerns, and management recommendations will provide lasting value beyond the grant period.

Continued growth of the program will also indicate success. Since its establishment in 2022, the Forest Ambassador Program has expanded its reach through increased visitor engagement, community events, partnerships, volunteer involvement, and stewardship activities. Continued investment in the program will help build on this momentum by strengthening community connections, increasing educational opportunities, and expanding the program's ability to address recreation-related impacts affecting watershed health and water quality.

13.) Collaboration*

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

The Forest Ambassador Program is a partnership between the National Forest Foundation (NFF) and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (HTNF), and local partners such as Coffee Bar and Mt. Rose. HTNF recreation staff will provide field direction, training, and daily supervision. NFF will manage Program funds, fundraising, and grant management as well as meet regularly with the Forest Ambassador and Program partners to provide strategic direction and professional development opportunities. The NFF has successfully managed this Program and its continued growth for 5 field seasons. The subcontracted administrative entity will hire and employ the Forest Ambassador and track mileage and hours. In the past, this administrative entity has been local, including Tahoe Meadows Parks Foundation and Friends of Nevada Wilderness. Additional support will be provided by partners such as Coffee Bar and community volunteers through stewardship, outreach, and monitoring activities.

In previous years, NFF funded this effort through foundation funding including \$51,802 from the REI Cooperative Action Fund, \$90,000 from the Truckee Meadows Watershed Authority, and \$18,967.07 from the Ford Bronco Wild Fund. Additionally, the HTNF contributed \$7,977.50 and NFF contributed \$23,000 of appropriated funds. Throughout the life of the program, NFF and its partners have successfully leveraged multiple funding sources to sustain and grow the Forest Ambassador Program, demonstrating strong partner support and long-term commitment to the effort. In addition to this funding request, the project will leverage in-kind contributions from HTNF staff time and volunteer support. NFF will continue pursuing support from private foundations, corporate sponsors, and individual donors to leverage this initial investment and sustain and expand the program in future years.

Grant Match

All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25%** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding from the applicant and/or through in-kind services. If Volunteer Labor is used, it must be documented and valued at a maximum of \$35.00 per hour.

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% match requirement must be met with cash from the applicant.

Total grant match to be provided.*

Total Match = Cash + In-Kind

\$25,000.00

Cash

\$0.00

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.*

\$25,000.00

Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.*

HTNF and NFF partners maintain an extended bank of volunteers who regularly assist with recreation-related activities. The project is expected to engage approximately 40-60 volunteers over the course of the grant period, contributing an estimated 430 volunteer hours total. At the approved valuation of \$35 per hour, these volunteer contributions represent approximately \$15,000 of in-kind match. In addition, the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest will provide approximately \$10,000 of in-kind support through staff time dedicated to project oversight, coordination, training, and field supervision of the Forest Ambassador Program, including support from Recreation Program Manager, Brian Hansen. Combined, these contributions will provide approximately \$25,000 in matching funds for the project.

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 Forest Ambassador Budget.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

Please attach any additional attachments here.

Forest Ambassador Maps 2026.pdf

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

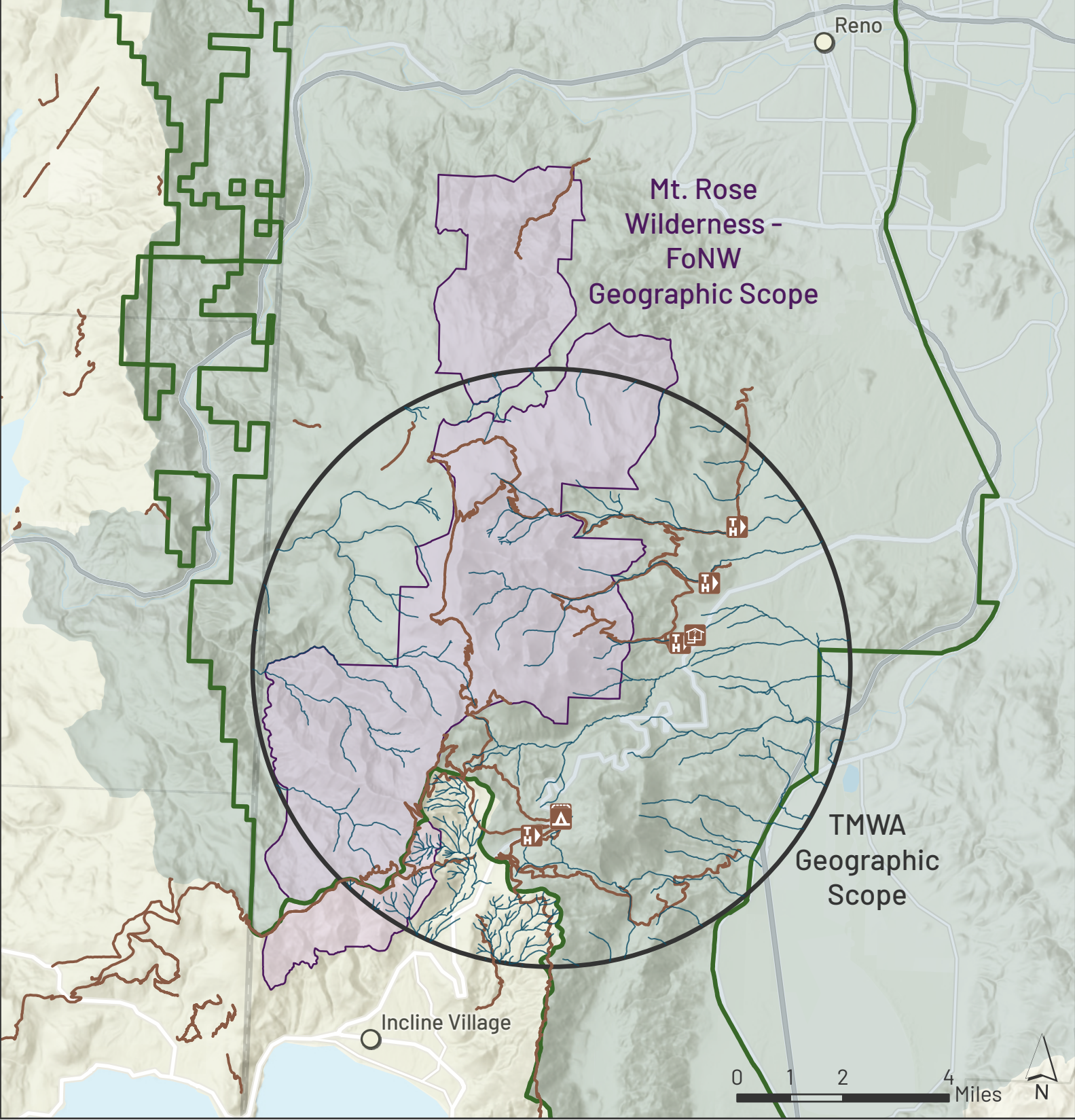
- TRF Forest Ambassador Budget.pdf
- Forest Ambassador Maps 2026.pdf

Budget Item Description	\$/unit	Quantity	Quantity Type	TRF Funding	Other Funders	Match	Total Cost
Salaries and Wages							
Forest Ambassador	\$41,667	2	6-month terms	\$83,333			\$83,333
Full-Time Employees (HTNF Oversight)						\$10,000	\$10,000
Volunteers	\$35	430	Hours			\$15,000	\$15,000
Total Direct Costs				\$82,333		\$25,000	\$108,333
Indirect Costs/Overhead (20% of budget)				\$16,667			\$16,667
Total Project Costs				\$100,000		\$25,000	\$125,000



Appendix C: Project Map

Forest Ambassador Program Geographic Scope



Recreation Sites

- Campground
- Interpretive Site
- Interpretive Visitor Center (Minor)
- Trailhead

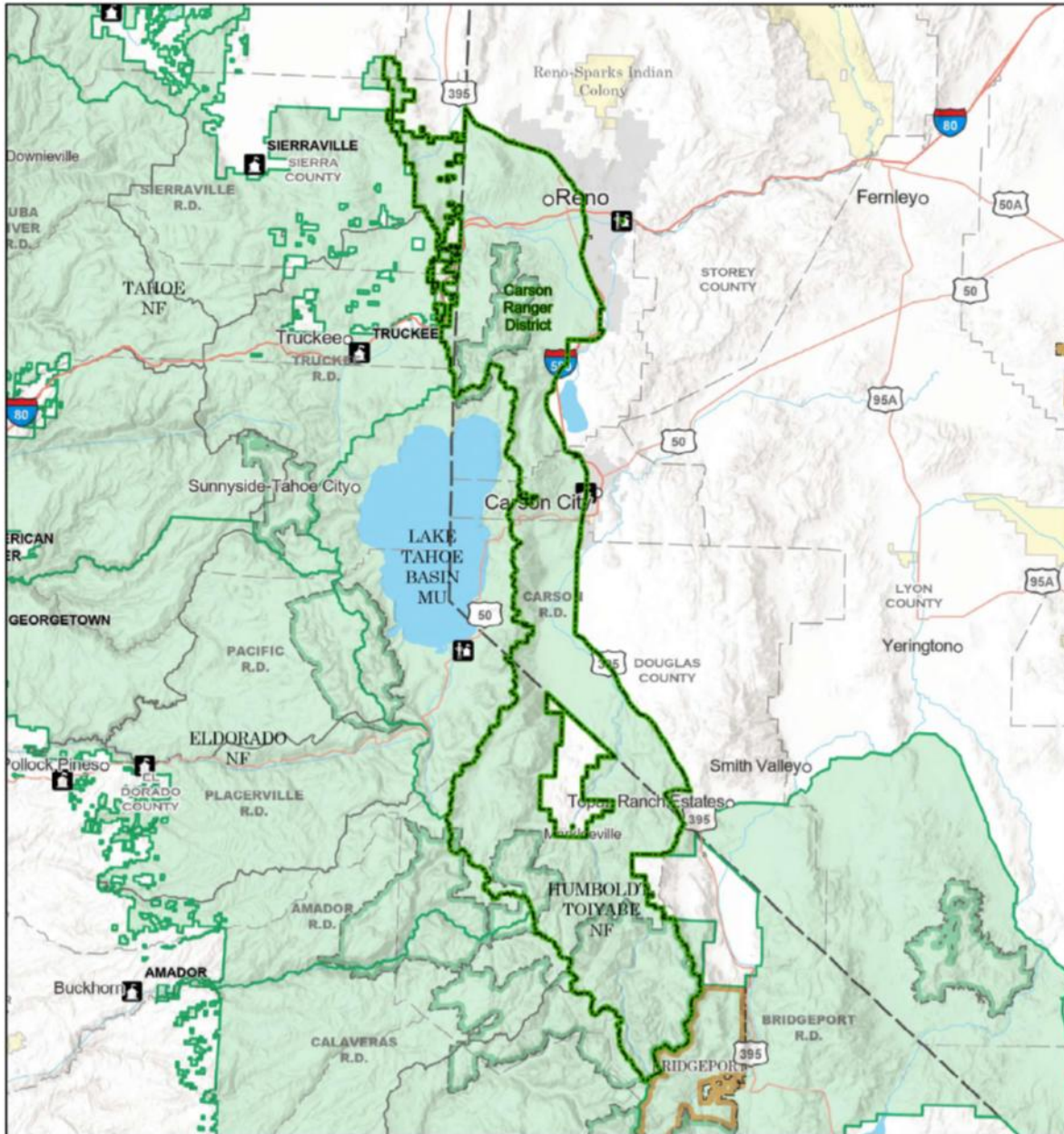
- Cities
- Waterways
- National Forest System Trails
- Truckee Meadows Water Authority Watersheds
- Mount Rose Wilderness
- Carson Ranger District

Cities | ArcGIS World Geocoding Service | National Forest System Trails | U.S. Forest Service Enterprise Map Services Program | Recreation Sites, Mount Rose Wilderness, and Carson Ranger District | USDA Forest Service | Waterways | USGS, Esri | Watersheds | United States Geological Survey (USGS), in partnership with US EPA, USDA NRCS, along with other state, federal, and local partners | Basemap | Airbus DS, CGIAR, Esri, FAO, FEMA, Garmin, Geodatastyrelsen, Geoland, GSA, Intermap, NASA, National Forest Foundation, NCEAS, NGA, NLS, NMA, NOAA, N Robinson, © OpenStreetMap contributors, OS, Rijkswaterstaat, TomTom, USGS, Vantor, and the GIS User Community

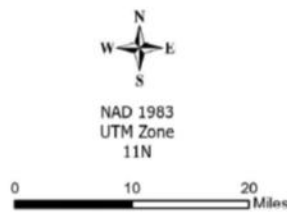


HTNF Sierra Zone - Potential Project Areas

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Carson Ranger District



- Legend**
- Ranger District
 - Wilderness
 - DOD



Map Author: mattdickinson; Map Creation Date: 4/14/2026

TRF #331 Healthy Watershed for a Healthy Foodshed: A Youth Education and Community Stewardship Project

Truckee River Fund- Fall 2026

Farmily

Rebekah Stetson
4044 Kings Row
Reno, NV 89503

O: 775-342-7675

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4044 Kings Row
Reno, NV 89503

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O: 775-342-7675

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.

I. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS): Projects/Programs that support the prevention or control of aquatic invasive species in the mainstem Truckee River, and other tributaries and water bodies in the Truckee River system.

II. 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/>.

III. 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.

IV. 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 wildfires.

V. Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses: Projects to support water quality improvement in creeks and tributaries to the Truckee River.

VI. 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.

Grant Requirements and Guidelines

GRANT REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

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

- TRF funds are to be used and/or disbursed exclusively for the charitable uses and purposes.
- TRF funds 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%** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding from the applicant and/or in-kind services.
 - For projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25% match requirement must be met with cash funds from the applicant.

OTHER GUIDELINES

The following guidelines shall also be applied to applications to the Fund:

- TRF will not fund the acquisition of any titled property (e.g., land, buildings, vehicles).
- TRF will not fund travel to or attendance at conferences, including but not limited to conference fees, lodging, transportation, or per diem.
- For government entities, TRF will support labor costs associated with projects proposed by government entities, but will not fund entirely new government positions or 100% of labor costs for a government position associated with the proposed project.
- Indirect/overhead expenses shall not exceed 25% of the total project cost as reflected in the proposed budget that accompanies the application.
- TRF will not fund projects within the Lake Tahoe Basin, except along the mainstem of the Truckee River below Lake Tahoe Dam. However, the Committee reserves the right to evaluate proposals related to emerging threats within the Lake Tahoe Basin at its sole discretion.

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.

TMWA Board of Director's Discretion

TMWA 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.

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 #331 Healthy Watershed for a Healthy Foodshed: A Youth Education and Community Stewardship Project

Amount Requested*

\$43,770.00

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

Yes

If you received a reduced award amount, please describe how your proposed project would be impacted.*

We are requesting \$43,770 to fully implement all five goals of this project. Should we receive a reduced award of \$31,770, we would scale back the scope and reach of the project rather than its quality, while still ensuring every remaining goal is delivered meaningfully.

With a reduced award, we would proportionally scale back the number of students and families served across our programming from our full target of 400+ students and families in Goal 1, 360+ in Goal 2, and 120+ students in Goal 3, down to a reduced but still substantial reach reflective of the available funding. We would

prioritize maintaining programming at our most established sites and core partnerships to preserve the depth and consistency of instruction, even as total participant numbers are reduced.

The other primary area of impact would be Goal 5, the installation of water-wise demonstration zones. Rather than installing five full demonstration zones, a reduced award would allow us to install three, with lighter-touch improvements at each such as drip irrigation upgrades, mulch and water-conscious plantings, and basic educational signage rather than the more complete builds (including expanded planting areas and additional interpretive features) planned under full funding. We would prioritize these three zones at the sites where they will have the greatest immediate educational impact, and we would still host Family Nights at each completed zone to ensure the community engagement component of Goal 5 remains intact.

Goals 3 and 4 our cooking classes, service-learning projects, and Farmer's Market Day of Learning rely primarily on staff time and existing partnerships rather than capital costs, and we would work to preserve these goals largely as designed, since they represent some of our lowest-cost, highest-impact programming.

Importantly, a reduced award would not affect our measurement and reporting commitments. We would continue to track and report on all completed components using the same attendance logs, surveys, and feedback forms outlined in our narrative, and we would clearly communicate to the Truckee River Fund which goals were delivered at full scope and which were scaled back due to funding level, so our final report accurately reflects what a reduced investment made possible.

Minimum Amount Required to Complete the Project*

If partial funding is available.

\$31,770.00

Project Start Date*

10/01/2026

Project End Date*

09/30/2027

This funding will be used to:*

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

Support the creation and implementation of standardized, developmentally-appropriate, and experiential watershed curriculum for students and families reaching over 1,000 community members in the first year. This curriculum and implementation will connect the health of the watershed to a healthy foodshed, encouraging environmentally aware habits from tap to fork and the curriculum will be able to be shared and utilized year over year throughout the Truckee Meadow.

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*

FARMily

Organization Type*

501(c)(3) Nonprofit

EIN

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

84-1890747

Director of Organization*

Rebekah Stetson

Project Contact Name*

Rebekah Stetson

Project Contact Position/Title*

Executive Director

Project Contact Email*

organicfarmily@gmail.com

Project Contact Phone Number*

7753427675

Organization Mission*

FARMily is guided by the principles of nurturing: Intention, attention, and love are our foundation. We are passionate about teaching children and their families to care for themselves, the people around them, and their planet, through the lens of locally and organically-grown food. Our programming is designed to support

the development of emotionally mature stewards, encouraging a passion to learn about and sustain the Earth's ability to nurture life. Our goal is to empower young people to experience the rewarding tastes that come from not only growing delicious food, but finding purpose and meaning in their relationships, their communities, and the natural systems in their neighborhoods.

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.

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.

Our project is implemented across five main goals, each with specific and measurable outcomes:

Goal 1: Deepen student and family understanding of watershed–food system interdependence through curriculum development and implementation. Outcome 1: 400+ students and families served through monthly classes and family nights that follow the seasons. Measurement 1: Attendance logs and exit surveys to identify the effect of curriculum on watershed/foodshed knowledge.

Goal 2: Expand water stewardship education across K-12 classrooms by working with our network of teachers at Encompass, Mater Academy, Traner and Dilworth. Outcome 2: 12 teachers supported and 12 classrooms and approximately 360 students reached. Measurement 2: lesson-tracking logs and teacher feedback surveys.

Goal 3: Connect daily food choices to water-wise behavior via cooking classes. Outcome 3: Twelve sessions and 120+ students reached. Measurement 3: via session logs and student exit surveys on intended behavior change.

Goal 4: Strengthen community-based service learning and partnerships. Outcome 4: Three service-learning projects, one Farmer's Market Day of Learning reaching 200+ families and students and create and share flyers, social media posts and newsletters educating on "Watershed Wise" activities reaching 1,000+ community members. Measurement 4: via event attendance logs and/or partner feedback forms and social media interactions.

Goal 5: Install lasting water-wise infrastructure for hands-on learning. Outcome 5: Five

demonstration zones installed and Family Nights hosted. Measurement 5: via installation checklists and event attendance.

All outcomes and measurements will be wrapped up and reported back to Truckee River Fund and made available to the public in the form of a wrap - up narrative document with pictures, data and quotes from participants. This info will also be shared in real time via our newsletters and social media posts.

2.) Describe the project location.*

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

The garden-development portion of this project will be implemented across 5 different sites: Three Boys & Girls of Truckee Meadows (BGCTM) clubhouses (Pennington/PENN, Carano/DLC, Reynolds/DWR) and two middle schools (Dilworth and Traner). Of these, the three BGCTM clubhouses have existing, robust teaching gardens that will be further developed to highlight water-wise gardening. The gardens at the two middle schools are currently being developed, and funds from this project will be used to create water-wise demonstration gardens and develop developmentally appropriate curriculum for the middle-school students.

The curriculum implementation portion of this project will reach classrooms at all five of the above garden-demonstration sites, as well as two charter schools (Mater and Encompass Academies) and at least one public park (Idlewild Park) for a hands-on pop-up lesson delivered at the Riverside Farmer's Market during one of the large events (Honey & Lavender Festival or Garlic Fest) that draw thousands of families.

Our project sites are intentionally situated in neighborhoods experiencing increased economic hardship, food insecurity, and health disparities. These neighborhoods are also more likely to be vulnerable to the degradation of environmental systems. All of the schools that we will be working with are Title 1 schools.

The Donald W. Reynolds Clubhouse, co-located with Mater Academy of Northern Nevada, serves more than 2,800 youth annually in Reno's 89512 ZIP code, one of Washoe County's highest-need communities. According to Nevada Tomorrow (2026), 13.6% of families live below the federal poverty level, median household income is \$47,807, which is more than \$40,000 below the county average, and more than one in five adults has not completed high school. Families also face housing instability, transportation barriers, and limited access to healthy food.

The William N. Pennington Clubhouse, co-located with Encompass Academy, serves more than 3,000 youth annually in Reno's 89509 ZIP code. Although the surrounding area is often perceived as affluent, many participating families experience food insecurity and depend on BGCTM programming for nutritious meals and supportive services. In 2025, 51% of members qualified for free or reduced-price school meals. More than 1,400 members are younger than age 10, making early environmentally-aware education especially impactful.

The Donald L. Carano Clubhouse is located in Reno's 89502 ZIP code, serving more than 600 youth annually in a neighborhood experiencing persistent economic hardship. Approximately 80% of members qualify for free or reduced-price school meals, more than 65% come from households earning less than \$50,000 annually, and 75% identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (Nevada Tomorrow, 2026). The Clubhouse also serves many English Learners and youth experiencing housing instability through partnerships with nearby schools.

Expanding the onsite garden programs at these sites, with an emphasis on watershed health education, will help equip the youth in these neighborhoods with practical skills and an increased understanding of sustainable agriculture through hands-on service-learning projects.

Map/Photo attachments

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

FARMily_Maps_compressed.pdf

3.) Project Description*

FARMily will design and implement curriculum to support the development of young stewards of the local watershed, reaching over 1,000 students and their families through our unique and time-tested after school programming and our partnerships with Washoe County schools. Building upon our lessons in stewardship, organic food, social-emotional learning, and urban agriculture, we will expand our horizons beyond the garden and help our students cultivate a deeper understanding and appreciation of the interdependence between a healthy watershed ecosystem and a healthy local food system. Our project is implemented across five main goals:

Goal 1: Deepen student and family understanding of watershed–food system interdependence. Our after-school programming lessons for elementary schoolers, hosted in our five educational gardens, will be provided at no additional cost to existing members of the BGCTM allowing the content of the lessons to reach additional students and families without any social or economic barriers.

Goal 2: Expand water stewardship education across K-12 classrooms. Working with our network of K-12 Garden Teachers at Mater Academy, Encompass Academy, Dilworth Middle School and Traner Middle School, FARMily will help promote water stewardship and education in the classrooms, reaching a diverse array of students across different grades and subject matters.

Goal 3: Connect daily food choices to water-wise behaviors. Our weekly after-school cooking classes will incorporate water-wise behaviors and food choices, connecting the larger watershed ecosystem back to the decisions we make each day.

Goal 4: Strengthen community-based service learning and partnerships. This education will be hands-on, experiential, interdisciplinary, and supported by local community partners, such as BGCTM, Mater Academy, Encompass Academy, Dilworth Middle School, Traner Middle School and Riverside Farmer's Market. Working with these and additional partners, we will collaborate on three service-learning projects across multiple river sites, and a Day of Learning at the Riverside Farmer's Market, to connect our students, families, and teachers with community resources and to further support the group effort to protect our watershed. We will also create and share flyers, social media posts and newsletters educating on "Watershed Wise" activities reaching 1,000 plus community members through FARMily's outlets and possibly thousands more by others within our network via cross posting.

Goal 5: Install lasting water-wise infrastructure for hands-on learning. Funding from this project will help us install five water-wise garden demonstration zones, across five different school gardens or child-care facilities. These demonstration zones within our existing teaching gardens will serve as a perennial resource for students, teachers, and families to see water conservation in action. Once established, FARMily will host open house Family Nights with educational watershed activities, live-cooking demos, and tours, to further propagate the culture of water-stewardship in a way that is fun and accessible.

4.) Grant priorities*

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

This project directly supports Priority VI: Stewardship and Environmental Awareness. FARMily's curriculum is designed specifically to engage students in an increased environmental awareness. Through this project, we will focus specifically on the intersection of foodshed health and water stewardship – reaching students,

families, and teachers. Rather than a one-time event, this project will embed watershed education into existing, trusted programming (after-school clubs, K-12 classrooms, cooking classes), ensuring the awareness-building is sustained and reaches a broad, annual audience of 1,000+ students and their families, many of whom are existing TMWA customers or future customers in the Truckee Meadows area. The creation and sharing of flyers, social media posts and newsletters will further promote Priority VI by getting engaging content that teaches how to be "Watershed Wise" in front of the general public.

The project also modestly advances Priority III: Local Stormwater Improvements. The five water-wise garden demonstration zones will model accessible stormwater mitigation techniques at schools and childcare facilities throughout urban neighborhoods. These techniques include reduced water use through drip irrigation, permeable/absorbent planting design, utilization of mulch, and water-conscious landscaping choices. FARMily is proud to already demonstrate each of these techniques at our existing gardens: funding from this project will help with the further development of garden-wise areas, in addition to educational signage and the hosting of workshops and events, allowing us to establish permanent, visible teaching tools that extend the program's impact well beyond the grant period, reinforcing water-conscious behavior in the community long after installation. FARMily's creation and sharing of flyers, social media posts and newsletters will also promote Priority III by teaching how to be "Watershed Wise".

Together, these components reflect TMWA's goal of programs that produce substantial and lasting benefit to TMWA customers — in this case, by supporting the cultivation of environmentally literate residents who understand, value, and actively protect the 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.

Not required for this project

6.) Future Land Use*

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

Not applicable

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

We do not anticipate that additional phases of the project will be needed. We believe that we can accomplish all the stated goals of the project within the funding period and that we will utilize and share this curriculum year over year once it is created.

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

Rebekah Stetson, Executive Director, FARMily - Responsible for ensuring that the project deliverables are completed on time and within budget;

Sierra Jickling, Director of Programming, FARMily - Responsible for directing the creation of new curriculum and modification of existing curriculum; Training staff on implementation; Coordinating events and outreach with our additional partners

Chanel Wells, Lead Educator, FARMily- Responsible for co-creation of new curriculum and modification of existing curriculum as well as implementing curriculum in the classroom with her staff of educators

Will Sheppard, Garden Assistant, FARMily - Responsible for implementing and maintaining the water-wise developments of our demonstration gardens

Grace Hayes, Contractor - Responsible for creating and implementing outreach and marketing via flyers, social media posts and newsletters

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.

8, all part time - Executive Director, Program Director, Lead Educator, 3 Educators, Garden Assistant, Marketing and Outreach Specialist

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

30-40 volunteers and up to 80 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.*

Development of curriculum will begin in October of 2026 with completion by April 2027.

Implementation of curriculum would start as it is being created with a first lesson being delivered in the Fall of 2026 and all implementation being completed by September of 2027.

Planning of water-wise garden demonstration zones would take place in Fall and Winter of 2026, with completion by February 2026. Water-wise garden improvements would be completed by May 2027, including the installation of interpretive signs, planting water-wise plants

Family Nights, Open Houses, and Hands-On educational events would all take place in the Spring, Summer and Fall of 2027

Creation and sharing of flyers, social media posts and newsletters that teach how to be "Watershed Wise" will begin in October of 2026 and continue through September of 2027.

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

A successful project will be measured through the completion of all five of our stated project goals, but success for FARMily means more than checking boxes, it means seeing measurable, lasting shifts in how students, families, teachers, and the broader community understand and act on the connection between watershed health and food system health. Our core indicators of success:

1. Reach and participation. We will consider the project successful if we serve 400+ students and families through garden-based programming, support 12 teachers reaching approximately 360 students across K-12 classrooms, deliver 12 cooking-class sessions reaching 120+ students, complete three service-learning projects and a Farmer's Market Day of Learning reaching 200+ families, and install five water-wise demonstration zones with accompanying Family Nights. These numeric targets will be tracked through attendance logs, lesson-tracking logs, and event sign-ins at every site.
2. Demonstrated knowledge and behavior change, not just attendance. We will consider the project successful only if exit surveys show a measurable increase in students' and families' ability to articulate the relationship between watershed health and food system health. For example, explaining how water conservation practices connect to the health of the Truckee River and, ultimately, to our local food supply. Pre- and post-program surveys will track this shift, with a meaningful increase in thoughtful responses (rather than 100% mastery) counted as success.
3. Teacher adoption and confidence. Because Goal 2 depends on embedding watershed content into classrooms at Encompass, Mater Academy, Traner, and Dilworth, success means participating teachers feel confident using this curriculum independently, both during and after the grant. Teacher feedback surveys will track intent to continue using the curriculum in future years, evidence the investment outlasts a single funding cycle.
4. Durable infrastructure that keeps teaching after the grant ends. Demonstration zones are only successful if they function as intended well past installation. We will confirm this through installation checklists, site documentation, and Family Night/open house attendance, and longer-term through continued active use in following growing seasons, monitored by our Farms Manager and garden staff already present at each site.
5. Strengthened, sustained partnerships. Building on our nine-year relationship with the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows and multi-year ties to Encompass and Mater Academy, success means these partnerships are measurably deepened, not just maintained. We will track this through partner feedback forms and successful completion of the service-learning projects and Farmer's Market Day, which require active multi-organization coordination.
6. Extended community reach. Because Goal 4 includes "Watershed Wise" flyers, social media, and newsletters reaching 1,000+ community members, we will also measure success through audience reach and engagement metrics, recognizing stewardship education should extend beyond direct program participants.
7. Timely, transparent reporting. We will consider the project successful if we deliver a complete wrap-up narrative to the Truckee River Fund with photos, data, and participant quotes — offering an honest account of what was accomplished and learned, reflecting the same observation and reflection we teach our students.

Together, these factors reflect our belief that success means not only meeting numeric targets, but leaving behind stronger relationships, more confident educators, functioning infrastructure, and a community measurably more engaged in protecting the watershed that sustains it.

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.

Since 2017, the BGCTM and FARMily have partnered to expand experiential education through hands-on garden and culinary learning for youth across Reno. FARMily educators engage participants in topics such as agriculture, nutrition, culinary arts, STEAM, and social-emotional learning. Students find meaning through growing, harvesting, preparing, and marketing the produce in their demonstration gardens. Over the past nine years, this partnership has become an integral part of BGCTM's afterschool and summer programming, strengthening agricultural literacy, healthy eating habits, and environmental stewardship.

Building on this proven model, FARMily has expanded our reach by engaging with teachers in nearby K-12 schools, such as Mater Academy, Encompass Academy, Dilworth Middle School, and Traner Middle School, with a mission to get more students and teachers into the gardens to experience the joy and efficacy of hands-on learning.

FARMily also has a strong relationship with the Riverside Farmers Market where we have a booth throughout the growing season and have coordinated large events like the annual Seed Swap and hosting a student led booth at the market.

In addition to these programmatic partnerships, FARMily has pursued other funding sources to support our broader operations and mission, though we have not previously applied for funding specific to watershed education. In 2026, we have applied for the USDA FASLP grant which we are awaiting a decision on, are working to secure funding from Harley Davidson Financial and the Wavedance Fund, and are looking to be nominated to apply for a Patagonia grant. We have received grants from Truckee Tahoe Lumber and Lion's Club and have been awarded a grant through the Nevada Department of Education to teach teachers which is how we are partnering with Encompass, Mater, Dilworth and Traner. We also maintain ongoing fundraising campaigns which provide unrestricted support that strengthens our overall capacity to deliver high-quality programming across all of our sites. While these efforts are not earmarked specifically for the Healthy Watershed for a Healthy Foodshed project, they reflect FARMily's broader base of community and philanthropic investment and our ongoing commitment to diversifying our funding beyond any single grant source. We view the Truckee River Fund as a critical partner in helping us extend our proven programming model into a new, specialized area, watershed education, that complements and builds on the general operating support these other efforts provide.

Grant Match

All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25%** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding from the applicant and/or through in-kind services. If Volunteer Labor is used, it must be documented and valued at a maximum of \$35.00 per hour.

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% match requirement must be met with cash from the applicant.

Total grant match to be provided.*

Total Match = Cash + In-Kind

\$10,942.50

Cash

\$8,142.50

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.

\$2,800.00

Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.*

The matching cash funds are held by FARMily and the in-kind is 80 hours of volunteer labor at \$35/hr.

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.*

FARMily TRF Budget .xlsx

Supplemental Attachments

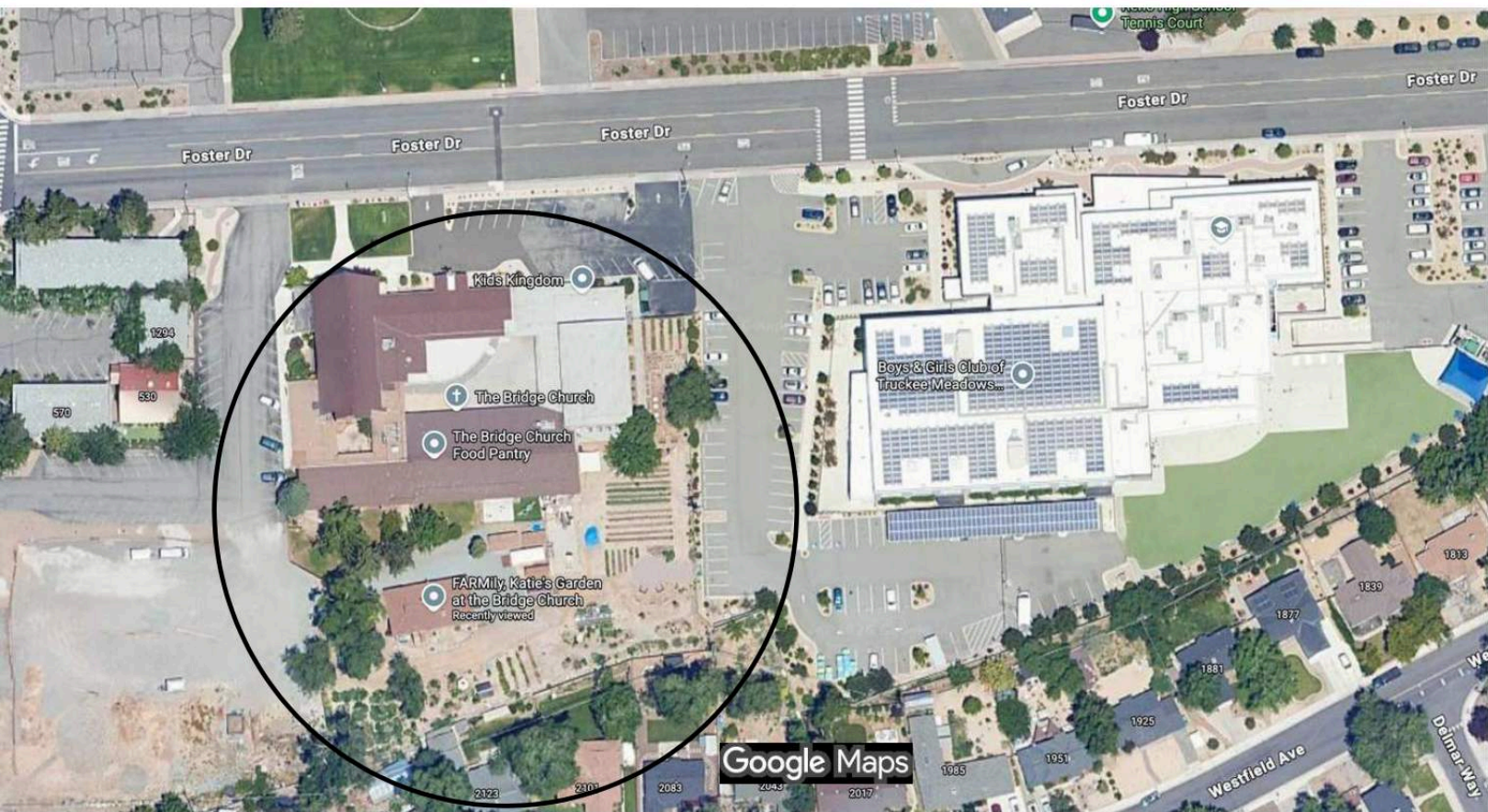
Please attach any additional attachments here.

BGCTM and Encompass letters of support FARMily TRF grant.pdf

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- FARMily_Maps_compressed.pdf
- FARMily TRF Budget .xlsx
- BGCTM and Encompass letters of support FARMily TRF grant.pdf



Imagery ©2026 Airbus, Maxar Technologies, Map data ©2026 Google 50 ft

Boys & Girls Club Pennington location and adjacent garden called Katie's Garden located on the property of the Bridge Church Reno.



Imagery ©2026 Airbus, Maxar Technologies, Map data ©2026 20 ft

Carano Boys & Girls Club Location with FARMily garden on the west side



Imagery ©2026 Airbus, Maxar Technologies, Map data ©2026 50 ft

Boys & Girls Club Reynolds location and FARMily garden which is hard to see in this map. It is a medium sized garden that includes two large trees with and in ground bed and 8 raised beds that are 4' x 8'.

FARMily TRF BUDGET

ORIGINAL PROJECT BUDGET					REIMBURSEMENT REPORT		
Budget Item Description*	TRF \$	Other Funding Name**	Match \$	Total	Expenditures to date TRF	Expenditures to date (other sources- cumulative)	Current Request
Executive Director	#####	FARMily	\$1,062.00	\$5,312.50	(cumulative)		
Program Director	#####	FARMily	\$785.00	\$6,925.00			
Garden Assistant	#####	FARMily	\$537.50	\$2,687.50			
Lead Educator	#####	FARMily	\$978.50	\$4,893.50			
Educators	#####	FARMily	\$1,075.00	\$5,375.00			
Marketing Director	#####	FARMily	\$867.50	\$4,337.50			
Labor--volunteer (\$35/hr)		Volunteers	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00			
Construction							
Materials	#####			\$3,685.00			
Fringe Benefits	#####	FARMily	\$1,294.50	\$3,711.50			
Overhead (max 25%)	#####	FARMily	\$1,542.50	\$4,042.50			
TOTAL	#####		\$10,942.50	\$43,770.00			

Encompass Academy
1300 Foster Dr. Reno, NV 89509
775-322-5566
www.encompassacademy.org



July 22, 2026

Truckee River Fund
Grant Review Committee

Dear Members of the Truckee River Fund Grant Review Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Encompass Academy to enthusiastically recommend FARMily for funding through the Truckee River Fund in support of its proposed project, Healthy Watershed for a Healthy Foodshed: A Youth Education and Community Stewardship Project.

Encompass Academy has partnered with FARMily for six years, during which time they have provided consistent, high-quality garden-based education to our high school students. FARMily has consistently tailored hands-on lessons in organic food, social-emotional learning, and urban agriculture in ways that are relevant and engaging for teenagers, meeting our students where they are.

Over the course of this six-year partnership, we have seen FARMily's programming build genuine curiosity, responsibility, and connection to the natural world among our students — outcomes that extend well beyond the garden and into how our students engage with their community and their futures. This is not a program that shows up once and disappears; it is a sustained, trusted presence in our school that our students and staff have come to rely on.

Given this track record, we are confident that FARMily is exceptionally well positioned to carry out the proposed Healthy Watershed for a Healthy Foodshed project. Their experience engaging high-school-aged youth in meaningful, hands-on environmental education gives us full confidence in their ability to deepen our students' understanding of the vital connection between watershed health and our local food system.

We wholeheartedly support FARMily's application and look forward to continuing our partnership through this important watershed stewardship initiative. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kristen Boucher
Data Coach
Encompass Academy

TRF #332 Cultivating Watershed Resilience at the Urban-Agricultural Interface: Advancing Watershed Health, Fire Resilience, Regenerative Urban Agriculture and Community Stewardship, Phase 2

Truckee River Fund- Fall 2026

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.

I. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS): Projects/Programs that support the prevention or control of aquatic invasive species in the mainstem Truckee River, and other tributaries and water bodies in the Truckee River system.

II. 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/>.

III. 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.

IV. 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 wildfires.

V. Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses: Projects to support water quality improvement in creeks and tributaries to the Truckee River.

VI. 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.

Grant Requirements and Guidelines

GRANT REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

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

- TRF funds are to be used and/or disbursed exclusively for the charitable uses and purposes.
- TRF funds 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%** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding from the applicant and/or in-kind services.
 - For projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25% match requirement must be met with cash funds from the applicant.

OTHER GUIDELINES

The following guidelines shall also be applied to applications to the Fund:

- TRF will not fund the acquisition of any titled property (e.g., land, buildings, vehicles).
- TRF will not fund travel to or attendance at conferences, including but not limited to conference fees, lodging, transportation, or per diem.
- For government entities, TRF will support labor costs associated with projects proposed by government entities, but will not fund entirely new government positions or 100% of labor costs for a government position associated with the proposed project.
- Indirect/overhead expenses shall not exceed 25% of the total project cost as reflected in the proposed budget that accompanies the application.
- TRF will not fund projects within the Lake Tahoe Basin, except along the mainstem of the Truckee River below Lake Tahoe Dam. However, the Committee reserves the right to evaluate proposals related to emerging threats within the Lake Tahoe Basin at its sole discretion.

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.

TMWA Board of Director's Discretion

TMWA 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.

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 #332 Cultivating Watershed Resilience at the Urban-Agricultural Interface: Advancing Watershed Health, Fire Resilience, Regenerative Urban Agriculture and Community Stewardship, Phase 2

Amount Requested*

\$75,000.00

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

Yes

If you received a reduced award amount, please describe how your proposed project would be impacted.*

Yes. This project has been intentionally designed to be scalable and can be successfully implemented with partial funding by adjusting the pace and scope of selected activities while maintaining the project's core watershed restoration objectives. However, because we are actively restoring a pasture impaired by years of overgrazing and chemical inputs, it would greatly benefit the rehabilitation effort to stay on an expedited schedule with a multi-faceted approach as outlined in Phase 2.

If funding is reduced, Reno Food Systems will prioritize implementation of the highest-impact restoration activities, including adaptive rotational grazing, ecological monitoring, community stewardship, riparian and irrigation restoration work. Restoration activities such as native reseeding, riparian enhancements,

interpretive signage and infrastructure improvements would be phased over a longer period or implemented on a smaller portion of the site as additional funding becomes available.

The project is strengthened by substantial leveraged resources that will remain in place regardless of the Truckee River Fund award amount, including approximately \$83,866 in NRCS EQIP funding for irrigation infrastructure, technical assistance from NRCS, USDA Agricultural Research Service, the University of Nevada, Reno and the Nevada Department of Agriculture, the Ranching Apprenticeship partnership with the Desert Farming Initiative and the separately funded Alum Creek Restoration Project led by One Truckee River. Because the South Pasture Stewardship Plan is designed as a long-term, adaptive management strategy, individual restoration components can be phased without compromising the overall vision. Any activities deferred due to funding limitations would become priorities for future grant opportunities and partner investments, ensuring continued progress toward long-term watershed restoration and stewardship goals.

Minimum Amount Required to Complete the Project*

If partial funding is available.

\$50,000.00

Project Start Date*

10/01/2026

Project End Date*

09/30/2027

This funding will be used to:*

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

This funding will be used to implement the South Pasture Stewardship Plan through irrigation improvements, riparian restoration, adaptive rotational grazing, native revegetation and community stewardship to improve the health of the impaired Alum Creek watershed upstream of the Glendale Water Treatment Facility.

Building on the work completed and partnerships established during the 2025 Truckee River Fund #313 project, Phase 2 will demonstrate how working agricultural lands can protect water quality, restore habitat, engender community buy-in and strengthen long-term resilience throughout the Truckee River watershed.

This project is on:*

Check all that apply

Public land

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

No

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

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

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 Position/Title*

Executive director and Farm Manager

Project Contact Email*

lyndsey@renofoodsistemas.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 community 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. We address food insecurity with a holistic and inclusive approach, not only providing free farm fresh food to the community but also teaching, collaborating with and advocating for our community to ensure food access needs are met. Since 2018, we have trained dozens of beginning farmers and over 1,000 volunteers; grown and sold tens of thousands of nourishing, health promoting fruits and vegetables through our weekly farm stand; 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.

Our 20-acre urban teaching farm is located at Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park within Reno's western city limits. We lease this protected parcel of historic ranch land from Washoe County and use land stewardship

principles like regenerative agriculture, agroforestry and permaculture to care for the land and watershed. Through our Land Stewardship programming, we have converted degraded, underutilized public land into lush, healthy wildlife and pollinator habitat, full of native and flowering perennials, shrubs and trees. RFS is a leader in demonstrating how to keep public lands vital and accessible to all, for many generations to come.

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.

September 18, 2025

Project #313

\$46,000

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.

This project will achieve six interrelated goals that improve watershed health, ecological resilience and community stewardship within the Alum Creek/Truckee River watershed.

Goal 1. Improve Water Quality in the Alum Creek Watershed and the Truckee River

Implement irrigation improvements, adaptive rotational grazing, biological weed control, and ecological monitoring to reduce erosion, improve infiltration, and protect water quality within the Alum Creek watershed.

Measurable Outcomes

Reduced erosion and bare soil

Improved infiltration and soil organic matter

Functional, stabilized irrigation ditches

Increased vegetative cover

Reduced invasive weed cover

Elimination of synthetic/chemical inputs

Measurement / Reporting

Soil health testing

Water quality testing
 Ecological monitoring
 Drone and photo monitoring
 Grazing records
 Annual invasive weed mapping
 Visual erosion assessments
 Record of grazing rotations/input applications

Goal 2. Restore Pasture Health, Biodiversity and Riparian Habitat

Continue establishing perennial grasses and native squirreltail while restoring riparian vegetation and improving habitat diversity throughout the pasture. Restoration efforts will also protect irrigation corridors as functioning riparian habitat, encouraging native wetland vegetation and natural willow, cottonwood and cattail regeneration improving overall watershed function.

Measurable Outcomes

5.5 acres reseeded with native/perennial grasses
 Increased riparian vegetation along irrigation corridors
 Improved forage quality
 Expanded pollinator habitat - quantity and diversity
 Reduced invasive/noxious weed species

Measurement / Reporting

Seasonal vegetation monitoring
 Plant diversity assessments
 Photo documentation

Goal 3. Expand Community Stewardship, Education and Workforce Development

Engage community members in watershed restoration through volunteer projects, an annual “BioBlitz”, educational field days and the Ranching Apprenticeship, which was established in partnership with UNR’s Desert Farming Initiative. The Apprenticeship focuses on equipping a beginner farmer/rancher to launch their own operation, from technical training in regenerative farming to formal education in business development.

Measurable Outcomes

Four community events annually
 Expanded volunteer opportunities to include South Pasture restoration work
 Annual BioBlitz completed
 One apprentice trained
 100 community members engaged

Measurement / Reporting

Attendance records including headcount and hours
 BioBlitz species inventory
 Apprentice evaluations
 Participant feedback

Goal 4. Create Pollinator Habitat

Establish an educational apiary and expand flowering habitat to improve biodiversity, support pollinator populations and increase community awareness of pollinators' role in watershed health.

Measurable Outcomes

Apiary established
 Increased flowering habitat
 Increased pollinator activity
 Pollinator education incorporated into education/outreach

Honey production and associated revenue

Measurement / Reporting
 Pollinator observations
 Photo documentation
 Education participation

Goal 5. Support Regional Wildfire Resilience

Continue establishing native squirreltail while partnering with Goat Grazers to provide a seasonal staging area for prescribed grazing herds supporting regional wildfire fuel-reduction efforts.

Measurable Outcomes

Expanded native squirreltail stand, seed collected and distributed in partnership with USDA ASR
 Goat Grazers partnership established
 Seasonal staging area utilized
 Improved pasture condition following managed grazing

Measurement / Reporting
 Vegetation monitoring
 Pounds of seed collected
 Grazing records
 Partner documentation
 Seasonal photo monitoring

Goal 6. Share Restoration Knowledge and Demonstrate Watershed Stewardship

Develop the South Pasture as a demonstration site where agencies, landowners, students and community members can observe practical applications of regenerative watershed stewardship.

Measurable Outcomes

One field day or open house
 One agency or partner site visit
 One professional presentation
 Project lessons shared with regional audiences

Measurement / Reporting
 Attendance records
 Agency participation
 Presentation materials
 Participant feedback

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, pasture restoration, irrigation system repairs, diverse revegetation, 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*

This proposal represents the next phase of RFS's long-term effort to restore the 15-acre South Pasture at Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park as a model for regenerative agriculture and watershed stewardship within the Alum Creek/Truckee River watershed. Building upon our TRF project #313, we seek Phase 2 funding to implement the South Pasture Stewardship Plan. This Stewardship Plan integrates regenerative grazing, ecological monitoring, technical assessments, community input and partner expertise into a comprehensive plan. The plan is intended for the long-term restoration and stewardship of this historic pasture while serving as a model for regional farmers/ranchers seeking ways to protect the watershed.

Since acquiring the lease of the South Pasture 18 months ago, we have observed measurable improvements in perennial grass reestablishment, riparian species regrowth, improved flood irrigation, invasive/noxious weed pressure and community buy-in. This was accomplished through pasture rest (temporary removal of grazing), native grass seeding, invasive weed management, biological monitoring, irrigation system assessment and repair and community engagement. Evaluation of the historic flood irrigation system revealed that the infrastructure was more degraded and technically complex than originally understood. RFS partnered with the NRCS to complete engineering evaluations and secured EQIP funding for comprehensive irrigation system reconstruction. This collaboration greatly increases the long-term watershed benefits of the project while leveraging the original TRF investment.

This proposed Phase 2 project continues implementation of the South Pasture Stewardship Plan through adaptive rotational grazing, perennial grass and squirreltail seeding, biological control of invasive bindweed using bindweed mites, restoration of irrigation corridors and riparian habitat and ongoing ecological monitoring.

RFS will partner with Goat Grazers to establish the South Pasture as a seasonal staging area for prescribed grazing herds between regional wildfire mitigation deployments. By providing temporary pasture, water and infrastructure within the Truckee Meadows, the project reduces transportation demands on goat herders and increases the availability of prescribed grazing for fuel reduction projects throughout the region. While

temporarily housed on the South Pasture, the goats will be managed through adaptive rotational grazing, providing ecological benefits such as nutrient cycling, soil improvement and vegetation management. The South Pasture restoration has become part of a larger, watershed-scale restoration effort. Following the award of the 2025 TRF grant, RFS partnered with OTR on the Alum Creek Restoration Project, an NDEP funded initiative that coordinates restoration efforts throughout the Alum Creek watershed. Through this partnership, the South Pasture serves as the agricultural restoration component of a broader strategy that also includes streambank restoration, storm water infiltration, HOA outreach and public education. As part of this collaboration, OTR will construct a River-Friendly demonstration garden on the South Pasture, creating an educational space that complements the watershed restoration and regenerative agriculture work funded through this proposal. While this work is funded separately through NDEP, it substantially enhances the long-term educational value and watershed impact of the South Pasture Stewardship Plan.

Building on feedback gathered through a community survey completed under Phase 1, RFS will establish an educational apiary and expand pollinator habitat in response to strong public interest in pollinators and locally produced honey. Volunteer restoration days, an annual citizen science BioBlitz, the Ranching Apprenticeship and educational tours will engage community members directly in restoration while generating ecological monitoring data. As the project progresses the South Pasture will become a demonstration site where farmers, ranchers, landowners, municipalities, water authorities, governing agencies, students and community members can observe practical applications of regenerative watershed stewardship.

These critical funds will enable RFS to build upon the restoration work, partnerships and lessons learned during Phase 1 by implementing the South Pasture Stewardship Plan while leveraging technical expertise, community partnerships and complementary funding. Insights gained through the initial restoration efforts helped refine the project's long-term vision and identify opportunities to significantly increase its ecological impact. Phase 2 will put those lessons into practice through irrigation improvements, riparian restoration, adaptive grazing and ecological stewardship to improve water quality, restore habitat, strengthen wildfire resilience and demonstrate the important role farmers and ranchers can play in protecting the Truckee River watershed.

4.) Grant priorities*

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

Grant Priority 2: Watershed Improvements

This project directly addresses watershed health by implementing a comprehensive restoration effort on the South Pasture, where flood irrigation flows enter Alum Creek, a designated 303(d) impaired waterway. Historically, the upland pasture was overgrazed and treated with chemical fertilizers and harmful animal inputs—practices that degraded soil, caused erosion and contributed sediment, toxins and pathogens to the watershed. This project will reverse those impacts through regenerative grazing and hydrological improvements that directly support water quality. Because these waters are upstream of the Glendale Water Treatment Facility, Phase 2 pasture rehabilitation has the potential to provide meaningful downstream water quality benefits.

Pollinator habitat expansion and the proposed apiary will increase pollinator populations, improving ecosystem health while supporting educational opportunities and increase awareness around the relationship between pollinators, healthy plant communities and watershed stewardship.

Improved soil health, reduced sediment and nutrient runoff, suppressed invasive weeds and increased vegetative cover will improve water quality, restore watershed function and demonstrate innovative regenerative watershed management on working agricultural land.

Grant Priority 5: Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses

This project restores the ecological function of the historic irrigation ditch network that conveys Truckee River water across the South Pasture before returning to the Alum Creek/Truckee River watershed. Rather than treating these ditches solely as irrigation infrastructure, they will be managed as functioning riparian corridors. Via rotational grazing practices, RFS will protect ditch corridors from grazing disturbance while

encouraging regeneration of native vegetation and riparian species including willow, cattail and cottonwood. These restored corridors will stabilize banks, reduce erosion and sediment transport, slow water movement, improve infiltration and increase groundwater recharge while providing valuable habitat for pollinators, birds, amphibians and other wildlife.

By integrating ecological restoration into working agricultural infrastructure, the project demonstrates an innovative approach to improving tributary health while strengthening the long-term resilience of the Alum Creek watershed.

Grant Priority 4: Reforestation and Re-Vegetation

A key component of the project is the development of native grass seed production, a living seed bank that will provide desperately needed regionally adapted seed stock to agencies engaged in post-fire revegetation/restoration. Through an ongoing contract with NDA and the USDA ARS, we have seeded squirreltail grass and will collect the seed for distribution.

One challenge facing prescribed grazing contractors is the lack of temporary pasture near deployment sites. Goat herds are often transported long distances between rural ranches and wildfire mitigation projects, increasing travel time, cost and logistical complexity. RFS will address this need by providing temporary pasture, water and infrastructure where goat herders can stage their herds between regional deployments. This community resource will strengthen regional wildfire mitigation efforts while allowing the South Pasture to benefit from carefully managed rotational grazing that supports soil health, nutrient cycling and adaptive pasture management.

Together, these restoration efforts strengthen ecological resilience, improve habitat diversity, and create a more sustainable, climate-adapted landscape within the Truckee River watershed.

Grant Priority 6: Stewardship and Environmental Awareness

The South Pasture is a living demonstration site where visitors can experience regenerative watershed management firsthand and contribute to the active restoration and long-term care of the Alum Creek watershed. Community members will participate in restoration days, invasive weed removal, habitat restoration, an annual BioBlitz (a citizen science event that documents plants and wildlife, providing valuable baseline and long-term monitoring data while fostering community buy-in) and educational field days that contribute directly to the health of the watershed. Educational events will explore topics including regenerative grazing, riparian restoration, pollinator habitat and watershed ecology, helping participants understand the connection between land stewardship and water quality. The project will also support our Ranching Apprenticeship providing hands-on training in regenerative agriculture, ecological restoration and adaptive land management. By combining community stewardship, environmental education and workforce development, the project creates lasting public awareness while cultivating the next generation of land stewards and community members dedicated to protecting the Truckee River watershed.

5.) Permitting*

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

No permitting will be required for the proposed Project.

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 next phase of a long-term stewardship effort guided by the South Pasture Stewardship Plan. While restoration activities will continue for many years, the goal is to establish a resilient management framework supported by diversified funding, strategic partnerships, earned income and ongoing community stewardship rather than reliance on any single funding source.

The 2025 Truckee River Fund project #313 has already demonstrated the value of this approach by leveraging significant additional conservation investment. Technical assessments completed during the project resulted in approximately \$83,000 in USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service EQIP funding to reconstruct the historic irrigation system. Partnerships with the Nevada Department of Agriculture have contributed approximately \$16,000 toward native seed establishment and habitat restoration. The project has also secured substantial in-kind technical assistance from NRCS, USDA Agricultural Research Service, the University of Nevada, Reno and other partners. USDA ARS has further reduced project costs by providing specialized equipment and technical expertise for pasture seeding, eliminating the need to purchase or rent expensive equipment while improving restoration success.

Future phases will continue building on these partnerships while pursuing additional support through:

Truckee River Fund for continued watershed restoration and monitoring

USDA NRCS EQIP and CSP Program for conservation practices and infrastructure improvements

Nevada Division of Conservation and Natural Resources' Conserve Nevada Program

Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education

Nevada Department of Agriculture conservation and habitat restoration programs

Nevada Department of Environmental Protection

Nevada Outdoor Education and Recreation Grants

Private foundation grants supporting watershed restoration, environmental education and regenerative agriculture

Individual donations, corporate sponsorships and in-kind community support.

Long-term financial sustainability will also be strengthened through carefully selected agricultural enterprises that directly support the project's conservation goals. As part of our TRF #313 project, Reno Food Systems conducted a community survey to help guide future stewardship priorities. Pollinator habitat and locally produced honey emerged as one of the strongest community priorities among the 69 survey respondents. In response, this proposal includes the establishment of an educational apiary that will expand pollinator habitat, provide new educational opportunities and generate modest earned income to help support the ongoing stewardship of the South Pasture. This approach reflects Reno Food Systems' commitment to listening to the community and demonstrating that agricultural activities can enhance, rather than compete with, ecological restoration.

By combining public investment, technical partnerships, community engagement and mission-aligned earned income, Reno Food Systems is building a long-term stewardship model that becomes increasingly self-sustaining while continuing to protect and improve the health of the Alum Creek and Truckee River watershed.

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 and has worked internationally in the fields of food systems development, human rights advocacy and 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.

Jess Burroughs, Field Crew and Food Justice Lead, Reno Food Systems

Jess has a diverse background in biology, botany and farming with over 9 years of experience in field work. After earning a B.S. in Biology she went on to work in the Great Basin region doing ecological monitoring and survey work where she honed skills in data collection and crew management. In an effort to align her passions even more, she began farming in 2021 and has been farming and ranching in Washington, Colorado and Nevada since. Now she works as the Food Justice Field Lead and part of the farm crew at Reno Food Systems bringing experience in rotational grazing, pasture restoration and annual crop production to the team.

Emma Kunz, Pasture Apprentice, Reno Food Systems and Desert Farming Initiative

Emma comes from a dynamic background in community food systems, agricultural leadership and regenerative farming. She currently serves as the Director of the Riverside Farmers Market where she works to support local producers and strengthen connections between farmers and the community. As the current joint apprentice at Reno Food Systems and the University of Nevada's Desert Farming Initiative, she is expanding her experience in regenerative farming, pasture restoration, soil health monitoring and annual crop production. Her work combines hands-on agriculture with community engagement, reflecting a commitment to building resilient local food systems and stewarding healthy agricultural landscapes throughout Northern Nevada.

Saskia van Meer, Development and Operations, Reno Food Systems

Saskia brings 15 years of business development, grant management and fundraising expertise across the non-profit and private sectors. She holds a BS in environmental science and an MS in Marine Resource Management, providing a strong scientific foundation in research and ecological monitoring, including running experiments, data collection and reporting. Co-founder of a wastewater treatment tech startup with experience in regenerative farming and conservation, she has a strong foundation in supporting projects from pilot to full-scale implementation. Saskia oversees grant management, donor cultivation, and administration at Reno Food Systems, advancing community-empowered public land stewardship and resilient local food systems.

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.

Project staffing includes 1 full-time Ranching Apprentice (100% dedicated to the project) and 4 part-time RFS staff: Project Manager (40%), Field Technician (20%), Development & Operations (5%) and Director of Marketing & Outreach (5%).

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

Approximately 100 volunteers will contribute an estimated 400 hours throughout the project, supporting restoration, ecological monitoring, community stewardship, educational events and volunteer workdays.

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.*

Throughout the project period RFS will coordinate implementation with project partners, including Washoe County, NRCS, USDA ARS, NDA, DFI, OTR and Goat Grazers. Ecological monitoring will inform adaptive management throughout the project, while partner meetings, project administration and grant reporting will occur on an ongoing basis.

Fall '26: Complete the initial establishment of squirreltail stand as part of our TRF #313 project in partnership with USDA ARS. Begin irrigation infrastructure improvements in coordination with NRCS EQIP and restore irrigation corridors as riparian habitat where construction is complete. Continue pasture reseeding, install apiary and conduct seasonal ecological monitoring including soil/water testing, photo documentation and invasive weed mapping.

Winter '26-'27: Continue irrigation improvements as weather and construction schedules allow. Monitor newly seeded pasture, squirreltail stand and apiary. Install rotational grazing infrastructure, including electric fencing, water systems and paddock infrastructure. Continue ecological monitoring and project planning.

Spring '27: Hire/onboard Apprentice. Begin rotational grazing in partnership with Goat Grazers. Release bindweed mites in partnership with UNR. Maintain squirreltail stand through irrigation and weed management. Begin monitoring riparian regeneration and manage grazing to protect riparian buffers along irrigation corridors. Continue volunteer restoration projects, pollinator monitoring, invasive weed management and community outreach. Present project lessons learned at a regional conference, such as the NV Small Farm Conference, as opportunities allow.

Summer '27: Host the annual BioBlitz, field days and agency site tour. Continue rotational grazing while protecting riparian buffers, monitor riparian regeneration, pollinators, soil health and invasive weeds and continue volunteer engagement, RainSmart Garden coordination and maintenance of the native squirreltail stand.

Fall '27: Continue rotational grazing as appropriate based on weather, forage conditions and irrigation availability. Complete end-of-season ecological monitoring, vegetation assessments, pollinator observations, photo documentation and invasive weed mapping. Evaluate the native squirreltail stand with UNR native plant specialists to determine harvest readiness and, if appropriate, conduct the first seed harvest. Evaluate project outcomes and prepare final reports for TRF and project partners.

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

Success for this project will be measured through both quantitative and qualitative indicators that reflect improvements in watershed health, ecological resilience, community stewardship and long-term land stewardship. Together, these measures will help evaluate not only what was accomplished, but how effectively the project strengthened the relationship between agriculture and conservation within the Alum Creek/Truckee River watershed.

Quantitative Indicators

Acres managed through regenerative stewardship, including rotational grazing, native revegetation, riparian restoration and invasive weed management.

Successful implementation of irrigation infrastructure improvements through the complementary NRCS EQIP project.

Increased vegetative cover, improved soil organic matter and improved water infiltration.

Reduction in visible erosion and sediment movement.

Increased establishment of perennial grasses, native squirreltail and riparian vegetation.

Establishment of an educational apiary and increased pollinator habitat.

Seasonal monitoring of soil health, biodiversity and invasive weeds.

Number of volunteers, workshop participants, and BioBlitz participants engaged.

Ranching Apprentice evaluation with successful learning outcomes.

Number of educational events, agency tours and public presentations conducted.

Qualitative Indicators

Observations of healthier riparian corridors, increased wildlife activity and improved overall ecological function.

Community members reporting greater understanding of watershed stewardship, regenerative agriculture and ecological restoration.

Positive feedback from project partners regarding collaboration, technical implementation and project outcomes.

Increased interest from agencies, landowners and community organizations in applying similar stewardship practices elsewhere.

Apprentice and volunteer participants reporting increased knowledge, confidence and connection to the land.

Observations that agricultural activities enhance, rather than diminish, the ecological health of the South Pasture.

Ultimately, the project's success will not be defined solely by acres restored or infrastructure completed, but by whether under our stewardship, the South Pasture becomes a healthier, more resilient landscape. Success means demonstrating that agriculture can function as a conservation practice—one that protects water quality, restores habitat, supports biodiversity and creates opportunities for people to develop a deeper relationship with the land. If this project leaves the South Pasture healthier, inspires others to steward their own land more thoughtfully and contributes to the long-term resilience of the Truckee River watershed, it will have achieved its purpose.

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.

Reno Food Systems has developed a strong network of partnerships with government agencies, educational institutions, conservation organizations and community groups that significantly expand the impact of the Truckee River Fund investment. These collaborations provide technical expertise, financial support, workforce development, scientific guidance and community engagement that make this project possible. Washoe County Parks and Open Space is the landowner and primary project partner, working with Reno Food Systems to restore and steward the South Pasture as a model for regenerative watershed management on public land.

The ongoing 2025 Truckee River Fund project has already leveraged substantial additional conservation investment. During implementation, evaluation of the historic flood irrigation system revealed that the infrastructure was significantly more degraded than originally understood. As a result, Reno Food Systems partnered with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to complete engineering evaluations and secure approximately \$83,000 through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to reconstruct the irrigation system. This partnership transforms the original Truckee River Fund investment into a significantly larger watershed restoration effort while ensuring that the irrigation improvements are designed and constructed to current engineering standards.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) is collaborating through both its Native Seed Program and Noxious Weed Program by providing technical guidance for native grass establishment, invasive weed management and long-term habitat restoration. To date, this partnership has contributed approximately \$16,000 in funding via native seed contract and technical support to expand native vegetation and weed management.

The USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) has provided free technical expertise and specialized seed drill equipment to establish perennial pasture species, while the University of Nevada, Reno continues to support restoration planning, native seed establishment and innovative biological control strategies, including the use of bindweed mites for invasive weed management.

The Desert Farming Initiative (DFI) at the University of Nevada, Reno partners with Reno Food Systems to co-support the Ranching Apprenticeship, sharing the cost of apprentice training while creating paid workforce development opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers interested in regenerative land stewardship. Reno Food Systems also collaborates closely with fellow Truckee River Fund grantees Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful and One Truckee River to advance watershed restoration through complementary projects. In partnership with KTMB, Reno Food Systems hosts twice-yearly community cleanup events that mobilize volunteers to remove trash and invasive weeds from the South Pasture before they can impact Alum Creek and the Truckee River, strengthening both watershed health and community stewardship. Through its partnership with One Truckee River, Reno Food Systems is participating in a broader Alum Creek watershed restoration initiative funded by approximately \$100,000 from the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection. This collaborative effort brings together stakeholders throughout the watershed to improve the ecological health of Alum Creek while establishing a RainSmart Garden on the South Pasture. The garden will capture and infiltrate stormwater while providing an accessible outdoor gathering space for workshops, tours and community discussions about watershed stewardship. Together, these partnerships ensure that restoration efforts on the South Pasture contribute to a coordinated, watershed-scale approach extending beyond the boundaries of the project site.

Goat Grazers is a new project partner that will utilize the South Pasture as a seasonal staging area for prescribed grazing herds between wildfire fuel-reduction deployments throughout the region. This collaboration strengthens regional wildfire resilience while providing managed grazing that benefits the ecological health of the pasture.

Community stewardship is supported through partnerships with organizations including local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, homeschool and charter school groups, Urban Roots, neighbors, corporate volunteer teams and our robust volunteer base. These partners contribute volunteer labor through habitat restoration, invasive weed removal, environmental education and community service projects, helping develop the South Pasture as a living demonstration site for regenerative watershed stewardship.

Grant Match

All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25%** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding from the applicant and/or through in-kind services. If Volunteer Labor is used, it must be documented and valued at a maximum of \$35.00 per hour.

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% match requirement must be met with cash from the applicant.

Total grant match to be provided.*

Total Match = Cash + In-Kind

\$18,750.00

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.

\$18,750.00

Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.*

Reno Food Systems will provide the required 25% project match (\$18,750) through a combination of documented volunteer labor and in-kind staff time. Volunteer participation is a central component of the South Pasture Stewardship Plan and directly supports the project's goals of community stewardship, environmental education and watershed restoration.

Approximately 100 volunteers are expected to contribute 400 hours of service throughout the project period, providing an estimated \$13,396 in in-kind match based on the current Independent Sector value of \$33.49/hour of volunteer time. Volunteers will participate in habitat restoration, invasive weed removal, community cleanups, ecological monitoring, BioBlitz activities, pollinator habitat improvements, educational events and other stewardship projects that directly benefit the South Pasture and Alum Creek watershed. Volunteer support will come from individual community members, corporate volunteer groups, recovery and workforce development partners, youth organizations including local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, homeschool and charter school groups and participants in community stewardship events coordinated in partnership with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful.

The remaining \$5,354 of the required match will be provided as in-kind staff time from the Project Manager, whose responsibilities include project management, partner coordination, grant administration, adaptive management, reporting and oversight of implementation.

These matching contributions demonstrate the strong community investment in the South Pasture Stewardship Plan while ensuring that Truckee River Fund dollars leverage substantial local resources, volunteer engagement and professional expertise.

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.*

Lyndsey Langsdale

Reno Food Systems

2026 TRF Budget (1).pdf

Supplemental Attachments

Please attach any additional attachments here.

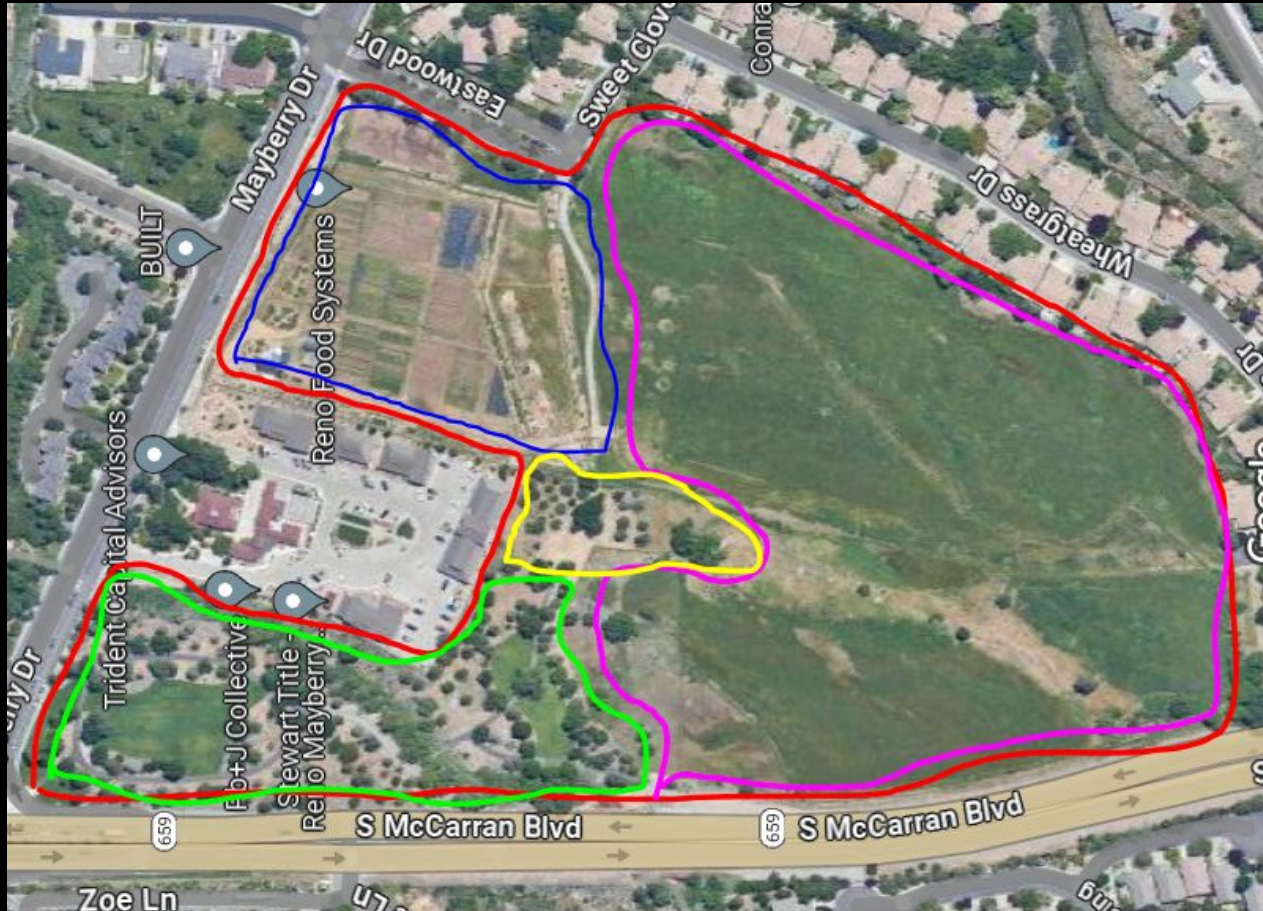
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File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Truckee River Fund Attachments.pdf
- 2026 TRF Budget (1).pdf
- TRF_2026_Attachment_under3MB.pptx

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							
Project Manager	\$38.11	832	Annual Hours	\$16,562.00	\$9,791.52	\$5,354.00	\$31,707.52
Field Technician	\$25.00	416	Annual Hours	\$10,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,400.00
Development & Operations	\$28.84	104	Annual Hours	\$2,999.36	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,999.36
Director of Marketing & Outreach	\$37.08	104	Annual Hours	\$3,856.32	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,856.32
Fringe Benefits		15%	Percentage of salary	\$0.00	\$7,344.48	\$0.00	\$7,344.48
Shared Ranching Apprentice	\$40,000.00	1	Stipend	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00
Volunteers				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,396.00	\$13,396.00
Contractual							
Hay and Bale	\$2,000.00	1	Contract	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Soil Scientist	\$500.00	1	Contract	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Drone Photographer	\$500.00	1	Contract	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
UNR seed Cleaning	\$1,000.00	1	Contract	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Project Management							
Grazing Infrastructure supplies				\$2,768.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,768.00
Habitat Restoration supplies				\$1,082.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,082.00
Monitoring & Data Collection supplies				\$1,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,600.00
Maintenance supplies				\$1,930.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,930.00
Volunteer & Community Stewardship supplies				\$620.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,620.00
Irrigation Rennovation				\$0.00	\$83,000.00	\$0.00	\$83,000.00
Equipment Rental				\$1,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,400.00

2026 TRF Budget

Forma tted Budget

Budget Item Description	\$/Unit	Quantity	Quantity Type	TRF Funding	Other Funders	Match	Total Cost
Total Direct Costs				\$65,218	\$124,136	\$18,750	\$208,103.68
Indirect Costs/Overhead (≤25% of budget)		15%		\$9,783	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Project Costs				\$75,000	\$124,136	\$18,750	\$208,103.68

Category	Item	Description / Purpose	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Grazing Infrastructure	Electric fencing	Premier One portable electric fencing for rotational grazing paddocks	5	\$220.00	\$1,100.00
	Solar fence energizer	Solar-powered energizer	2	\$324.00	\$648.00
	Fence posts & accessories	Step-in posts, reels, gates, connectors	1	\$250.00	\$250.00
	Stock tanks	Portable livestock water troughs	3	\$150.00	\$450.00
	Water hoses & fittings	Water distribution to paddocks	4	\$80.00	\$320.00
	Total				\$2,768.00
Habitat Restoration	Native seed	Perennial pasture and pollinator species	100	\$3.32	\$332.00
	Native plants	Riparian and pollinator plantings	50	\$15.00	\$750.00
	Apiary equipment	Hive, boxes, frames, protective equipment			\$0.00
	Total				\$1,082.00
Monitoring & Data Collection	Soil and water testing	Laboratory soil analyses	4	\$150.00	\$600.00
	Miscellaneous field and survey supplies	Measuring tapes, markers, flags, clipboards, shovels, weeding tools, etc.			\$1,000.00
	Total				\$1,600.00
Maintenance	Tractor repair & maintenance	Repairs, servicing and replacement parts			\$1,000.00
	Fuel	Tractor, equipment and transportation fuel	50	\$5.00	\$250.00
	Irrigation supplies	pump and sprinkler			\$680.00
	Total				\$1,930.00
Equipment rental			4	\$350.00	\$1,400.00
	Total				\$1,400.00
Volunteer & Community Stewardship	Volunteer gloves	Habitat restoration and cleanup events	20	\$8.00	\$160.00
	Trash bags	Community cleanup events	2	\$30.00	\$60.00
	Interpretive signage		4	\$500.00	\$2,000.00
	Workshop supplies	Educational materials and field day supplies			\$400.00
	Total				\$2,620.00
	<i>Grand Total</i>				\$11,400.00

Personnelle/Consultants

Budget Narrative

The proposed budget has been carefully developed to implement the South Pasture Stewardship Plan while maximizing the long-term value of the Truckee River Fund investment through leveraged funding, strategic partnerships and in-kind support. The budget reflects a collaborative watershed restoration effort that combines grant funding with significant contributions from partner agencies, volunteers and Reno Food Systems.

Personnel

Personnel costs support the staff required to coordinate and implement this complex, multi-partner restoration project. The Executive Director will provide project management, partner coordination, adaptive management, grant administration, budgeting and reporting. Additional staff will support field implementation, ecological monitoring, volunteer coordination, community outreach, data management and educational programming. Funding also supports a shared Ranching Apprentice through the Desert Farming Initiative, providing workforce development while contributing directly to restoration activities, ecological monitoring and daily project implementation. Personnel costs and fringe benefits represent the minimum staffing necessary to successfully coordinate the project.

Fringe Benefits and Indirect Costs

Fringe benefits are budgeted at 15% of applicable salaries. Indirect costs are budgeted at 15% of direct project costs, well below the maximum allowed by the Truckee River Fund. These costs support essential organizational functions including financial management, accounting, insurance, office operations, technology and administrative support that are necessary for successful project implementation and grant compliance.

Professional & Technical Services

Contractual services are limited to work requiring specialized equipment or technical expertise. These include contract haying of the pasture, interpretation of soil and water monitoring results by a soil scientist, professional drone photography to document restoration progress and native squirreltail seed cleaning through the University of Nevada, Reno. Utilizing qualified contractors ensures high-quality implementation while allowing Reno Food Systems staff to focus on project management, restoration activities and community engagement.

Materials, Supplies & Equipment

Materials and equipment focus on durable infrastructure that supports long-term stewardship of the South Pasture. Major purchases include portable electric fencing, solar energizers, stock tanks and water distribution equipment for adaptive rotational grazing. Additional materials support native seeding, riparian restoration, pollinator habitat establishment, ecological monitoring, irrigation of the native squirreltail seed production area, equipment maintenance, volunteer stewardship activities and educational interpretation. These investments establish the infrastructure needed for continued watershed stewardship beyond the grant period.

Matching Funds

Reno Food Systems will provide the required 25% match (\$18,750) through a combination of volunteer labor and in-kind staff time. Approximately 100 volunteers are expected to contribute 400 hours of service during the project, representing \$13,396 in documented in-kind match. The remaining \$5,354 will be contributed through in-kind Project Manager salary. Volunteer participation is a central component of the South Pasture Stewardship Plan and supports restoration, ecological monitoring, community stewardship and educational programming.

Other Funding Sources

The Truckee River Fund investment is significantly leveraged through secured partner contributions totaling more than \$124,000. Secured funding includes approximately \$83,000 through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for irrigation infrastructure reconstruction, \$20,000 from the Desert Farming Initiative to support the shared Ranching Apprentice, approximately \$9,792 in organizational support for Project Manager salary, \$7,344 in fringe benefits and \$2,000 for volunteer stewardship supplies and contract haying. In addition to financial support, project partners including NRCS, USDA Agricultural Research Service, the Nevada Department of Agriculture and the University of Nevada, Reno provide substantial in-kind technical assistance, engineering, specialized equipment and restoration expertise that significantly reduce project costs while improving implementation success.

Future phases of the South Pasture Stewardship Plan will continue to leverage a diversified funding strategy. Pending and hopeful funding sources include the Nevada Division of Conservation and Natural Resources' Conserve Nevada Program, Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (Western SARE), Nevada Department of Environmental Protection watershed restoration funding, Nevada Outdoor Education and Recreation grants, private foundation grants supporting watershed restoration, environmental education and regenerative agriculture, and continued individual donations, corporate sponsorships and in-kind community support.



**Growing Food, Feeding People
& Building Community**

SOUTH PASTURE WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE

Progression of the South Pasture between August, 2023 - July, 2026:

- 18 months of no cattle grazing
- April, 2026 - drill seeding of native grasses
- June, 2026 - re-digging/grading of the most degraded irrigation ditches.
- July 22, 2026 - white clover and native pasture grasses filling in



December 2024

Pasture denuded and eroded after 5 plus months of consistent cattle grazing, 7 years in a row.

February 2025

Pasture grass heavily impacted, no signs of regrowth. Cattle corralled, eroding and contaminating area of pasture that is closest to the tail ditch where all the 15 acre runoff flows into Alum Creek.





May 11, 2025

First month of RFS leasing pasture.

Pasture rested for 1 month.

July 2025

Pasture rested 4 months. Grass regrowth slow and patchy. Significant weed pressure. Irrigation inconsistent due to damaged and aged ditch system.





April 22, 2026

Pasture rested for 1 year with no grazing activity. Photo shows USDA - ARS Rangeland Science Technician, Dan Harmon using a seed drill to seed new pasture grass in the most heavily impacted areas.



June 21, 2026

Pasture rested 14 months with no grazing activity. Grass is growing much more consist and even, much more lush with less weed pressure. Irrigation distributing water more evenly with initial re-digging/grading of the most degraded ditch areas.

July 22,
2026

15 months of
pasture rest,
grass
growing
better than in
the previous
5 years.
Significantly
less weed
pressure.
Very little
exposed soil.



Dry, bare patch reseeded in April 2026



July 22, 2026



February 21, 2025

Most heavily impacted area

July 7, 2025



In spring 2026 we seeded this area with a diverse pasture mix. In the right photo we can see the white clover thriving.

April 22, 2026



July 22, 2026

