



PROPOSAL

One Truckee River Watershed Planning

One Truckee River Watershed Planning: Collaborating to Synthesize Datasets and Prioritize Restoration Projects to Guide Multi-jurisdictional Watershed Management in the Truckee River Urban Core



SUBMITTED TO

Bureau of Reclamation, Financial Assistance Operations
Attn: NOFO Team
P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27133
Denver, Colorado 80225
Submitted via grants.gov website

March 31, 2022

Funding Opportunity: R22AS00163
WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants

Applicant: One Truckee River
Project Manager: Alicia Reban, Executive Director, Nevada Land Trust
P.O. Box 20288, Reno, Nevada 89515
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MANDATORY FEDERAL FORMS

The following forms have been uploaded to grants.gov:

- SF-424 Application for Federal Financial Assistance
- SF-424A Budget Information
- SF-424B Assurances
- SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities



TITLE PAGE

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Notice of Funding Opportunity No. R22AS00163

Applicant: Nevada Land Trust, applying as a member of the One Truckee River Partnership

Manager: Alicia Reban, Executive Director
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TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date: March 31, 2022

Applicant: Nevada Land Trust applying as a key member of the One Truckee River Partnership

Location: Truckee River mainstem; Crystal Peak Park through Vista Narrows extending 600 feet from each side of the centerline of the Truckee River, within the jurisdictions of the Cities of Reno and Sparks, Washoe County, Nevada

Project Summary: The [One Truckee River \(OTR\) Partnership and staff](#) will expand its efforts, as a diverse coalition of public and private partners, to support sustainable management of the Truckee River, advancing its mission to *"ensure a healthy, thriving, sustainable river connected to the hearts and minds of its community."* As a founding member of the OTR Partnership, the Nevada Land Trust (NLT) will lead this proposed project on behalf of the OTR Partnership. OTR and NLT assembled and actively engaged a diverse, interagency group of government, non-profit, and private sector stakeholders in its Vegetation Management Technical Working Group (TWG) to develop a programmatic document, called the *OTR Framework Vegetation Management and Restoration Plan* (Framework Plan, previously funded by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation [Reclamation]). The Framework Plan (to be finalized in fall 2022) developed vegetation management strategies that are both compatible with the complex regulatory constraints of the Truckee River and the challenges of restoration in an urban environment, and that address the critical issues and needs in the area. This proposed watershed management project will build on the momentum of the TWG and the Framework Plan to further address coordinated watershed restoration planning needs for an area managed by three different municipalities, two federal land management agencies, and one tribal authority. The TWG currently lacks adequate watershed planning data and desires a blueprint to execute watershed improvement projects along the Truckee River mainstem. The proposed effort will address two project goals within the urban stretch of the Truckee River (project area): 1) synthesize Truckee River data to guide multi-jurisdictional watershed management, and 2) collaboratively prioritize watershed restoration projects and build momentum for site-specific implementation planning. OTR staff, with a consultant's support, will synthesize new and existing data into a central geodatabase to inform multi-jurisdictional watershed planning, develop a quantitative approach to objectively analyze these data, and create a user-friendly tool to identify and prioritize site-specific watershed improvement projects for the TWG's review and use. This effort will include coordination with public safety and human services to develop strategies that ensure future restoration is protected after implementation. The consultant will produce a final deliverable that summarizes the outcomes of the project and an agency-specific project prioritization matrix. The project prioritization has been requested by many watershed partners and funding agencies and will also complement the existing U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 319-compliant plans by providing a data-informed action plan for watershed enhancement. The project will be completed in 2 years and will include funding support from Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program and third-party contributions. This planning effort will focus on building ecological resiliency in the Truckee River watershed by targeting critical issues, including protecting and enhancing water quality, reducing noxious and invasive species, protecting federally listed species habitat, and accommodating flood conveyance.

Located on a federal facility? The project area contains two United States Forest Service parcels, but the project would not implement any on-the-ground restoration on federal lands.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Truckee River is a terminal river system that flows for approximately 121 miles in a northeasterly direction in California and Nevada. The river flows from Lake Tahoe through rural, forested and canyon areas in California, through a densely developed stretch in Nevada, before terminating in Pyramid Lake, Nevada (within the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Reservation). The Truckee River watershed is located within Nevada, Placer, and Sierra Counties, California, and Washoe County, Nevada. Within Washoe County, the proposed project reaches from Crystal Peak Park through Vista Narrows and extends 600 feet from each side of the centerline of the Truckee River mainstem (project area), an area that aligns with the One Truckee River Partnership’s (OTR’s) ongoing restoration planning efforts (Figure 1). The project area is within a portion of the Truckee River watershed, which corresponds to the United States Geological Survey 8-digit hydrological unit code (HUC) 16050102 in the city of Reno, the city of Sparks, and Washoe County, Nevada (a metropolitan area commonly referred to as the Truckee Meadows).

Watershed History and Water Rights

The Truckee River has been an important resource for humans for more than 10,000 years. Historically, the Paiute and Washoe Tribes traveled along the Truckee River and its tributaries to camp, gather plants, hunt, and fish. The Truckee River remains an important traditional cultural property for many tribes of Nevada. During the Gold Rush in the 1840s and 1850s, Reno/Sparks served as the preferred Truckee River crossing point for travelers on their way to California. Use of Truckee River water increased in 1859 to support the growing mining and agricultural needs after the discovery of the Comstock Lode. In 1903, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) began the Newlands Project, which controlled flow from Lake Tahoe and diverted water from the Truckee River to the Carson River watershed for agricultural use.

The Truckee River has historically been one of the most heavily litigated and managed river systems in the United States. The Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) was finalized in December 2015 to increase flexibility in water management between the TROA parties, including Nevada, California, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (PLPT). TROA has alleviated many prior water operations and supply concerns within the watershed. While climate change threatens water quantity and quality as the region’s population increases, TROA supports collaboration and flexibility for many users of the Truckee River, including Reclamation’s Newlands Project.



Figure 1. Project area location (red) in the Reno-Sparks metropolitan area, Washoe County, Nevada.



Today the water demands on the Truckee River continue to increase, as an estimated 183,188 acre-feet of water is being consumed by the communities in the region each year, and the cities of Reno and Sparks make up almost 60% of that demand. The Truckee River provides valuable drinking and municipal water for residents and businesses in the project area, generates hydroelectric power, supplies irrigation water, provides recreational experiences, serves as an important ecosystem for fish and wildlife (including threatened and endangered species), and is an important cultural resource for Tribes.

Watershed Issues

Each segment of the Truckee River has unique environmental characteristics and issues impacting the health of the river and the ecosystems it supports. The upper reaches of the river are mostly within California, emanating from Lake Tahoe and descending into Truckee River Canyon, passing through communities and wilderness areas where recreational use, development, and historical grazing, logging, and mining have previously impacted water quality. The middle reaches of the river in northern Nevada intersect the cities of Reno and Sparks, where urban development, industrial use, recreation, use by currently homeless populations, and urban runoff pose potential threats. The lower reaches of the Truckee River, including Pyramid Lake, are primarily managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the PLPT, where upstream anthropogenic modifications such as grazing, agriculture, railroad/highway expansion, diversions, and recreation may impact water quality. Despite these risks, the Truckee River remains a water of high quality (as defined by the EPA), with TROA successfully addressing many water supply issues along the river. However, some river reaches (e.g., downstream from the project area) remain impaired and 303(d) listed (see Section E.1.2). Among the goals of this project are to further protect and enhance the water quality of the Truckee River to meet the needs of all users and beneficial uses.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

APPLICANT CATEGORY

The OTR Partnership is seeking funding from the Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) as an Existing Watershed Group, with the proposed effort being led by one of its key members, Nevada Land Trust (NLT). Since May 2015, OTR has been working *to ensure a healthy, thriving, sustainable Truckee River connected to the hearts and minds of its community*. OTR is a coalition of public and private partners focused on implementing Phase 1 of the OTR Management Plan (OTRM Plan) with support from its staff, partners, and consultants. Since 2017, OTR has focused on implementing many priority action items (see below) and building its long-term capacity.

History

OTR was born through collaborative efforts of Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful and NLT. After collectively working along the Truckee River for over 15 years, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful and NLT recognized that their individual programs could be stronger by working together, and that traditional sectors and boundaries must be crossed to address the issues affecting the Truckee River. Thus, the OTR Partnership was formed as a formal watershed group in 2015, to facilitate partnerships and cross-jurisdictional efforts. The OTR Partnership confirmed that many independently developed plans already existed for specific river issues or areas. With support from public entities, including the Cities of Reno and Sparks, Washoe County, TMWA, and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), OTR sought to develop a single, comprehensive document that better reflected an interconnected river system. Through collaboration, this group developed Phase 1 of the OTRM Plan, described below. At its inception, OTR Partnership identified more than 130 stakeholders and has since been engaging with them as appropriate to accomplish its priority action items. Currently, OTR Partnership has 24 active key partners and regularly



works with the aforementioned stakeholders as needed to continue its success through collaboration. OTR consists of interdisciplinary experts, including professionals in collaboration, water quality, social services, natural resources, conservation, recreation, hydrology, vegetation, restoration, and education.

Ongoing Efforts and Previous Accomplishments

Finalized in 2016, the OTRM Plan identifies nine emerging issues: water quality, social issues, stewardship, ecosystem, quality of life, public safety, funding, recreation, and education. The OTRM Plan addresses these nine emerging issues through **four overall OTRM Plan Goals**—Goal 1: Ensure and protect water quality and ecosystem health in the Truckee River; Goal 2: Create and sustain a safe, beautiful, and accessible river connecting people and places; Goal 3: Build an aware and engaged community that protects and cares for the river; and Goal 4: Ensure the measurable, sustainable, and collaborative management of the river for today and into the future. To date, OTR has succeeded in completing or establishing over 40 of more than 100 action items to address these goals, including these highlights:

- **Identify location of all high-volume storm drains and the largest stormwater contributions to the Truckee River.** All high-volume storm drains were identified for the City of Reno in cooperation with the City of Sparks, Washoe County, and the Nevada Department of Transportation by Balance Hydrologics, Inc., in 2017. These data are now being mapped by the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA) to better understand the watershed’s “stormshed” boundaries.
- **Develop the Truckee River Watershed Management Plan through stakeholder coordination and consensus.** The *2020 Integrated Source Water and 319(h) Watershed Protection Plan for Public Water Systems* ([Integrated Watershed Protection Plan](#)) was completed by watershed stakeholders including the Truckee Meadows Stormwater Permit Coordinating Committee (TMSPPC), the TMWA, OTR, NLT, and dozens of other stakeholders, with technical assistance by a consultant. In 2020, the TMSPPC also completed updates to a management plan for major tributaries feeding the river, a critical component of the watershed management plan. The plan partners are actively implementing many of the implementation projects identified in the Integrated Watershed Protection Plan. Other plan partners include Sierra Nevada Journeys, TMRPA, and NDEP.

OTR also developed a River Friendly Living Program. In 2021, this program hosted 40 public workshops, and published 48 social media posts and eight articles and blogs. Workshops engaged 1,036 adults with 89% of polled participants reporting improved understanding of stormwater runoff. The program’s social media reached over 55,000+ views and had 5% engagement (clicks, comments, or shares). OTR staff have also developed a working relationship with the TMWA, TMSPPC, and the University of Nevada, Reno Cooperative Extension related to stormwater education collaboration.

- **Ensure adequate public restrooms along the Truckee River.** OTR’s Truckee River Restroom Project plans to install nine new public restrooms along the Truckee River. Focusing primarily on the Reno-Sparks urban core, the project is designed to improve water quality and community wellbeing. A pilot public bathroom was successfully installed in August 2020, and two more bathrooms are planned for installation in 2022 and 2023. The Washoe County River Stewards Program managed by the human service nonprofit, Karma Box Project, works to manage issues surrounding homelessness along the river and at the parks in the nearby area. The Program’s focus is to encourage positive use of the river and riverside facilities.
- **Enhance Truckee River visitor safety, access, public facilities, and education.** Since 2018, OTR staff with partner and stakeholder engagement have been leading the annual “Truckee River Month” in May, which includes 31 days of events in, on, around, and about the Truckee River. In 2019, there were



103 events, involving 14,547 attendees (an 88.92% increase from 2018). The 2020 and 2021 events were provided in either virtual or hybrid format. The 2022 events are planned to focus on engaging the community in OTR's many ongoing projects.

- **Complete a multi-jurisdictional signage plan including standards for maps, directions, rules, stewardship, and interpretive signs.** A final signage plan was adopted by the Cities of Sparks and Reno and Washoe County in 2020. Following approval, NLT completed the installation of over 250 signs including maps, directions, rules, stewardship, and interpretive information along the river.
- **Create metrics for measuring success and achievements of the plan.** OTR, with consultants' support, developed metrics to track the OTRM Plan that have evolved into an online Truckee River Dashboard. Available to the public in the summer of 2022, this online tool was built and will be hosted by Truckee Meadows Tomorrow, a nonprofit that has tracked and reported regional data for over 25 years.

ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANT

NLT is a key OTR partner and will lead this proposed effort on behalf of the OTR Partnership. OTR (as the watershed group) and NLT (as the grant administrator and project lead) both meet the program eligibility requirements, as described in Section C.1 and as defined in Section A.2 of the NOFO, as an Existing Watershed Group. NLT and OTR (both 501(c)(3) organizations) do not identify as a Federal Government entities, institutes of higher education, 501(c)(4) or 501(c)(6) organizations, or as individuals. The OTR Partnership consists of partners from these categories. OTR formed in 2015 as a grassroots collaboration of public and private partners working together to promote its collective vision, *"to realize a Truckee River that flows clear and clean, quenches our thirst, sustains the river's natural ecology, cultural resources and wildlife, and connects residents and visitors to unparalleled opportunities for recreation and regeneration."* OTR is managed by the OTR Board of Directors and staff are guided by an interagency OTR Partnership Council that meets four times a year. Partnership Council members represent their entities and are not funded by OTR. This diverse group includes representatives from the three local jurisdictions (City of Reno, City of Sparks, and Washoe County), the local water authority, two local Tribes, and many non-profit organizations focused on conservation, education, recreation, and preservation.

In 2020, OTR received funding through Reclamation's CWMP Phase I (Funding Opportunity: BOR-DO-19-F010) to: 1) expand and diversify OTR's partnership base, and 2) advance vegetation management and restoration planning within the project area. Through this funding, NLT and OTR staff engaged six new governance entities in the Truckee Meadows, four of which chose to be involved in the Technical Working Group (TWG) addressing vegetation management. These new TWG members were in addition to the 15 existing partners participating. With NLT and OTR staff guidance and with stakeholder and TWG input, OTR consultants developed a draft Framework Vegetation Management and Restoration Plan (to be completed in fall 2022) and support tools to guide site-specific restoration plan development. The current request for funding will assemble relevant data within the project area (and address any remaining data gaps) and use these data to collaboratively prioritize watershed management and restoration projects. The project proposed here will leverage the Framework Plan and the ongoing efforts of the TWG and the OTR Partnership to improve watershed conditions in the Truckee Meadows.

GOALS

OTR's mission is to **"ensure a healthy, thriving, sustainable river connected to the hearts and minds of its community."** To address its mission and to implement Phase 1 of the OTRM Plan, OTR has four primary goals (see Applicant Category section above), which all will be supported through the proposed work, specifically addressing the following:



- **OTRM Plan Goal 1:** Ensure and protect water quality and ecosystem health in the Truckee River.
 - **OTRM Plan Objective 1.4:** Create a rich and diverse vegetative ecosystem.
 - **Objective 1.4.b:** Create an approved vegetative species list to increase biodiversity and shading on lands along the Truckee River.
 - **Objective 1.4.c:** Develop and implement a coordinated vegetation management plan along the river corridor.

The OTR Partnership, with its key partner applicant Nevada Land Trust, seeks funding to implement **Funding Opportunity Task B (Watershed Restoration Planning)** to support a planning effort within the proposed project area. The project area includes the riparian zone (600 feet from each side the river centerline) within the stretch of the Truckee River from Crystal Peak Park to Vista Narrows (see Figure 1).

The proposed effort will synthesize new and existing Truckee River condition data and prioritize watershed restoration projects, which will leverage the OTR's Framework Plan and the collaboration of OTR's Vegetation Management TWG (both previously funded by Reclamation) to build momentum to plan and implement watershed enhancement projects. To guide the trajectory of the proposed work, OTR has identified the **project goals and objectives** listed below. OTR will serve as the "watershed group" for this project, with program administration from one of its key members, NLT; however, most of the effort will involve the Vegetation Management TWG, a subgroup of the greater OTR Partnership. This TWG includes 24 individuals from 18 entities, including local municipalities, state government agencies, flood management agencies, non-profit organizations, private organizations, and private citizen members.

Project Goal 1: Synthesize Truckee River data to guide multi-jurisdictional watershed management.

Assess current riverbank and aquatic conditions within public parcels and select parcels of interest along the project area and synthesize these results to leverage OTR's Framework Plan and guide multi-jurisdictional watershed management and restoration planning.

Project Objective 1A: Identify watershed restoration objectives and quantitative indicators.

Use the outcomes of the Framework Plan to articulate watershed restoration objectives and define indicators that quantitatively address each objective; collaborate with TWG members and other stakeholders to develop an approach to compile and collect indicator data.

Project Objective 1B: Compile current spatial data. Collaborate with watershed partners to compile all relevant existing spatial data to inform watershed restoration planning, including elevation, hydrology, soils, wetland, aquatic habitat, aquatic wildlife presence or populations, water quality, urban planning, and demographic data; identify how these data will serve as quantitative indicators.

Project Objective 1C: Collect data to fill baseline data gaps. Conduct targeted field data collection to strategically fill gaps in baseline data (i.e., select vegetation mapping, soils and slope conditions, erosion issues, and targeted water quality sampling), that can be used to strengthen indicators of riparian and aquatic condition and support restoration planning efforts; collect additional urban planning information as context for environmental data; identify any remaining data gaps.

Project Objective 1D: Generate comprehensive geodatabase and analyze results. Analyze results from field surveys and desktop analyses to generate a geographic information system (GIS) geodatabase that compiles indicator data to support quantitative prioritization of watershed management and restoration projects (particularly as they relate to riparian and aquatic condition, water quality, and other beneficial uses).



Project Goal 2: Collaboratively prioritize watershed restoration projects and build momentum for site-specific implementation planning. Collaborate with TWG members and other select stakeholders to identify, assess, and prioritize watershed management and restoration projects to meet the goals and management priorities of multiple jurisdictions, and use the momentum of the TWG's collective efforts to propel planning, funding, and implementing site-specific restoration projects.

Project Objective 2A: Develop indicators and a scoring method to create a draft Ecological Condition Index (ECI). Use data (compiled and analyzed through Project Goal 1 activities) to develop quantitative indicators of ecological condition (both riparian and aquatic) for each parcel; develop a scoring method (a draft ECI) to evaluate the importance of indicators and support quantitative prioritization of restoration projects at the parcel level.

Project Objective 2B: Solicit input on watershed management needs, opportunities, and draft Ecological Condition Index. Engage TWG members and other stakeholders (through a series of interviews and one TWG meeting) to discuss indicators and their scoring and refine the ECI as needed; solicit input from TWG members and stakeholders on agency project priorities, perceived public need, and known management opportunities, which will be considered in project prioritization and used to inform development of the draft Project Prioritization Tool.

Project Objective 2C: Collaboratively develop a draft Project Prioritization Tool and Project Priorities Matrix. In close collaboration with the TWG and other stakeholders, develop a draft Project Prioritization Tool to prioritize watershed maintenance and restoration projects based on the outcomes of Objectives 2A and 2B; use this approach to develop a draft Project Priorities Matrix that supports and leverages the Framework Plan. The tool and matrix are expected to consider the relative importance of 1) the ECI scores for parcels, 2) agency and public need, 3) habitat connectivity, and 4) management enhancement opportunities; prioritization may vary by agency and landowner.

Project Objective 2D: Conduct TWG meeting to solidify project priorities and build momentum. Conduct a TWG meeting to review the outcomes of the scoring and to solidify top project priorities for each landowner or jurisdiction (in the Project Priorities Matrix) for future watershed restoration; develop a strategy to plan, implement, and fund priority projects through application of the Framework Plan.

Project Objective 2E: Develop final deliverable to leverage the Framework Plan. Develop a deliverable that summarizes the outcomes of the project activities, which will be informed by EPA's nine minimum elements of a successful watershed plan, such that the information therein complements and supports the existing Integrated Watershed Protection Plan.

APPROACH

OTR is proposing two primary project tasks to achieve the proposed project goals: **Task 1) synthesize Truckee River condition data**, and **Task 2) collaboratively prioritize watershed restoration projects and build momentum for site-specific implementation planning.**

During recent decades, efforts have been taken to address historical impacts to the Truckee River watershed from mining, logging, grazing, development, and industrial use. Today the Truckee River is considered to be a water of high quality, as defined by the EPA; however, the project area continues to be threatened by accelerating urban development, industrial use, recreation, use by homeless populations, and urban runoff. Localized human activity has caused damage to and loss of native vegetation that stabilizes the banks of this stretch of the river, leading to erosion and soil loss in many areas. Loss of vegetation can have exacerbating impacts on bank stability, as eroding slopes cause a feedback cycle of continued soil and vegetation loss. Soil erosion, in particular, is a concern for public safety and has



contributed to some degradation of water quality (e.g., 303(d) listing for turbidity downstream of East McCarran Boulevard; see Figure 4 below) and reduced ecological function of the riparian zone within this portion of the Truckee River. The intensity and scope of Truckee River water quality monitoring in the Truckee Meadows reach has lessened in recent years, leading to a lack of information on current water quality conditions and trends.

The OTR Partnership is working to tackle these challenges by improving the habitat structure and function of the riparian and aquatic ecosystems and ensuring the water quality of the Truckee River can be preserved and enhanced. With generous funding from the Reclamation's WaterSMART CWMP, OTR and NLT are currently leading efforts to finalize a Framework Vegetation Management and Restoration Plan (expected fall 2022) for the project area. That programmatic planning effort is developing vegetation management strategies that both address the critical issues and needs within the area, while being compatible with the regulatory constraints of this section of the Truckee River and the challenges of restoration in an urban environment.

A number of other previous and ongoing efforts have been aimed at protecting and enhancing watershed conditions within the metropolitan areas of Reno and Sparks, Nevada. Numerous important datasets have been developed to support watershed planning and flood management. While these previous efforts addressed critical watershed and source water protection issues, the relevant spatial datasets for watershed planning have not been compiled for the mainstem of the Truckee River, and a data-informed approach to identify and prioritize restoration projects on this segment of the mainstem has not been developed. Through this proposed effort, OTR will address the needs to 1) compile datasets and projects identified in existing plans, 2) fill the remaining data gaps to synthesize a watershed restoration plan specifically for the project area, and 3) leverage the collaboration of OTR's TWG to secure funding to plan and implement site-specific watershed projects on the Truckee River mainstem. The proposed planning effort would enable the OTR Partnership to acquire funding and other support to implement these projects, as this type of planning effort is often needed to qualify for federal restoration funding opportunities.

TASK 1: SYNTHESIZE TRUCKEE RIVER DATA TO GUIDE MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Effective multi-jurisdictional watershed restoration planning is reliant on accurate and up-to-date baseline watershed conditions data, a formalized structure to compile and synthesize data, and tight collaboration among all stakeholders (including government, non-profit, and private partners). Through Task 1, the OTR Partnership will leverage the cooperation and momentum of its TWG and other watershed group partners to identify and compile relevant datasets and strategically address remaining data gaps. As the program applicant, NLT staff will administer and lead the proposed project on behalf of the greater OTR Partnership, with coordination support from OTR staff and technical support from OTR's consultants (as detailed below). Task 1 will involve **four major activities**:

Activity 1A: Identify watershed restoration objectives and quantitative indicators

OTR's Framework Plan includes a holistic vision for multi-jurisdictional restoration and vegetation management planning, which is to ***develop a coordinated vegetation management strategy that supports a diverse and high-functioning riparian corridor that provides ecosystem services to sustain a clean, healthy, and resilient river that is a refuge for wildlife and all members of our community.*** This vision addresses several challenges and needs regarding vegetation management and restoration identified in the Framework Plan. The Framework Plan further identifies key management opportunities for the project area that can be addressed through future restoration implementation. As a first step in this proposed project, OTR Partnership will review these challenges, needs, and key



management opportunities to articulate specific watershed restoration objectives to be addressed through this effort. NLT and OTR staff and their consultants will then identify specific indicators to quantitatively evaluate the objectives. Through a series of stakeholder interviews, OTR's consultants will develop an approach to compile current indicator datasets, and a strategy to collect information to fill data gaps.

Activity 1B: Compile current spatial data

The Truckee River, particularly within the project area, has been heavily studied to address water quality, flood conveyance, and water rights allocation issues. These studies have generated many relevant spatial datasets that will be compiled by OTR's consultants, including elevation, hydrology, soils, wetland, aquatic habitat, aquatic wildlife presence or populations, water quality, and other data. Other important variables such as bank slope, river shading, vegetation structural heterogeneity, soil particle size, and soil runoff potential can be derived using GIS software. The consultants will work with the TMRPA to compile these environmental spatial data and relevant urban planning and demographic data (provided by TMRPA).

Activity 1C: Collect data to fill baseline data gaps

OTR's consultants will collect targeted field data to address critical baseline data gaps. Field surveys will focus on the ecological condition of riparian and aquatic resources, including a qualitative assessment of riverbank stability, vegetation cover, and aquatic factors that are influenced by riparian zone condition. Additional urban planning data will also be collected or compiled as part of this effort, including new (or proposed) development, public access, and undeveloped areas to be considered for preservation.

Depending on access, field surveys will be conducted from the Truckee River (via boat) or from trails or roads adjacent to the parcels. These surveys will focus on public parcels and may include select private parcels of interest for future preservation. The surveys will focus on the condition of riverbanks, from the ordinary high-water mark to the top of the riverbank (bank overflow). Bare soil cover will be estimated and mapped in a linear fashion. Vegetation patches will also be mapped, including canopy cover of the three most dominant species and select invasive and noxious weeds. OTR is working with the Carson-Truckee Water Conservancy District (CTWCD) to begin this survey effort, so mapping will be well underway by the time this proposed project receives funding.

Bioassessment and water quality data available from NDEP are not at the temporal resolution or scale needed to inform this watershed restoration planning effort. To address this need, strategic periphyton and macroinvertebrate data will be collected at three discrete locations that align with historic bioassessment and fish survey locations (fish data collected from Nevada Department of Wildlife [NDOW]). Aquatic periphyton and macroinvertebrate samples will be collected during one survey period (during the summer or fall) at each survey location for processing by an external laboratory. Physical habitat, water quality, and chemistry will also be sampled at these locations. Results will be compared with historical datasets from the Truckee River mainstem and tributaries. While desirable to identify seasonal dynamics, further bioassessment and water quality data are beyond the scope of the proposed project. Collection of this single comprehensive dataset will provide a snapshot of conditions and serve as a basis for recommendations for future monitoring programs.

Activity 1D: Generate comprehensive geodatabase and analyze results

OTR's consultants will collaborate with TMRPA to develop a geodatabase that contains data compiled during Activity 1B and new data generated during Activity 1C. These compiled data can be used as condition indicators of the riparian and aquatic resources in each parcel of interest, and urban planning and demographic data can be integrated into project prioritization. TMRPA is an ideal partner to facilitate data compilation and to host a geodatabase, as the agency serves as a data hub for many planning efforts in the



region. Data compiled here will directly complement TMRPA's current natural resources planning effort. OTR's consultants will convert relevant data into an indicator format that will support quantitative prioritization of watershed management and restoration projects. Through Task 2, OTR's TWG will analyze the indicators and select those indicators that are most relevant for assessing riparian and aquatic condition, water quality, and other beneficial uses related to TWG objectives.

TASK 2. COLLABORATIVELY PRIORITIZE WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECTS/BUILD MOMENTUM FOR SITE-SPECIFIC IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING

To date, OTR's programmatic vegetation management and restoration planning efforts have focused on 1) building an active and collaborative Vegetation Management TWG, and 2) developing the Framework Plan and support tools, which are a "cookbook" to plan site-specific watershed restoration. In a complementary effort, OTR is also undertaking a pilot restoration at a riverside park in downtown Reno (Brodhead Park), allowing OTR and its consultants to work through the Framework Plan and tools, to test out "recipes" from the Framework Plan's restoration planning "cookbook."

For OTR to make the best use of the Framework Plan and for the TWG to focus their efforts and resources on the most important watershed improvement projects, a careful analysis is needed to identify and prioritize restoration projects. Because of the dynamic and multi-jurisdictional nature of the project area, such prioritization is best completed through close collaboration with all stakeholders, analysis of all baseline data, and careful consideration of the complex regulatory framework of the river and differing goals and needs of all jurisdictions (which are clarified in the Framework Plan). Through Task 2, OTR and NLT staff and their consultants will coordinate with the TWG and other relevant stakeholders to quantitatively and objectively prioritize restoration projects, thereby capitalizing on the momentum of this actively engaged group to develop strategies to fund, plan, and implement watershed improvement projects in the future. Task 2 will include **five major activities**:

Activity 2A: Develop indicators and scoring method to create a draft Ecological Condition Index

Building on the work completed for Task 1, OTR's consultants will develop quantitative indicators of riparian and aquatic condition. Each indicator will be carefully developed to consider spatial and temporal scales, limit cross-correlation, and ensure relevance to TWG objectives. Data reflecting the aquatic ecosystem downstream from each parcel will be used as indicators of condition. After initial development of the indicators, OTR consultants, with NLT and OTR staff, will devise a method to score the importance of each indicator based on prior discussions with TWG members. This scoring system will be used to calculate a draft ***Ecological Condition Index*** value that will be assigned to each parcel of interest. This objective and quantitative index will be standardized across jurisdictions and will be one of the factors considered in the project prioritization (see Activity 2C).

Activity 2B: Solicit input on watershed management needs, opportunities, and draft Ecological Condition Index

With support from their consultants, OTR and NLT staff will engage the TWG members and other stakeholders to solicit input on the parcel-level ECI through a series of interviews and one-on-one discussions. Discussions about the importance of each objective and associated indicator(s) will guide refinement of the ECI. OTR and NLT staff will further request input from the TWG members and stakeholders on other factors that will be considered in project prioritization, including agency project priorities, perceived public need, and known management opportunities. A TWG meeting will be hosted to discuss the outcomes of all activities and to solidify the group's thoughts on planning outcomes.



Activity 2C: Collaboratively develop a draft Project Prioritization Tool and Project Priorities Matrix

OTR's consultants will use the TWG and stakeholder input from Activity 2B to develop a draft Project Prioritization Tool to prioritize watershed maintenance and restoration projects. The tool will be used to create a draft Project Priorities Matrix that works with and further leverages the restoration planning tools developed in the Framework Plan. Project prioritization will not only consider environmental variables captured in the ECI scores for parcels but will also take into consideration agency and public need and management enhancement opportunities. Because the needs and management priorities of landowners are expected to vary, the weightings in the Project Prioritization Tool and outcomes of the Project Priorities Matrix may produce different project prioritization for each agency or jurisdiction.

Activity 2D: Conduct TWG meeting to solidify project priorities and build momentum

OTR, NLT, and their consultants will wrap up the engagement efforts with a final TWG meeting. This meeting will provide an opportunity for the TWG members to review the outcomes of the Project Prioritization Tool and the Project Priorities Matrix. This meeting will also be an opportunity for the TWG members to develop an execution approach for future watershed maintenance and restoration efforts. Specifically, the TWG will use this meeting to develop a strategy to plan, implement, and secure funding for the priority projects through application of the Framework Plan and support tools. This meeting and future follow-up meetings will discuss strategies to ensure future restoration projects are successful.

Activity 2E: Develop final deliverable to leverage Framework Plan

OTR's consultants will use the information gained through the Task 1 and Task 2 activities to develop a deliverable (plan or report) that summarizes the outcomes of the project. This document will be informed by the EPA's nine minimum elements of a successful watershed plan, such that the information therein complements and supports the existing Integrated Watershed Protection Plan. OTR staff will solicit written input from the TWG on the document. This feedback will be integrated into the final version of the deliverable, which will be integrated into the existing Framework Plan, either as a plan amendment or appendix. Datasets generated by all project activities will be shared with relevant agencies, and spatial data will be hosted in the geodatabase developed by TMRPA.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

E.1.1. EVALUATION CRITERION A—WATERSHED GROUP DIVERSITY AND GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

E.1.1.1. Sub-criterion No. A1. Watershed Group Diversity

Describe efforts to ensure the watershed group will include a diverse array of stakeholders.

As detailed in the Project Description, the One Truckee River Partnership (OTR) is an existing watershed group working to achieve the goals outlined in the One Truckee River Management Plan (OTRM Plan). The OTRM Plan is organized into four geographically defined phases, covering all three Truckee River-affected hydrological unit code (HUC) areas (16050101 [Lake Tahoe], 16050102 [Truckee], and 16050103 [Pyramid Lake]) (Figures 2 and 3). OTR's current partner and stakeholder engagement efforts focus on the project area within Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County, described in the evaluation criteria below. Ongoing efforts to implement the OTRM Plan have included diverse partners, including 24 individuals from 18 organizations who are actively engaged in the Vegetation Management Technical Working Group (TWG) through the projects previously funded by the Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) Phase I (Funding Opportunity: BOR-DO-19-F010) and have committed to sustaining this level of engagement through the proposed activities. See below for details on OTR partners.

A description of the affected stakeholders within the watershed.

The Truckee River corridor is managed and regulated by federal, state, and local agencies. OTR seeks not to create a new regulating agency but to weave together existing efforts in a way that better reflects the interconnectedness of the entire river system. OTR stakeholders include entities located within all three Truckee River-affected HUCs (16050101 [Lake Tahoe], 16050102 [Truckee], and 16050103 [Pyramid Lake]), but the majority of OTR’s active partners are located within HUC 16050102. The proposed project will impact HUC 16050102 (see Figures 2 and 3) within the Reno-Sparks area, home to approximately 478,000 residents for whom the Truckee River provides 85% of their drinking water. Affected stakeholders within the watershed include local municipalities, Tribes, residents, businesses, recreation user groups, homeless outreach and transitional housing programs, law enforcement, and the various non-profit and other organizations that work in the region (detailed below).

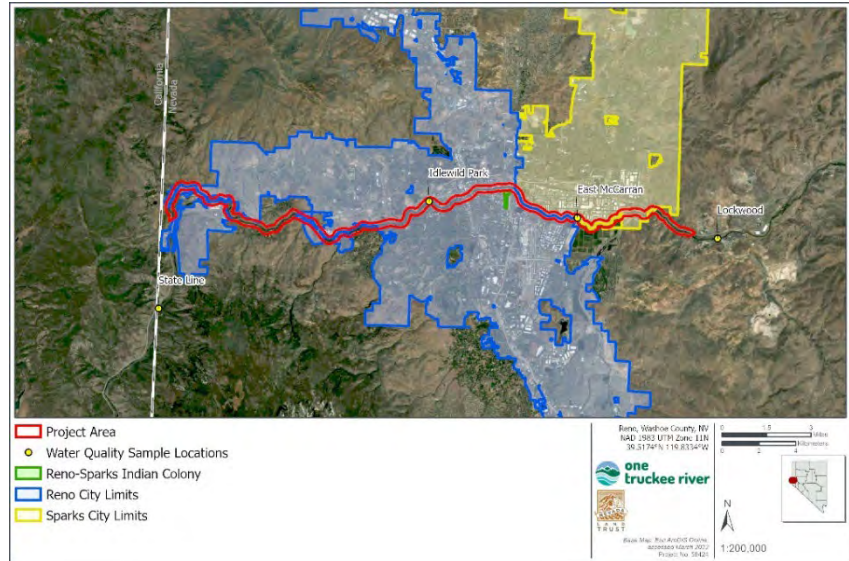


Figure 2. The OTRM Plan and this project will address the most heavily used section of the Truckee River corridor, within Washoe County, Nevada. Project area highlighted in red.

Current membership of the watershed group and whether the current membership is representative of the affected stakeholders within the watershed.

OTR has involved diverse private and public entities since 2015, including 24 current active partners (entities meeting together to support the implementation of the OTRM Plan) and 130 stakeholders (entities supportive of but not directly engaged with OTR work). The OTR partners listed below include experts in water, social services, ecosystem health, public safety, recreation, agriculture, education, and quality of life. The OTR partners currently fall into four categories regarding the proposed project. These categories are defined below with a list of entities in each category. (* indicates entities that are on the partnership council; † indicates entities that have provided a letter of support for this proposal for funding.)

Partners (entities which are members of the OTR Partnership council): City of Reno Parks and Recreation†, City of Reno Public Works, City of Sparks†, Community Foundation of Western Nevada, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful†, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), Nevada Land Trust (NLT), Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, City of Reno Police Department, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony†, Renown Health, Sierra Nevada Journeys, The Nature Conservancy, Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA)†, Truckee Meadows Trails, Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA)†, Truckee River Flood Management Authority, University of Nevada – Reno, Washoe County Health District, Washoe County Human Service Agency, Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space, Western Regional Water Commission

TWG Members (entities currently participating in Vegetation Management TWG meetings): Carson-Truckee Water Conservation District (CTWCD)[†], Truckee River Flood Management Authority*, City of Reno Parks and Recreation*, City of Reno Urban Forestry, City of Reno Public Works*, City of Sparks Public Works, Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space*, The Nature Conservancy*, Nevada Department of Agriculture[†], NDEP*, Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW)[†], Nevada Division of Forestry, Nevada Division of State Lands, NLT*, Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation*, Great Basin Institute[†], private resident, SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA), and Resource Concepts, Inc.

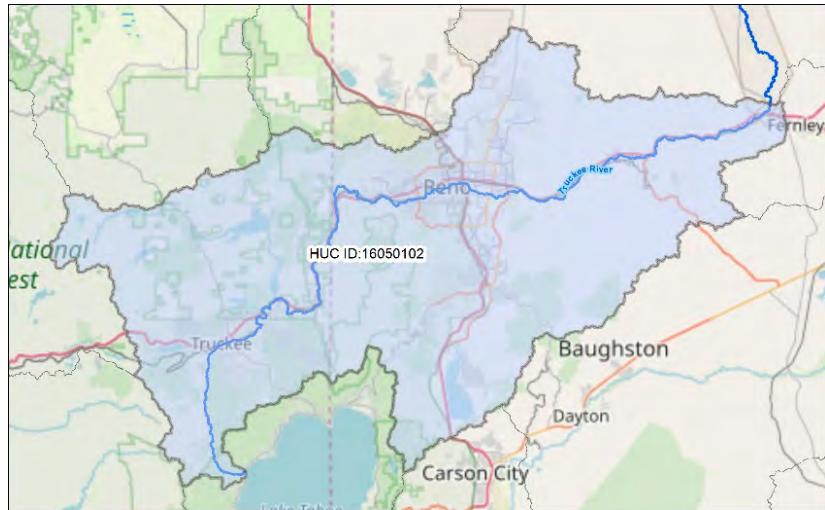


Figure 3. The project area is within a portion of HUC 16050102.

TWG Stakeholders (entities currently providing document review and/or interviews to support TWG efforts): TMWA*, City of Reno Police Department, Nevada Division of Water Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe*, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful*, Karma Box Project Targeted Stakeholders (entities that will be targeted for TWG engagement in this next phase of the vegetation management and restoration planning efforts): TMRPA*, City of Reno Fire Department, City of Reno Clean and Safe Team, City of Sparks Parks & Recreation, City of Sparks Fire Department, City of Sparks Police Department, City of Sparks Hope Team, Washoe County Sheriff's Hope Team, NDEP, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony*, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Community Foundation of Western Nevada*, Tahoe-Pyramid Trail, Recreational users (boaters, fisherman, and swimmers), Desert Research Institute, local businesses (Truckee River recreation), agricultural farmers near the Truckee River.

How to target affected stakeholders to ensure group represents a diverse set of stakeholders.

Through OTR's previous work to expand, diversify, and engage OTR's partnership base, new partners such as the CTWCD, NDOW, Great Basin Institute, Nevada Division of Forestry, and Nevada Division of State Lands became involved in the vegetation management planning effort. OTR intends to continue these efforts as the partnership's focus grows and changes, ensuring a diverse and representative group is always participating in management of the Truckee River. Some of the new groups OTR intends on engaging to execute the proposed project are those entities listed as Targeted Stakeholders above. U.S. Forest Service input on the project prioritization is particularly important since it manages two parcels within the project area. Engagement will be initiated by individually calling and meeting with new partners, and continued engagement will be tailored to meet the needs of the stakeholders.

Any other support demonstrating that the watershed group will include a diverse membership.

The Truckee River is a focal point for many social issues in the region, including recreation access and homelessness. OTR engaged additional groups to guide the partnership in addressing social issues responsibly and equitably. The installation of public bathrooms in key locations addresses water quality by



providing sanitary bathroom options, making less-prioritized river parks more accessible. Projects like this could not have been executed without collaboration with local organizations like Washoe County/Karma Box Project's River Stewards Program, that provide outreach to currently homeless populations along the river, encourage respectful use of parks, and take on river cleanup projects with the currently homeless population along the river. OTR staff plans to actively engage public safety, human services, and parks and recreation representatives throughout the proposed project to ensure restoration planning adequately engages disadvantaged and marginalized groups to involve them in the process and support success for restoration installed in the future, and that the needs of recreational users are also adequately considered. See the previous evaluation criteria responses (above) for details on membership diversity.

E.1.1.2. Sub-criterion No. A2. Geographic Scope

Provide a map illustrating the geographic boundaries in which the watershed group will work.

The proposed project area is defined by the Framework Plan, which aligns with Phase I of the OTRM Plan. The members of OTR that will be most involved in the proposed project are those with jurisdictional authority or interest in the parcels contained in the project area. These groups can be assumed to fall within the cities of Reno and Sparks or within Washoe County, and within a portion of HUC 16050102 (see Figures 2 and 3).

Extent to which the membership of the watershed group will represent the full geographic scope.

OTR has previously worked to engage partners within the entire course of the river and will continue to do so through its other efforts. The efforts proposed here focus on the stretch of the Truckee River within Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County (see Figure 2), which aligns with the scope of the OTRM Plan.

Efforts to ensure that the watershed group targets the full geographic scope of the watershed.

The proposed project scope and proposed project area will engage partners within the entire OTRM Plan Phase 1 area. The highest level of engagement will be with the Technical Working Group (TWG) members that developed the Framework Plan and with developing the Ecological Condition Index (ECI) and project prioritization matrix. All other interested parties will be encouraged to participate as appropriate and additional parties will be invited to join as necessary.

Describe why you have chosen to work within the watershed area you described.

The project area aligns with the scope of the Framework Plan which was created in accordance with Phase I of the OTRM Plan, focusing on the heavily used stretch of the river that flows through Washoe County, Reno, and Sparks. The Truckee Meadows Stormwater Permit Coordinating Committee already completes work on the tributaries of the larger watershed, so the proposed project will complement that ongoing work. The project will identify locations for future site-specific implementation projects. Future phases of the OTRM Plan will take a similar approach to address other segments of the river.

E.1.2. EVALUATION CRITERION B—ADDRESSING CRITICAL WATERSHED NEEDS

E.1.2.1. Sub-criterion No. B1. Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

Describe in detail the critical issues or needs occurring within the watershed.

The Truckee River watershed has been impacted by a wide range of human activities, and the river and its tributaries remain a critical resource for a variety of stakeholders. The upper reaches of the watershed in California are impacted by highways, railroads, historical grazing, mining, logging, and development. The middle portion of the watershed in Nevada has been heavily impacted by urban development and housing, industrial use, recreation, and urban runoff. The lower portion of the watershed is less developed, but water



quality has been impacted by upstream activities and hydrological modifications, grazing, agriculture, and railroad/highway expansion. The Truckee River was historically one of the most heavily litigated and managed systems in the United States in terms of water supply. Today, the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) supports flexible water management to alleviate many water operations and supply concerns in the area. While TROA has addressed many water supply issues, other critical issues within the watershed remain:

Water Quality and Supply: The Truckee River directly provides 85% of the drinking water to the Reno-Sparks region. The health and resiliency of the river and its watershed is critically important in maintaining a clean and reliable source of drinking water and to meet all beneficial uses of the river. NDEP designated beneficial uses of the river from the Nevada state line to Pyramid Lake, including irrigation, livestock watering, water-contact recreation, nonwater-contact recreation, industrial supply, municipal or domestic supply, wildlife propagation, and propagation of aquatic life. According to the 303(d) list, sections of the Truckee River are impaired for use by aquatic life for temperature, turbidity, nitrogen, and/or phosphorus, and one of those sections is impaired for use by water-contact recreation for nitrogen and phosphorus (see Figure 4 and sampling locations in Figure 2). While Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) have not been developed for those impairments, NDEP developed a TMDL in 1994 at Lockwood, Nevada (downstream of the proposed project area) to protect instream beneficial uses and the quality of Pyramid Lake. The TMDL includes total dissolved solids, total nitrogen, and total phosphorus. These impairments are due in part to accelerating development, stormwater runoff, hydrologic modification, removal of riparian vegetation, and bank erosion. The Truckee Meadows continues to urbanize and expand impermeable surfaces that increase stormwater runoff and non-point source pollutants. Residential landscaping practices can contribute high inputs of sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus to urban runoff. These non-point source pollutants from residential landscaping are not currently regulated under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, but can have significant impacts on the watershed. Therefore, it is critical that stakeholders in the region are proactive in preserving and enhancing water quality of the Truckee River, as the river provides essential beneficial uses to local communities for municipal water supply, irrigation, recreation, and aquatic life.

Ecological Resiliency: Historical and ongoing development, logging, wildfires, recreation, railroad and highway expansion, grazing, and mining have caused acute changes, including bank hardening and channelization of some stretches, loss and removal of native riparian vegetation, and proliferation of noxious and invasive weeds. There have been extensive river, riparian, and wetland restoration efforts in the California portion of the watershed and downstream of Truckee Meadows by the Truckee River Watershed Council and The Nature Conservancy, respectively. These efforts to restore instream habitat, rebuild natural geomorphology, reconnect the river to its floodplain, and restore native plant communities have improved water quality. However, the project area includes degraded aquatic and riparian habitat where restoration work is needed to improve ecological functions and water quality. While current development has constrained the alignment and morphology of the Truckee River within the project area, there are strategic opportunities to restore the structure and function of native and adapted vegetation, thereby improving water quality conditions in the project area and downstream.

Noxious and Invasive Species: Noxious and invasive weeds are common in the Truckee River watershed and compete with native species, increase fire risk, and are a nuisance for recreation, grazing, and agriculture. Species of high concern in Washoe County include medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*), tall whitetop (*Lepidium latifolium*), and yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), among others. Noxious and invasive weeds spread along the Truckee River corridor via the freeway, railroads, trails, and the river itself. Several organizations and local government agencies are working to manage and eradicate



weeds in the watershed, including volunteer and public outreach efforts to identify and remove these species. Noxious and invasive weeds still proliferate throughout the watershed, and cooperative integrated vegetation management is needed to address these issues. The proposed project will leverage the Framework Plan and the ECI to tackle the spread of weeds more strategically within the project area.

Threatened and Endangered Species: Pyramid Lake, the terminus of the Truckee River, is home to an endemic, federally endangered fish species, the cui-ui sucker (cui-ui), and the federally threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout. Because Pyramid Lake is a terminal lake, the water quality of the Truckee River is critical to these sensitive species as any constituents in the river water have no outlet once they enter the lake. Both fish species swim up the Truckee River to spawn and are impacted by high river temperature and low flows. Aquatic habitat conditions in the Truckee River (particularly shading from vegetation within the project area) will become more important for the fishery, as the upstream migration to Lake Tahoe by Lahontan cutthroat trout is restored. Other listed species in the range of the proposed project area are the endangered Carson wandering skipper and the candidate monarch butterfly.

Flooding: Following devastating floods in the Reno-Sparks area in 1997, the Truckee Meadows Flood Management Project was formed to address regional flooding. The Truckee River Basin Study, completed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) in 2021, indicates that climate change will likely impact the hydrology of the Truckee River watershed, by intensifying the hydrologic cycle and possibly leading to more extreme droughts and flooding. Flooding remains a concern in the region; however, the Truckee Meadows Flood Management Project continues to create flood protection infrastructure, protect flood-prone lands from development, and restore ecosystem functions within the river.

E.1.2.2. Sub-criterion No. B2. Developing Strategies to Address Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

Describe how the group plans to positively contribute to the management of the issues and needs.

Water Quality and Supply: This proposed project will identify project locations for restoration and watershed improvement and will further prioritize those projects that would produce the greatest benefits to water quality and support beneficial uses such as municipal water supply, fisheries, and recreation. Improving the health of the riparian corridor will improve the conservation of water (both water volume and water quality) along the mainstem of the Truckee River. Specifically, this effort will compile relevant water quality data (Task 1) to prioritize those projects that will stabilize riverbanks, improve health of riparian vegetation (including shading), and intercept urban runoff, thereby addressing 303(d) listed segments of the river that are impaired for temperature, turbidity, and nutrients (Task 2).

Ecological Resiliency: This proposed project will support increased ecological resiliency by collaboratively prioritizing watershed restoration projects and building momentum for site-specific implementation planning. Eventual implementation of restoration and vegetation management (which are identified in the existing Framework Plan) within the prioritized project locations will create far-reaching improvements to aquatic habitat structure and resilience to the impacts of climate change and an intensifying hydrologic cycle.

Noxious and Invasive Species: The existing Framework Plan identifies best management practices to address noxious and invasive species. These efforts will help to identify the locations of problematic non-native infestations, so that those locations can be prioritized for integrated pest management and restoration of native vegetation (Tasks 1 and 2).



303(D) LISTED					
	STATE LINE TO IDLEWILD	IDLEWILD TO E. MCCARRAN	E. MCCARRAN TO LOCKWOOD	LOCKWOOD TO DERBY	DERBY TO WADSWORTH
Aquatic Life					
Irrigation					
Muni-Ind Supply					
Recreation Contact					
Temperature					
Beryllium					
Boron					
Nitrogen					
Phosphorus					
Turbidity					

Figure 4. NDEP’s 303(d) listing for impaired water quality of the Truckee River (NDEP 2022). Lockwood, Derby, and Wadsworth are all downstream (and outside) of the project area.

Endangered Species: Efforts to address water quality (see above) will benefit the federally endangered cui-ui and federally threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout. Likewise, efforts to address ecological resiliency, especially restoration, vegetation management, and noxious and invasive species management (see explanations above) will benefit these species (Tasks 1 and 2).

Flooding: This effort will identify watershed management projects within the project area that would improve the floodway conditions of the mainstem of the Truckee River. NLT and OTR staff and consultants will continue to coordinate directly with the CTWCD and the Truckee River Flood Management Authority through this effort to ensure that the newly collected data and project prioritization identify the bank maintenance activities that are most critical to addressing flooding and property damage concerns (Tasks 1 and 2). Protecting and cultivating healthy riparian vegetation is key to ensuring riverbanks remain stable within the Truckee River regulated floodway.

Funding Opportunity Task B: Watershed Restoration Planning

Describe activities that are an important step to address the critical watershed needs and issues.

The project area has been strongly impacted by urban development, industrial use, recreation, use by homeless populations, and urban runoff. These physical impacts from human activity have caused damage to and loss of native vegetation that stabilizes the banks of this stretch of the river, leading to severe erosion and soil loss in some areas. The eroding slopes cause a feedback cycle of continued soil and vegetation loss. This is a critical concern for public safety and water quality and has contributed to degradation of water quality and ecological function within this portion of the river.

OTR and its TWG developed the Framework Plan to provide strategies for addressing these issues and the group is now looking to devise a process to strategically implement the plan as to most effectively target the issues described above. To do this, OTR’s consultants will assess aquatic and riparian conditions within the project area through desktop analyses supplemented by fieldwork where necessary. The assessment will inform the prioritization of restoration and vegetation management projects to follow. The proposed project



will create a geodatabase of new and existing data to inform multi-jurisdictional management of the river. The effort will apply an objective and quantitative method to evaluate the riparian and aquatic conditions of the river and combine these data with urban planning and demographic information to identify and prioritize locations for watershed restoration. The planning tools will greatly enhance the availability of data and help to ensure that the projects implemented in the future offer the greatest benefit to the watershed.

How will the group gather information regarding the critical issues and needs of the watershed?

Synthesis of data regarding the critical issues and needs of the watershed is central to this proposal because the Truckee River, particularly the project area, has been heavily studied to address water quality, flood conveyance, and water rights allocations issues. Leveraging its partners and local network, OTR's consultants will compile the relevant spatial datasets, including elevation, hydrology, soils, wetland, aquatic habitat, aquatic wildlife presence or populations, water quality, and other data. The data will be compiled in GIS and a baseline of river and riparian condition will be established. OTR's contractors will also collect field survey data to fill critical baseline data gaps. The surveys will focus on the ecological condition of the river, including riverbank stability, vegetative cover, and aquatic factors. Additional urban planning data will be collected to provide context for the project area, including new and proposed development, public access areas, and undeveloped areas that could be considered for preservation. OTR staff will further engage public safety, human and social services partners, and recreational groups to ensure project priorities and restoration plans are realistic and sustainable, given the challenges of human use in the area.

Will the group identify opportunities to resolve conflicts? If so, how?

OTR's approach to partner engagement is one of building consensus, which will continue in this project. While OTR recognizes that not all conflicts can be resolved immediately, its leaders have and will continue to identify potential conflicts of competing interests between partners and work with parties to come to workable solutions. With several overlapping jurisdictions within the project area, conflict in prioritization is a concern but through thoughtful meeting facilitation and realistic expectations, the partnership expects to navigate conflicts. Moreover, OTR has designed a prioritization approach that can be adapted to meet the needs of each user.

OTR has already demonstrated success in conflict resolution through its previous OTRM planning efforts. One of the greatest challenges facing restoration efforts along the river is the flood conveyance restrictions within the 14,000-cfs conveyance zone, which is the jurisdiction of the CTWCD. Many types of native riparian species are not directly compatible with the 14,000-cfs zone, and those species that are compatible with the conveyance zone may not be compatible with management of public safety in the project area. Through the efforts of OTR's Vegetation Management TWG, development of the Framework Plan, and preliminary planning of a restoration pilot project in the area (at Brodhead Park in Reno), OTR is working with the CTWCD, public safety, and other entities with jurisdiction over the river to identify species and vegetation management techniques that are compatible within the regulatory constraints of various stretches of the river. OTR has found that open and collaborative communication has been the key to building consensus, resolving conflicts, and developing creative solutions.

Will the group complete an analysis to prioritize issues within the restoration plan?

As described above, the group will complete a desktop analysis of existing data and enhance it by collecting additional field-based data. The data will be compiled to create a geodatabase of relevant data for future uses (see Task 1). In collaboration with the TWG, OTR consultants will use these data to develop an ECI and combine the outcomes of the index with urban planning and demographic data to develop a Project Prioritization Tool that will produce a Project Priorities Matrix (that can be adapted for each jurisdiction) through the work of Task 2 for the TWG and greater OTR Partnership.



Describe previous efforts and how the group will expand upon them through the proposed work.

Completing the thorough analysis and purposely prioritizing parcels for restoration builds on numerous local efforts. External projects, like the OTRM Plan and the 2020 Integrated Source Water and 319(h) Watershed Protection Plan provide complementary planning for segments of the watershed not being directly addressed in the Framework Plan. Development of the Framework Plan was funded through Reclamation’s CWMP Phase I (Funding Opportunity: BOR-DO-19-F010) and provides a “cookbook” and support tools for planning restoration implementation projects within the project area. An implementation pilot project is currently underway at an urban river park (Brodhead Park) and will inform the effectiveness of different practices described in the Framework Plan. This proposed project will expand and build upon the Framework Plan and the pilot restoration project by using data compilation and collection and an objective approach to identify project locations for implementation to optimize benefits to the watershed.

E.1.3. EVALUATION CRITERION C—IMPLEMENTATION AND RESULTS

E.1.3.1. Sub-criterion No. C1. Project Implementation

Describe plan for implementing the proposed scope of work.

Table 1 summarizes project milestones, tasks/activities, timeline, and costs.

Table 1. Proposed Milestones, Activities/Tasks, Timeline, Deliverables, and Costs

YEAR, MILESTONES	ACTIVITY/TASK, DESCRIPTION	TIMELINE	TEAM MEMBERS	OUTCOMES & DELIVERABLES	RECLAMATION COSTS
Year 1 Project Management/ Administration	Support all activities/tasks				\$14,337
Project management time	General project coordination	Months 1–12	NLT, OTR, consultants	Project emails/notes	
Financial reporting Year 1	Financial administration and reporting	Months 3, 6, 9, 11	NLT	4 financial reports (SF-425)	
Interim performance report preparation	Track and report performance	Months 3, 6, 9, 12	NLT and consultants	4 interim performance reports	
270-day sufficiency report	Track and report performance	Month 9	NLT and consultants	1 sufficiency report	
Year 1 Synthesize Data	Task 1: Activities 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D				\$85,662
Contracting time	Hire contractor	Months 1–2	NLT	Signed contract for work	



YEAR, MILESTONES	ACTIVITY/TASK, DESCRIPTION	TIMELINE	TEAM MEMBERS	OUTCOMES & DELIVERABLES	RECLAMATION COSTS
Use Framework Plan to identify restoration objectives and indicators	Define indicators that will quantitatively address each identified objective	Months 3–4	Consultants	List of objectives and indicators	
Collaborate with TWG and other stakeholders	Gather input and develop an approach to compile and collect indicator data	Months 3–4	OTR, NLT, Consultants	Memo identifying approach for data compilation and collection	
Compile current spatial data	Work with TMRPA to compile spatial data relevant to watershed planning	Months 4–5	Consultants and TMRPA	Compiled dataset	
Collect data to fill baseline gaps	Conduct targeted field data collection to strengthen indicators or aquatic and riparian condition	Months 6–9	Consultants	Mapping and water quality data to characterize riparian and aquatic conditions and additional urban planning data	
Generate geodatabase and analyze results	Work with TMRPA to create GIS database compiling all data to be used for prioritization analysis	Months 10–12	Consultants and TMRPA	Comprehensive geodatabase with all relevant new and existing datasets	
Year 2 Project Management/ Administration	Support all activities/tasks				\$14,596
Project management time	General project coordination	Months 13–24	NLT, OTR, consultants	Project emails/notes	
Financial Reporting Year 1	Financial administration and reporting	Months 15, 18, 20	NLT	4 financial reports (SF-425)	
Interim performance report preparation	Track and report performance	Months 15, 18, 21	NLT and consultants	4 interim performance reports	



YEAR, MILESTONES	ACTIVITY/TASK, DESCRIPTION	TIMELINE	TEAM MEMBERS	OUTCOMES & DELIVERABLES	RECLAMATION COSTS
Final Performance Report	Track and report performance for the entire project (Years 1 and 2); report will address future tasks (as described for Activity 2D)	Months 22–24	NLT and consultants	Final Performance Report	
Year 2 Project Prioritization	Task 2: Activities 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D				\$85,402
Create a draft Ecological Condition Index (ECI)	Use the geodatabase to develop quantitative indicators of ecological condition and develop scoring method	Months 13–14	Consultants	Draft ECI	
Solicit input from TWG members through interviews	Gather opinions on watershed needs, opportunities, and draft ECI	Months 14–15	Consultants and OTR	Notes from interviews	
Meeting logistics (initial TWG input meeting)	NLT staff coordinates logistics for TWG meeting venue, timing, attendees	Month 14	NLT	Meeting plans solidified	
TWG Input Meeting	Meeting will solicit additional input and agency priorities from TWG	Month 15	NLT, OTR, and consultants	Meeting minutes and attendee list	
Draft Project Prioritization Tool and Project Priorities Matrix	Collaboratively develop tool and matrix considering ECI scores, public need, and management opportunities	Month 16–19	Consultants	Draft Project Prioritization Tool and Project Priorities Matrix	
Meeting logistics (second TWG input meeting)	NLT staff coordinates logistics for TWG meeting venue, timing, attendees	Month 19	NLT	Meeting plans solidified	



YEAR, MILESTONES	ACTIVITY/TASK, DESCRIPTION	TIMELINE	TEAM MEMBERS	OUTCOMES & DELIVERABLES	RECLAMATION COSTS
Second TWG input meeting to solidify project priorities	Review project priorities matrix and develop strategy for implementing and funding projects	Month 20	NLT, OTR, and Consultants	Meeting minutes and attendee list	
Draft deliverable to leverage Framework Plan	Deliverable will summarize outcomes of the project and be informed by EPA's nine minimum elements of a successful watershed plan	Months 20–22	Consultants	Draft deliverable to be integrated into Framework Plan	
Final deliverable to leverage Framework Plan	Solicit written input on draft deliverable from TWG and other stakeholders; incorporate feedback into final deliverable	Months 23–24	Consultants and OTR	Final deliverable integrated into Framework Plan	
Total Estimated Project Costs					\$199,997

E.1.3.2. Sub-criterion No. C2. Building on Relevant Federal, State, or Regional Planning Efforts

Describe how the proposed activities that are part of this grant project will complement, build upon, or meet the goals of relevant Federal, state, or regional planning efforts.

There are many current and ongoing planning efforts in the Truckee River watershed. The proposed activities would complement these plans and build upon the previous efforts, including:

Water Reliability in the West – 2021 SECURE Water Act Report. This Reclamation report provides an assessment of climate change impacts to water uses in the West and describes the collaborative actions taken to increase the reliability of water and power deliveries since 2016. This report specifically identifies the Truckee River basin as a major Reclamation river basin and guides many local efforts, including OTR's.

The 2020 Integrated Source Water and 319(h) Watershed Protection Plan. This plan is a tool developed by multiple stakeholders to help preserve and improve the quality of groundwater, lakes, rivers, springs, and streams that supply drinking water to the general public. This voluntary multi-jurisdictional planning effort is organized on a watershed basis for the Truckee River through the Truckee Meadows. Because the river and local aquifers comprise the drinking water sources for most of the population of Washoe County, watershed management goes hand in hand in with protecting source water quality. These project profiles include the information needed, to the extent practical, as identified in the EPA guidance for nine critical elements for an endorsable watershed management plan. Strategies to protect and improve water quality were developed for watersheds and source water protection areas to address water quality



concerns. The plan includes the nine critical elements as defined by the EPA's Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect our Waters.

Drought Contingency Plan: The TMWA (primary water purveyor for the Reno-Sparks area) completed an update to its Drought Contingency Plan, funded by a Reclamation WaterSMART: Drought Contingency Planning grant (2020). This plan was collaboratively created to comply with Nevada Revised Statutes 540.141 that requires a plan for water conservation and includes a contingency plan for drought conditions that ensures supply of potable water and defines relevant risks and vulnerabilities.

Truckee River Flood Management Authority Protection Plan: This plan was developed in coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to identify projects to decrease flooding by enhancing and working with the dynamic natural functions of the river. The plan focuses mainly on the urban core of Reno and Sparks where low bridges and outdated floodwalls cause flooding during high river flows.

TMWA 2020–2040 Water Resource Plan: The TMWA completes this plan every 5 years to understand the broad range of future conditions for the water supply and then diligently plan for the potential scenarios. The region's population growth and climate variation are of central importance to the latest version of this document and will inform other local planning efforts like this one.

Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency Natural Resources Plan: TMRPA recently completed their Truckee Meadows Regional Plan. Within that plan, the agency identified a need to develop a Natural Resources Plan for the Truckee Meadows that will include water resources (to be completed in 2024).

One Truckee River Management Plan: The OTRM Plan (Phase 1) was completed and approved by local entities in 2016. It covers the mainstem Truckee River through Reno and Sparks in Nevada. The plan identifies four goals and dozens of action items to improve water quality, ecology, human services, and more. See details on the plans and goals in the Project Description.

Framework Vegetation Management and Restoration Plan: OTR and NLT developed a plan that identifies vegetation management strategies that are compatible with the varying regulatory constraints of the project area and address the challenges of restoration in an urban environment. This work was previously funded through Reclamation's WaterSMART CWMP (2020).

E.1.4. EVALUATION CRITERION D—PRESIDENTIAL/DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR PRIORITIES

Sub-criterion No. E1. Climate Change

Provide specific details on how the project will address the impacts of climate change.

Data show Reno is one of the fastest warming cities in the arid West, and the area is experiencing harsh climate impacts: more frequent wildfires, persistent drought, increased flood risk, and intensifying summer heat. Most of the region's water supply comes from snowmelt in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Irregular annual snowfall patterns and earlier snowmelt puts the Truckee River watershed at the center of future impacts, including water supply impacts to biodiversity, ecosystem function, and water quality.

By strategically applying the Framework Plan and through the projects prioritized through in this effort, the Truckee River will be more resilient to changes associated with a warming climate. The proposed restoration planning will identify strategies and project locations where soil erosion may be mitigated to decrease sediment delivery to the river, thereby addressing water quality impairments (turbidity and temperature) and the needs of aquatic species. Plans to restore more native plants will help control the invasive weeds that proliferate with a warming climate. The planning process will consider enhancing the structure of the riparian zone, especially shading, as a desired outcome to reduce the impacts of



evaporative water losses. The restoration planning effort will further consider conveyance zones and flood hazards with the goal of accommodating flood conveyance to protect infrastructure and residents.

Does this proposed project strengthen water supply sustainability to increase resilience?

The Truckee River provides 85% of the drinking water to Truckee Meadows residents, so making the river more resilient to climate change helps to protect the water quality of the region's main source of drinking water. This project will complement other regional water supply plans like the TROA, the Integrated Watershed Protection Plan, and the Truckee River Drought Contingency Plan (see above).

Sub-criterion No. E2. Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities

Will the proposed project serve or benefit a disadvantaged or underserved communities?

The proposed project area consists of a socioeconomically diverse community, with certain regions falling within the definitions of "disadvantaged" and/or "historically underserved communities". Census data from 2015–2019 shows the City of Reno as a disadvantaged community, with a median household income of \$58,790 compared to the State of Nevada's average \$60,365. However, these socioeconomic disadvantages are more pronounced along many urban segments of the Truckee River, where the average median household income ranges from \$20,000 to \$40,000.

Adjacent to the disadvantaged river segment near downtown Reno is the only urban census tract in Washoe County with a significant population of Native Americans, making up 22.1% of the population, an area that includes the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC). The largest tribal population in the watershed is at its terminus within the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Reservation, where 77.2% of the population is Native American according to census data. These tribal communities have been historically underserved in northern Nevada and experience a disproportionate impact from river management upstream.

Benefits to the urban communities include opportunities for economic growth through increased visitation to riverside communities, enhanced public safety along trails and paths, continued commitment to decreasing flood risk, identifying strategies to combat homelessness, and additional relief from other persistent environmental stressors. Benefits to downstream communities include enhanced water quality and protection of natural and cultural resources tied to the river.

Please describe how the community is disadvantaged based on a combination of variables.

Low income, high and/or persistent poverty: Many of the riverside communities in the cities of Reno and Sparks experience high levels of poverty relative to the surrounding area. There are four census tracts along the urban stretch of the river where 30% to 40% of the population is experiencing poverty, and an additional seven census tracts where 20% to 30% of the population is experiencing poverty. A distressed neighborhood is one where over 30% of its residents are experiencing poverty, therefore these tracts either fall into this category or may soon be in this category as cost of living in the region increases.

High Housing Cost Burden and Substandard Housing: Median home prices have recently risen above \$600,000 and average median income remains at under \$60,000, making home ownership out of reach for many of the region's residents. Renting is also expensive. In Washoe County, 46.3% of renters spend more than 30% of their income on rent, and that number is closer to 60% for many census tracts along the river.

Disproportionate Environmental Stressor Burden: The region is one of the fastest warming cities in the country and is subject to regular and persistent drought. Communities along the river feel an unequal share of these impacts due to less access to air conditioning, as the highest concentration of houses built prior to 1950 exist in census tracts along the urban stretch of the river. During heavy precipitation, neighborhoods



along the river have the greatest risk of serious flooding and related damage, as occurred in 1997 and 2006. An intensifying hydrological cycle is expected to increase flooding and drought in the coming century.

Access to Healthcare: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data show that nearly 20% of Washoe County residents lacked health insurance in 2019. Many neighborhoods along the project area have limited access to greenspace, which is shown to be a contributor to the mental health of residents.

Provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the community meets the underserved definition.

As detailed in Sub-criterion No. E.3, the proposed project will directly benefit underserved communities that meet the definition in E.O. 13985. Specifically, this work will benefit communities along the river with significant Native American populations that have experienced persistent poverty. The RSIC is located along the Truckee River mainstem, and the terminus of the river at Pyramid Lake is home to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (PLPT). **RSIC and PLPT have historically been culturally, socioeconomically, and in some cases geographically isolated and disadvantaged compared with other northern Nevada communities.** Improving resiliency and water quality of the Truckee River and Pyramid Lake will benefit the cultural resources, economic and other beneficial uses the river and lake provide to tribal members.

E.1.5. Sub-criterion No. E.3. Tribal Benefits

Does the proposed project directly serve and/or benefit a Tribe or Tribal water management?

The Truckee River watershed is a terminal river system flowing from Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake. Pyramid Lake is entirely within PLPT's jurisdiction, and both the lake and the river hold historical and cultural significance for the Tribe. As a terminal basin, all upstream river activities have an impact on the terminus and water quality issues compound because constituents in the river water have no outlet once they enter the lake. Tribal water quality standards are stringent, so effective restoration and management within Reno and Sparks makes those standards more achievable. The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe is a partner of the OTR Partnership and OTR staff regularly communicate with the Tribe regarding their Water Quality Control Plan and how the Partnership can best serve their work.

Water diversions and pollution have affected recovery efforts of the two listed fish species in the watershed, the cui-ui and Lahontan cutthroat trout; both are important to tribal culture and traditional way of life. OTR supports these recovery efforts with projects upstream when possible, including the work proposed here.

Additionally, the RSIC Tribal Health Center is on the river in downtown Reno and provides one of the main tribal offices within the city. Like the PLPT, the RSIC has strong ties to health and resilience of the river (as the RSIC community is adjacent to the river) and they are active partners in the OTR Partnership. Their community is just as impacted by climate change, flooding, and other environmental stressors as other river-adjacent residents. Restoring the Truckee River within the project area will provide improved outdoor access to the community and reduce illegal dumping in the river adjacent to their properties.

Does the proposed project support Tribal resilience to climate change or other Tribal benefits?

As described above, this project will address water quality issues within the project area, yielding impacts downstream at Pyramid Lake, having public health benefits for the tribal community surrounding the lake and direct impacts to the RSIC community adjacent to the mainstem of the Truckee River in Reno.



OVERLAP OR DUPLICATION OF EFFORT STATEMENT

This work is not duplicative of any other proposed efforts. However, OTR received \$20,000 in funding from the CTWCD to conduct a conditions assessment of the riverbanks within its 14,000-cfs jurisdiction. OTR will use this work as a springboard to support the field data collection described for Activity 1C (see Technical Proposal and Approach).

PROJECT BUDGET

BUDGET PROPOSAL

The Total Project Cost is summarized in Tables 2 and 3 and further detailed in Table 4. A narrative with detailed information for all project costs is provided in the following section (*Budget Narrative*).

Table 2. Funding Sources

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Non-Federal Entities	
N/A	\$0
Requested Reclamation Funding	\$0

Table 3. Total Project Costs

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Costs to be reimbursed with the requested federal funding	\$199,997
Costs to be paid by the applicant	\$0
Value of third-party contributions	\$21,500
Total Project Cost	\$221,497

Table 4. Budget Proposal

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	\$/UNIT	QTY TYPE	QTY	RECLAMATION REQUEST	VALUE OF THIRD PARTY CONTRIB.	TOTAL COST
Salaries and Wages						
NLT Executive Director	\$58	hour	75.0	\$4,312.50		\$4,312.50
NLT Finance Manager	\$38	hour	120.0	\$4,500.00		\$4,500.00
NLT Program Coordinator (stipend)	\$25	hour	335.0	\$8,375.00		\$8,375.00
Fringe Benefits						
None				N/A	N/A	N/A



WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	\$/UNIT	QTY TYPE	QTY	RECLAMATION REQUEST	VALUE OF THIRD PARTY CONTRIB.	TOTAL COST
Travel						
Equipment						
Supplies and Materials						
Snacks for 2 TWG meetings (NLT)	\$150.00	meeting	2.0	\$300.00		\$300.00
WQ sensor rental (oxygen, temperature, water quality) (SWCA)	\$2,775.00	weekly rental	1.0	\$2,775.00		\$2,775.00
Water quality sampling supplies (SWCA)	\$550.00	sampling period	1.0	\$550.00		\$550.00
Point cloud data purchase						
Contractual						
SWCA Principal Investigator and Technical						



BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	\$/UNIT	QTY TYPE	QTY	RECLAMATION REQUEST	VALUE OF THIRD PARTY CONTRIB.	TOTAL COST
Water Quality Lab						
		sample				
Periphyton Lab Analyses						
Third Party In Kind Contributions						
Meeting facility (donated)						
Other						
Total Direct Costs				\$193,145.26	\$21,500	\$214,645.26
Indirect Costs				\$ 6851.75	\$0	\$ 6851.75
Total Estimated Project Costs						
				\$199,997.01	\$21,500.00	\$221,497.01

BUDGET NARRATIVE

As a founding member of the OTR Partnership, the Nevada Land Trust (NLT) will lead this proposed project on behalf of the OTR Partnership. This budget includes labor allocated for NLT’s staff, along with contractual labor for other individuals who will be supporting this effort, including OTR and contracted consultants.

The effort proposed here will result in an expansion of the existing Framework Plan (as described in the Technical Proposal). To ensure project continuity, NLT prefers to procure the services of their existing consultants who have led the Framework Plan (SWCA Environmental Consultants [SWCA] and Resource Concepts, Inc. [RCI] with support from the Desert Research Institute [DRI]) to complete this next phase of



the watershed planning work. If NLT is awarded funding through this opportunity, NLT staff will perform a cost analysis to show that competitive selections will be cost-prohibitive. For example, the onboarding process for contracting of a new consultant who lacks an understanding of project history and stakeholder engagement is expected to be cost prohibitive.

OTR COORDINATED VEGETATION MANAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

The proposed work will largely be directed by the existing OTR's Coordinated Vegetation Management Steering Committee, which includes the core individuals listed below. The specific roles for these individuals and other key roles are described in the following Project Roles and Associated Labor Costs section (below).

- Alicia Reban, NLT Executive Director
- Iris Jehle-Peppard, OTR Executive Director
- John Houk, NLT Project Manager
- Lynn Zonge, Resource Concepts, Inc., and OTR President
- Mandy Bengtson, SWCA Environmental Consultants
- Susan Mortenson, SWCA Environmental Consultants

PROJECT ROLES AND ASSOCIATED LABOR COSTS

Labor costs including salary and wages for NLT staff and contractual labor for other project team members are described in the sections below. Roles and responsibilities for individuals are also provided as context.

NLT (Salaries and Wages)

NLT will be responsible for:

- Contract administration (working directly with Reclamation) and administration of contracts to OTR and consulting contractors
- Overall project management
- Submission of financial and progress reports
- Program administration of the TWG and TWG meetings

Roles, responsibilities, and budgeted hours for NLT staff includes those listed below.

NLT Executive Director (Alicia Reban) will be responsible for all grant administration and direct communication with Reclamation and participate in steering committee meetings and TWG meetings. (Hourly Rate: \$57.50; 25 hours in Year 1 [\$1,438], 50 hours Year 2 [\$2,875]).

NLT Accountant (Kim Pezonella) will be responsible for all project accounting and financial reporting to Reclamation. (Hourly Rate: \$37.50; 61 hours in Year 1 [\$2,273], 59 hours Year 2 [\$2,228])

NLT Project Manager (John Houk) will oversee project management for NLT (including direct communication with all contracted consultants and preparation of progress reports), participate in all steering committee meetings, and organize all TWG meetings and communication with TWG members. (Hourly Rate: \$25; 150 hours in Year 1 [\$3,750], 185 hours Year 2 [\$4,625])



OTR (Contractual)

OTR staff will be responsible for coordination and communication with the members of the OTR Partnership (especially human services, public safety, parks department) to build positive relationships and to ensure efficacy of planning (i.e., how to navigate conflicts related to restoration and vegetation management). Roles, responsibilities, and budgeted hours for OTR staff include those listed below.

OTR Executive Director (Iris Jehle-Peppard) will support one-on-one engagement of new and existing stakeholders. She will also participate in steering committee meetings and TWG meetings. (Hourly Rate: \$75; 43 hours in Year 1 [\$3,225], 150 hours Year 2 [\$11,250])

OTR Accountant (Kari Hawkins) will manage billing and accounting for OTR. (Hourly Rate: \$50; 36 hours in Year 1 [\$1,800], 36 hours Year 2 [\$1,800])

TMRPA (Contractual)

TMRPA will lead efforts to compile spatial data to support the planning effort. TMRPA will further manage long-term storage of this spatial dataset and ensure the data collected and compiled through this effort can be used to support future watershed restoration planning efforts (i.e., making the collective geodatabase a public resource). TMRPA has requested a lump sum stipend of \$15,000 to support staff hours and data hosting costs (\$7,500 in Year 1; \$7,500 in Year 2).

SWCA (Contractual)

NLT prefers to have SWCA continue as the primary environmental consultant, providing technical leadership for the project and facilitating all steering committee and TWG meetings. Roles, responsibilities, and budgeted hours for SWCA staff are as follows:

Principal Investigator and Meeting Facilitator (Mandy Bengtson) will oversee all technical aspects of the project in coordination with the OTR and NLT and will serve as SWCA's project manager. She will lead all TWG meetings and stakeholder interviews and will guide and contribute to the development of the deliverables and other documents. She will lead development of all performance reports. (Hourly Rate: \$135.24; 186 hours in Year 1 [\$25,172], 219 hours Year 2 [\$29,618])

Senior Restoration Ecologist (Susan Mortenson) will participate in all technical aspects of the project in coordination with the OTR Partnership Coordinator. She will participate as a technical expert in all TWG meetings and stakeholder meetings, participate in all stakeholder interviews, and be the lead author of technical deliverables and documents. (Hourly Rate: \$126.04; 207 hours in Year 1 [\$26,049], 182 hours Year 2 [\$22,979])

Senior GIS Specialist (William Whitehead) will oversee generation of new spatial datasets developed through this proposed effort and help coordinate with TMRPA to ensure data meet the standards and formatting needs of TMRPA. (Hourly Rate: \$126.04; 40 hours in Year 1 [\$5,041], 58.5 hours Year 2 [\$7,373])

Technical Editor/Formatter (Linda Tucker-Burfitt) will copy edit and format all documents and performance reports produced for this project, ensuring all documents are reliable, visually appealing, and accurate. (Hourly Rate: \$126.04; 0 hours in Year 1 [\$0.00], 12 hours Year 2 [\$1,513])

RCI (Contractual, subcontractor to SWCA)

Principal Hydrologist/Ecologist (Lynn Zonge) will provide high-level technical oversight for the entire project. She will participate in all TWG meetings as a subject matter expert and will provide senior review of



all documents and will participate in steering committee and TWG meetings. (Hourly Rate: \$150; 15 hours in Year 1 [\$2,250], 25 hours Year 2 [\$3,750])

DRI (Contractual, subcontractor to SWCA)

Principal Water Quality Specialist (Jim Brock) will provide high-level technical oversight water quality analyses. He will participate in TWG meetings and will help guide and lead water quality data collection and will contribute to technical deliverables. (Hourly Rate: \$54.76; 100 hours in Year 1 [\$5,476], 20 hours Year 2 [\$1,095])

Laboratory Analyses (Contractual, subcontractor to SWCA)

Laboratory analysis costs (subcontracts) are as follows: Water quality (\$2,750), Macroinvertebrate/Periphyton (\$2,850). All analyses will be performed by an outside analytical laboratory, as a subcontract to SWCA during Year 1.

SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

Snacks for two TWG meetings (NLT): NLT will provide light snacks and non-alcoholic beverages at TWG meetings for an estimated cost of \$150/meeting for two meetings (\$300 total).

Equipment rental (SWCA): SWCA will rent sensors to perform the strategic water quality data collection during Year 1 (as described in the proposal); sensor rental includes a water quality sonde and O₂ and temperature probes (total rental cost \$2,775).

Sampling supplies and permit (SWCA): Approximately \$500 in supplies (consumables) will be needed for SWCA to complete the proposed water quality, periphyton, and macroinvertebrate sampling; a \$50 scientific collections permit from Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) (for aquatic macroinvertebrate sampling) will also be required (\$550 total).

Point cloud data purchase (SWCA): SWCA will purchase point cloud data to support spatial analyses (i.e., to develop a current map of vegetation canopy structure and presence of exposed bare soil). The cost for these data (provided in subscription format for further processing and spatial output generation) is \$2,000.

TRAVEL

Travel costs includes car rental and fuel for SWCA staff to complete fieldwork in Year 1 (\$1,140) and car rental for DRI staff for fieldwork in Year 1 (\$200).

INDIRECT COSTS

NLT, OTR, SWCA, and DRI have the following indirect costs:

- **NLT:** 10% indirect on all wages and salary (\$1,718.75 total)
- **OTR:** 5% indirect on staff wages (\$904.00 total)
- **SWCA:** 5% indirect on subcontractors materials, supplies, travel expenses (\$1,385.00 total)
- **DRI:** 42% indirect (federally negotiated rate) on all personnel and other expenses (\$2,844.00 total)

FUNDING PLAN AND COST SHARE

As detailed in Tables 2, 3, and 4, the project will be funded through a combination of support from Reclamation through WaterSMART CWMP Phase 1 Grants and third-party contributions. OTR is



requesting a total of \$199,997 from Reclamation. Third-party contributions are expected to total \$21,500. The total project cost from these two sources will be \$221,497.

It is expected that a meeting facility for all three project meetings will be provided by one of the TWG members/partners. The value of this cost-share match is \$500/meeting for three meetings for a total of \$1,500. OTR has also received \$20,000 from the Carson-Truckee Water Conservancy District (CTWCD) to support the survey efforts (riverbank mapping) described in Task 2 of the Approach, which will be considered match for this effort. A letter from the CTWCD describing their financial support is provided as the first of the attached letters of support.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE

To allow Reclamation to assess the probable environmental and cultural resources impacts and costs associated with each application, all applicants should consider the following list of questions focusing on the NEPA, ESA, and NHPA requirements. Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge. If any question is not applicable to the project, please explain why. The application should include the answers to:

- Will the proposed project impact the surrounding environment (e.g., soil [dust], air, water [quality and quantity], animal habitat)? Please briefly describe all earth-disturbing work and any work that will affect the air, water, or animal habitat in the project area. Please also explain the impacts of such work on the surrounding environment and any steps that could be taken to minimize the impacts.

No earth-disturbing work will occur.

- Are you aware of any species listed or proposed to be listed as a Federal threatened or endangered species, or designated critical habitat in the project area? If so, would they be affected by any activities associated with the proposed project?

Federally listed species occur in the area but none will be impacted by the surveys or data compilation/analysis proposed here.

- Are there wetlands or other surface waters inside the project boundaries that potentially fall under CWA jurisdiction as "Waters of the United States"? If so, please describe and estimate any impacts the proposed project may have.

Waters of the U.S. do occur in the area but no earth-disturbing activities will occur, so no impacts will occur.

- When was the water delivery system constructed?

No water delivery system will be analyzed or impacted through this effort.

- Will the proposed project result in any modification of or effects to, individual features of an irrigation system (e.g., headgates, canals, or flumes)? If so, state when those features were constructed and describe the nature and timing of any extensive alterations or modifications to those features completed previously.

No earth-disturbing work will occur so no modifications to irrigation system features will occur.



- Are any buildings, structures, or features in the irrigation district listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places? A cultural resources specialist at your local Reclamation office or the State Historic Preservation Office can assist in answering this question.

No earth-disturbing work will occur so no modifications to irrigation system features will occur.

- Are there any known archeological sites in the proposed project area?

No earth-disturbing work will occur so no modifications to archaeological sites will occur.

- Will the proposed project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations?

This project will be a data collection, compilation, and analysis effort that will have no adverse effects on low-income or minority populations.

- Will the proposed project limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites or result in other impacts on tribal lands?

This project will be a data collection, compilation, and analysis effort that will have no adverse effects on tribal lands or sacred sites.

- Will the proposed project contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area?

No earth-disturbing or vegetation management work will occur, so no impacts to weeds will occur.

H.1.1. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

It is assumed that the funding through this NOFO will support at categorical exclusion, as per 14.5.A(3) Research activities, such as nondestructive data collection and analysis, monitoring, modeling, laboratory testing, calibration, and testing of instruments or procedures and nonmanipulative field studies.

H.1.2. NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

This work will not include any on-the-ground implementation work, so NHPA is not expected to apply.

H.2. ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

This work will not include any on-the-ground implementation work, so ESA is not expected to apply.

REQUIRED PERMITS OR APPROVALS

The selected consultant will obtain a scientific collection permit from NDOW for aquatic macroinvertebrate sampling. NLT and OTR staff will coordinate with local jurisdictions and landowners to determine if and what approvals are needed to access their properties for surveys. No other permits or approvals are expected to be needed, as this work will not involve any on-the-ground implementation.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Please see Appendix A.



OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

Due to the timing of board meetings, the Official Nevada Land Trust Board Resolution will be submitted separately within 30 days of submission of this application, in compliance with the guidelines set out in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

Please see Appendix B.

SINGLE AUDIT REPORTING STATEMENT

NLT does not meet the threshold to require a single audit report.

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

Neither One Truckee River nor Nevada Land Trust are not required to complete a Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL form), as the organizations have not engaged in covered lobbying activities. Therefore, no SF-LLL form has been provided.

UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER AND SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT

DUNS Number

009747606

Identifier and System for Award Management Registration in Sam.gov

NQKWH8C8UDL9

APPENDIX A:

Letters of Support

March 25, 2022

Ms. Alisha James
Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Support Section
Denver Federal Center, Building 67, Room 152
6th Avenue and Kipling St
Denver, Colorado 80225

Re: Support for Nevada Land Trust's Proposal Application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163)

Dear Ms. James:

I am pleased to express Carson-Truckee Water Conservancy District's (CTWCD) support for the Nevada Land Trust (NLT) Proposal Application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163). The goals and objectives of this proposed project align with the needs and goals of CTWCD, and we are pleased to participate as an engaged stakeholder and partner in this effort.

CTWCD's mission is to maintain the 14,000 cfs flow capacity of the Truckee River between the Nevada/California Stateline and the Glendale Bridge. CTWCD ensures no encroachments are made to the river channel that would interfere with the minimum conveyance capacity by keeping the channel free of debris and erosion, as well as overseeing the United States Army Corps of Engineers 408 Encroachment Permit process.

The project proposed by NLT, in collaboration with One Truckee River (OTR), will conduct a river conditions assessment (including synthesis of new and existing data) to identify and strategically prioritize restoration projects along the mainstem of the Truckee River, within the Reno-Sparks urban interface. Acquiring existing data from local agencies and collecting data to fill any information gaps will allow for thorough analysis on river conditions; this is crucial in allowing OTR's Vegetation Management Technical Working Group to make informed decisions on the implementation of OTR's Framework Vegetation Management and Restoration Plan. The proposed project will generate a list of prioritized projects that could be considered by CTWCD in future grant applications for erosion control and bank stabilization implementation. The effort will also develop technical tools, including synthesis and analysis of spatial data that can provide a baseline for planning site-specific restoration projects.

Collection of data will begin on a small scale thanks to funding OTR has secured from the Carson-Truckee Water Conservation District, but the proposed goals cannot be achieved without additional funding for collaboration with partners, full synthesis and analysis of spatial data, and making this information accessible to participating agencies for implementation.

Active and consistent engagement of all parties will result in the most successful execution of the Framework Plan and, as a current OTR partner and member of its Vegetation Management Technical Working Group, CTWCD looks forward to providing input on the data collection and analysis procedures to ensure the results are readily applicable to our agency. We hope to continue collaborating with the NLT and the OTR partnership in the future, as they work to secure funding to plan and implement watershed restoration projects along the Truckee River.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Please reach out to me if I can provide any additional information regarding our pledge of support.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kayla Dowty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'y' in "Dowty".

Kayla Dowty
District Engineer for CTWCD
(775) 336-1300 x108



WASHOE COUNTY

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Community Services Dept.
1001 E. Ninth St.
RENO, NEVADA 89512
(775) 328-3600

March 22, 2022

Ms. Alisha James
Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Support Section
Denver Federal Center, Building 67, Room 152
6th Avenue and Kipling St
Denver, Colorado 80225

Re: Support for Nevada Land Trust's Proposal Application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163)

Dear Ms. James:

I am pleased to express Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space's support for the Nevada Land Trust (NLT) Proposal Application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163). The goals and objectives of this proposed project align with the needs and goals of Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space, and we are pleased to participate as an engaged stakeholder and partner in this effort.

Regional Parks and Open Space is part of Washoe County's Community Services Department. Our mission is to provide exceptional parks, open space and recreational opportunities while preserving our natural, historical and cultural resources. Washoe County manages over 12,000 acres including over 10,000 acres of open space, 49 parks, developed trails, and trailheads.

The project proposed by NLT, in collaboration with One Truckee River (OTR), will conduct a river conditions assessment (including synthesis of new and existing data) to identify and strategically prioritize restoration projects along the mainstem of the Truckee River, within the Reno-Sparks urban interface. Acquiring existing data from local agencies and collecting data to fill any information gaps will allow for thorough analysis on river conditions; this is crucial in allowing OTR's Vegetation Management Technical Working Group to make informed decisions on the implementation of OTR's Framework Vegetation Management and Restoration Plan. The proposed project will generate a list of prioritized projects that will support restoration planning and implementation. The effort will also develop technical tools, including synthesis and analysis of spatial data that can provide a baseline for planning site-specific restoration projects.

Collection of data will begin on a small scale thanks to funding OTR has secured from the Carson-Truckee Water Conservation District, but the proposed goals cannot be achieved without additional funding for collaboration with partners, full synthesis and analysis of spatial data, and making this information accessible to participating agencies for implementation.



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1001 E. Ninth St.
WWW.WASHOECOUNTY.US



WASHOE COUNTY

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Community Services Dept.
1001 E. Ninth St.
RENO, NEVADA 89512
(775) 328-3600

Active and consistent engagement of all parties will result in the most successful execution of the Framework Plan and, as a current OTR partner and member of its Vegetation Management Technical Working Group, Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space looks forward to providing input on the data collection and analysis procedures to ensure the results are readily applicable to our agency. We hope to continue collaborating with the NLT and the OTR partnership in the future, as they work to secure funding to plan and implement watershed restoration projects along the Truckee River.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Please reach out to me if I can provide any additional information regarding our pledge of support.

Kind Regards,

Dave Solaro
Assistant County Manager
(775)328-3624



INTEGRITY



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COMMUNICATION



QUALITY
PUBLIC SERVICE

1001 E. Ninth St.
WWW.WASHOECOUNTY.US

March 24, 2022

Ms. Alisha James
Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Support Section
Denver Federal Center, Building 67, Room 152
6th Avenue and Kipling St
Denver, Colorado 80225

Re: Support for Nevada Land Trust's Proposal Application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163)

Dear Ms. James:

I am pleased to express Truckee Meadows Water Authority's (TMWA) support for the Nevada Land Trust (NLT) Proposal Application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163). The goals and objectives of this proposed project align with the needs and goals of TMWA, and we are pleased to participate as an engaged stakeholder and partner in this effort.

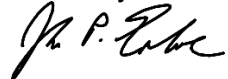
TMWA is a not-for-profit, community-owned water utility that provides drinking water to nearly 450,000 people. On average, 85% of the region's water supply comes from the Truckee River, so watershed improvement is a critical component of TMWA's source water protection planning.

The project proposed by NLT, in collaboration with One Truckee River (OTR), will conduct a river conditions assessment (including synthesis of new and existing data) to identify and strategically prioritize restoration projects along the mainstem of the Truckee River, within the Reno-Sparks urban interface. Acquiring existing data from local agencies and collecting data to fill any information gaps will allow for thorough analysis on river conditions.

Collection of data will begin on a small scale thanks to funding OTR has secured from the Carson-Truckee Water Conservation District, but the proposed goals cannot be achieved without additional funding for collaboration with partners, full synthesis and analysis of spatial data, and making this information accessible to participating agencies for implementation.

Active and consistent engagement of all parties will result in the most successful execution of the Framework Plan. As a current OTR partner, TMWA looks forward to providing input on the data collection and analysis procedures to ensure the results are helpful to our agency. We hope to continue collaborating with NLT and the OTR partnership in the future, as they work to secure funding to plan and implement watershed restoration projects along the Truckee River.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Please reach out to me if I can provide any additional information regarding our pledge of support.

Sincerely,


John Enloe
Director of Natural Resources



March 28, 2022

Ms. Alisha James
Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Support Section
Denver Federal Center, Building 67, Room 152
6th Avenue and Kipling St
Denver, Colorado 80225

Re: Support for Nevada Land Trust's Proposal Application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163)

Dear Ms. James:

One Truckee River is enthusiastic to support the Nevada Land Trust Proposal Application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163). As you have read in the proposal, the goals and objectives of this proposed project align with the needs and goals of One Truckee River, and we are excited to participate as a partner in this effort.

The One Truckee River's mission is to ensure a healthy, thriving, sustainable river connected to the hearts and minds of its community. I am president of the One Truckee River board and have worked with entities to celebrate and protect the river for over 30 years. The momentum from the Nevada Land Trust and One Truckee River initiatives is exciting and making a palpable positive impact to our beautiful river and surrounding communities.

The proposed project will ultimately generate a list of prioritized projects that will help One Truckee River and our myriad of partners with restoration planning and implementation. The effort will also develop technical tools, including synthesis and analysis of spatial data that can provide a baseline for planning site-specific restoration projects.

On the behalf of the One Truckee River board of directors and our partners, I appreciate your time and consideration. Please reach out to me if I can provide any additional information regarding our pledge of support.

Kind Regards,

Lynn Zonge
One Truckee River Board President

STEVE SISOLAK
Governor

Las Vegas Office:
2300 East St. Louis Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89104
Telephone (702) 668-4590
Fax (702) 668-4567



JENNIFER OTT
Director

Elko Office:
4780 East Idaho St.
Elko, NV 89801-4672
Telephone (775) 738-8076
Fax (775) 738-2693

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

405 South 21st St.
Sparks, Nevada 89431-5557
Telephone (775) 353-3601 Fax (775) 353-3661
agri.nv.gov

March 29, 2022

Ms. Alisha James
Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Support Section
Denver Federal Center, Building 67, Room 152
6th Avenue and Kipling St
Denver, Colorado 80225

Re: Support for Nevada Land Trust's Proposal Application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163)

Dear Ms. James:

I am pleased to express Nevada Department of Agriculture's (NDA) support for the Nevada Land Trust (NLT) Proposal Application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163). The goals and objectives of this proposed project align with the needs and goals of NDA, and we are pleased to participate as an engaged stakeholder and partner in this effort.

NDA's mission is to: Preserve, Protect and Promote Nevada Agriculture. The NDA noxious weed program works to effectively coordinate resources and efforts towards proactive prevention along with control and management of invasive weed species in Nevada to benefit all land users throughout the state.

The project proposed by NLT, in collaboration with One Truckee River (OTR), will conduct a river conditions assessment (including synthesis of new and existing data) to identify and strategically prioritize restoration projects along the mainstem of the Truckee River, within the Reno-Sparks urban interface. Acquiring existing data from local agencies and collecting data to fill any information gaps will allow for thorough analysis on river conditions; this is crucial in allowing OTR's Vegetation Management Technical Working Group to make informed decisions on the implementation of OTR's Framework Vegetation Management and Restoration Plan. The proposed project will generate a list of prioritized projects that will help NDA with restoration planning and implementation of control efforts for invasive and noxious plant species. The effort will also develop technical tools, including synthesis and analysis of spatial data that can provide a baseline for planning site-specific restoration projects.

Collection of data will begin on a small scale thanks to funding OTR has secured from the Carson-Truckee Water Conservation District, but the proposed goals cannot be achieved without additional funding for collaboration with partners, full synthesis and analysis of spatial data, and making this information accessible to participating agencies for implementation.

Active and consistent engagement of all parties will result in the most successful execution of the Framework Plan and, as a current OTR partner and member of its Vegetation Management Technical Working Group, NDA looks forward to providing input on the data collection and analysis procedures to ensure the results are readily applicable to our agency. We hope to continue collaborating with the NLT and the OTR partnership in the future, as they work to secure funding to plan and implement watershed restoration projects along the Truckee River.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Please reach out to me if I can provide any additional information regarding our pledge of support.

Kind Regards,



Jake Dick
Nevada Department of Agriculture
Noxious Weed Coordinator
jdick@agri.nv.gov
(775) 353-3640



March 25, 2022

Ms. Alisha James
Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Support Section
Denver Federal Center, Building 67, Room 152
6th Avenue and Kipling Street
Denver, Colorado 80225

RE: Support for Nevada Land Trust's Proposal Application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163)

Dear Ms. James:

I am pleased to express the City of Sparks's support for the Nevada Land Trust (NLT) Proposal Application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163). The goals and objectives of this proposed project align with the needs and goals of the City of Sparks, and we are pleased to participate as an engaged stakeholder and partner in this effort.

The City of Sparks views the protection and enhancement of the Truckee River as critical to the community and region's future. The City's Comprehensive Plan includes as key policies protection of the water quality of the Truckee River and maintaining the Truckee River corridor as a vital component of the city's trail and open space system.

The project proposed by NLT, in collaboration with One Truckee River (OTR), will conduct a river conditions assessment (including synthesis of new and existing data) to identify and strategically prioritize restoration projects along the mainstem of the Truckee River, within the Reno-Sparks urban interface. Acquiring existing data from local agencies and collecting data to fill any information gaps will allow for thorough analysis on river conditions; this is crucial in allowing OTR's Vegetation Management Technical Working Group to make informed decisions on the implementation of OTR's Framework Vegetation Management and Restoration Plan. The proposed project will generate a list of prioritized projects that will help the City of Sparks support restoration planning and implementation of the City's Comprehensive Plan goals and policies. The effort will also develop technical tools, including synthesis and analysis of spatial data that can provide a baseline for planning site-specific restoration projects.

Ms. Alisha James

March 25, 2022

Page 2

Collection of data will begin on a small scale thanks to funding OTR has secured from the Carson-Truckee Water Conservation District, but the proposed goals cannot be achieved without additional funding for collaboration with partners, full synthesis and analysis of spatial data, and making this information accessible to participating agencies for implementation.

Active and consistent engagement of all parties will result in the most successful execution of the Framework Plan and, as a current OTR partner and member of its Vegetation Management Technical Working Group, the City of Sparks looks forward to providing input on the data collection and analysis procedures to ensure the results are readily applicable to the City. We hope to continue collaborating with the NLT and the OTR partnership in the future, as they work to secure funding to plan and implement watershed restoration projects along the Truckee River.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Please reach out to me at nkrutz@cityofsparks.us, or (775) 353-2310 if I can provide any additional information regarding our pledge of support.

Kind Regards,



Neil C. Krutz
City Manager

NK/Cb



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Suite 120
Reno, Nevada 89511
Phone (775) 688-1500 • Fax (775) 688-1595

TONY WASLEY
Director

BONNIE LONG
Deputy Director

JACK ROBB
Deputy Director

March 29, 2022

Ms. Alisha James
Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Support Section
Denver Federal Center, Building 67, Room 152
6th Avenue and Kipling St
Denver, Colorado 80225

Re: Support for Nevada Land Trust's Proposal Application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163)

Dear Ms. James:

I am pleased to express the Nevada Department of Wildlife's (NDOW) support for the Nevada Land Trust (NLT) Proposal Application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163). The goals and objectives of this proposed project align with the needs and goals of NDOW, and we are pleased to participate as an engaged stakeholder and partner in this effort.

NDOW's mission is to protect, conserve, manage and restore wildlife and its habitat for the aesthetic, scientific, educational, recreational, and economic benefits to citizens of Nevada and the United States, and to promote the safety of persons using vessels on the water of Nevada. Working collaboratively to conserve and restore the Truckee River as outlined within this project proposal falls directly within our mission's purview to conserve and restore our state's natural resources for the benefit of Nevada's wildlife and our citizenry.

The project proposed by NLT, in collaboration with One Truckee River (OTR), will conduct a river conditions assessment (including synthesis of new and existing data) to identify and strategically prioritize restoration projects along the mainstem of the Truckee River, within the Reno-Sparks urban interface. Acquiring existing data from local agencies and collecting data to fill any information gaps will allow for thorough analysis on river conditions; this is crucial in allowing OTR's Vegetation Management Technical Working Group to make informed decisions on the implementation of OTR's Framework Vegetation Management and Restoration Plan. The proposed project will generate a list of collaboratively identified and prioritized projects that will support NDOW restoration efforts within the Truckee River corridor. This project will also help develop technical tools, including synthesis and analysis of spatial data that can provide a baseline for planning site-specific restoration projects.

Collection of data will begin on a small scale thanks to funding OTR has secured from the Carson-Truckee Water Conservation District, but the proposed goals cannot be achieved without additional funding for collaboration with partners, full synthesis and analysis of spatial data, and making this information accessible to participating agencies for implementation.

Active and consistent engagement of all parties will result in the most successful execution of the Framework Plan and, as a current OTR partner and member of its Vegetation Management Technical Working Group, NDOW looks forward to providing input on the data collection and analysis procedures to ensure the results are readily applicable to NDOW. We hope to continue collaborating with the NLT and the OTR partnership in the future, as they work to secure funding to plan and implement watershed restoration projects along the Truckee River.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Please reach out to me if I can provide any additional information regarding our pledge of support.

Kind Regards,



Bobby Jones

Outdoor Connection Coordinator
Nevada Department of Wildlife
6980 Sierra Center Parkway, #120
Reno, Nevada 89511
(775) 688-1998
bsjones@ndow.org

March 22, 2022

Ms. Alisha James
Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Support Section
Denver Federal Center, Building 67, Room 152
6th Avenue and Kipling St
Denver, Colorado 80225

Re: Support for Nevada Land Trust's Proposal Application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163)

Dear Ms. James:

Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB) is pleased to express support for the Nevada Land Trust (NLT) Proposal Application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163). The goals and objectives of this proposed project align with the needs and goals of KTMB, and we are pleased to participate as an engaged stakeholder and partner in this effort.

KTMB is dedicated to creating a more sustainable and beautiful region through waste reduction, education and active community involvement. One of the ways we implement our mission is to actively educate adults and school children about the Truckee River Watershed and its importance to our community. We also deploy thousands of volunteers each year to conduct projects that directly benefit the watershed and our public lands.

The project proposed by NLT, in collaboration with One Truckee River (OTR), will conduct a river conditions assessment (including synthesis of new and existing data) to identify and strategically prioritize restoration projects along the mainstem of the Truckee River, within the Reno-Sparks urban interface. Acquiring existing data from local agencies and collecting data to fill any information gaps will allow for thorough analysis on river conditions; this is crucial in allowing OTR's Vegetation Management Technical Working Group to make informed decisions on the implementation of OTR's Framework Vegetation Management and Restoration Plan. The proposed project will generate a list of prioritized projects that will help KTMB identify areas for our teams of volunteers to support restoration implementation. The effort will also develop technical tools, including synthesis and analysis of spatial data that can provide a baseline for planning site-specific restoration projects.

Collection of data will begin on a small scale thanks to funding OTR has secured from the Carson-Truckee Water Conservation District, but the proposed goals cannot be achieved without additional funding for collaboration with partners, full synthesis and analysis of spatial data, and making this information accessible to participating agencies for implementation.

Active and consistent engagement of all parties will result in the most successful execution of the Framework Plan and, as a current OTR partner, KTMB looks forward to providing input on the data collection and analysis procedures to ensure the results are readily applicable to our organization. We hope to continue collaborating with the NLT and the OTR partnership in the

future, as they work to secure funding to plan and implement watershed restoration projects along the Truckee River.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Please reach out to me if I can provide any additional information regarding our pledge of support.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark D. Cameron', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark D. Cameron
Executive Director
775-815-5185

March 17, 2022

Ms. Alisha James
Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Support Section
Denver Federal Center, Building 67, Room 152
6th Avenue and Kipling St
Denver, Colorado 80225

Re: Support for Nevada Land Trust's Proposal Application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163)

Dear Ms. James:

I am pleased to express The Great Basin Institute's support for the Nevada Land Trust (NLT) Proposal Application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163). The goals and objectives of this proposed project align with the needs and goals of The Great Basin Institute, and we are pleased to participate as an engaged stakeholder and partner in this effort.

The Great Basin Institute's mission is to advance applied research and ecological literacy through community engagement and agency partnerships to support national parks, forests, open spaces and public lands.

The project proposed by NLT, in collaboration with One Truckee River (OTR), will conduct a river conditions assessment (including synthesis of new and existing data) to identify and strategically prioritize restoration projects along the mainstem of the Truckee River, within the Reno-Sparks urban interface. Acquiring existing data from local agencies and collecting data to fill any information gaps will allow for thorough analysis on river conditions; this is crucial in allowing OTR's Vegetation Management Technical Working Group to make informed decisions on the implementation of OTR's Framework Vegetation Management and Restoration Plan. The proposed project will generate a list of prioritized projects that will help The Great Basin Institute with restoration planning and implementation, conducted by our Nevada Conservation Corps crews. The effort will also develop technical tools, including synthesis and analysis of spatial data that can provide a baseline for planning site-specific restoration projects.

Collection of data will begin on a small scale thanks to funding OTR has secured from the Carson-Truckee Water Conservation District, but the proposed goals cannot be achieved without additional funding for collaboration with partners, full synthesis and analysis of spatial data, and making this information accessible to participating agencies for implementation.

Active and consistent engagement of all parties will result in the most successful execution of the Framework Plan and, as a current OTR partner and member of its Vegetation Management Technical Working Group, The Great Basin Institute looks forward to providing input on the data collection and analysis procedures to ensure the results are readily applicable to our organization. We hope to continue collaborating with the NLT and the OTR partnership in the future, as they work to secure funding to plan and implement watershed restoration projects along the Truckee River.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Please reach out to me if I can provide any additional information regarding our pledge of support.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry Keir". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jerry Keir
Executive Director
Great Basin Institute
jkeir@thegreatbasininstitute.org



March 22, 2022

Ms. Alisha James
Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Support Section
Denver Federal Center, Building 67, Room 152
6th Avenue and Kipling St
Denver, Colorado 80225

Re: Support for Nevada Land Trust's Proposal Application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163)

Dear Ms. James:

Please accept this letter of support for the Nevada Land Trust (NLT) Proposal Application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163). The goals and objectives of this proposed project align with those of the City of Reno, and we are pleased to participate as an engaged stakeholder and partner in this effort.

The City of Reno, along with City of Sparks and Washoe County adopted the One Truckee River (OTR) Management Plan in 2016. Since adoption, the City of Reno has been working closely with OTR to implement goals and objectives from that plan. The project proposed by NLT, in collaboration with OTR, will conduct a river conditions assessment (including synthesis of new and existing data) to identify and strategically prioritize restoration projects along the main stem of the Truckee River, within the Reno-Sparks urban interface. Acquiring existing data from local agencies and collecting data to fill any information gaps will allow for thorough analysis on river conditions; this is crucial in allowing OTR's Vegetation Management Technical Working Group to make informed decisions on the implementation of OTR's Framework Vegetation Management and Restoration Plan. The proposed project will generate a list of prioritized projects that will help the City of Reno with restoration planning and implementation (or supporting restoration planning and implementation). The effort will also develop technical tools, including synthesis and analysis of spatial data that can provide a baseline for planning site-specific restoration projects.

Active and consistent engagement of all parties will result in the most successful execution of the Framework Plan and, as a current OTR partner and member of its Vegetation Management Technical Working Group, the City of Reno looks forward to providing input on the data collection and analysis procedures to ensure the results are readily applicable to our agency. We hope to continue collaborating with the NLT and the OTR partnership in the future, as they work to secure funding to plan and implement watershed restoration projects along the Truckee River.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Jaime Schroeder, MBA, CPRP, AFO
Parks and Recreation Director
(775) 657-4653 | schroederj@reno.gov



RENO-SPARKS INDIAN COLONY

★ TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE (THPO)

1995 East Second Street, Reno, NV 89502 • Mailing Address: 34 Reservation Road, Reno, NV 89502
Phone: (775) 785-1326

March 28, 2022

Ms. Alisha James
Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Support Section
Denver Federal Center, Building 67, Room 152
6th Avenue and Kipling St
Denver, Colorado 80225

Re: Support for Nevada Land Trust's Proposal Application for Funding Opportunity Announcement
Number R22AS00163

Dear Ms. James:

The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) is pleased to provide a letter of support for the Nevada Land Trust (NLT) Proposal Application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163). The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) is a federally recognized tribe that represents Paiute, Shoshone and Washoe members and descendants of its enrolled membership. The RSIC is located in the urban interface of Reno and Sparks, NV and is an active participant and stakeholder with One Truckee River (OTR) and Nevada Land Trust (NLT) in the management of cultural and natural resources of the RSIC cultural interest's areas, which include Washoe County, Nevada.

One of the RSIC THPO's most valuable cultural and natural resource is the Truckee River. In the 19th century, the Truckee River was named (by an emigrant party) in honor of a Northern Paiute leader, Captain Truckee. Captain Truckee is an important historical figure of the RSIC. Today, the RSIC Tribal Health Center is adjacent to the Truckee River and NLT's and OTR's mission will assist the RSIC in furthering its protection and preservation efforts of one of its most important cultural and natural resources, the Truckee River.

The project proposed by NLT, in collaboration with OTR, will conduct a river conditions assessment (including synthesis of new and existing data) to identify and strategically prioritize restoration projects along the mainstem of the Truckee River, within the Reno-Sparks urban interface. Acquiring existing data from local agencies and collecting data to fill any information gaps will allow for thorough analysis on river conditions; this is crucial in allowing OTR's Vegetation Management Technical Working Group to make informed decisions on the implementation of OTR's Framework Vegetation Management and Restoration Plan. The proposed project will generate a list of prioritized projects that will help the RSIC

with restoration planning and implementation. The effort will also develop technical tools, including synthesis and analysis of spatial data that can provide a baseline for planning site-specific restoration projects.

Collection of data will begin on a small scale thanks to funding OTR has secured from the Carson-Truckee Water Conservation District, but the proposed goals cannot be achieved without additional funding for collaboration with partners, full synthesis and analysis of spatial data, and making this information accessible to participating agencies for implementation.

Active and consistent engagement of all parties will result in the most successful execution of the Framework Plan and, as a current OTR partner and member of its Vegetation Management Technical Working Group, the RSIC looks forward to providing input on the data collection and analysis procedures to ensure the results are readily applicable to the RSIC. We hope to continue collaborating with the NLT and the OTR partnership in the future, as they work to secure funding to plan and implement watershed restoration projects along the Truckee River.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (775) 785-1326. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michon R. Eben". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Michon R. Eben
THPO



March 28, 2022

Ms. Alisha James
Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Support Section
Denver Federal Center, Building 67, Room 152
6th Avenue and Kipling St
Denver, Colorado 80225

Re: Support for Nevada Land Trust's Proposal Application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163)

Dear Ms. James:

I am writing to express the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency's (TMRPA) support for the Nevada Land Trust (NLT) Proposal Application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163). The goals and objectives of this proposed project match well with the needs and goals of TMRPA, and we are pleased to participate as an engaged stakeholder and partner in this effort.

TMRPA is a government agency tasked with creating and maintaining the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan and promoting a regional vision for land use in the Reno/Sparks area. The agency helps coordinate master planning efforts among the three jurisdictions (Reno, Sparks and Washoe County) and affected entities (e.g. the Regional Transportation Commission) in Washoe County. TMRPA has recently embarked on a Natural Resource Plan (NR Plan) effort that will ultimately strengthen natural resource policy in the Regional Plan. A major focus of the NR Plan effort is gathering and organizing natural resource data, to serve as both a foundation for policy improvements and as an online resource for residents, stakeholders, and other parties searching for information.

The project proposed by NLT, in collaboration with One Truckee River (OTR), will conduct a river conditions assessment (including synthesis of new and existing data) to identify and strategically prioritize restoration projects along the mainstem of the Truckee River, within the Reno-Sparks urban interface. The proposal describes plans to acquire existing data from local agencies and collect data to fill any information gaps that will allow for thorough analysis on river conditions; this is crucial to enable OTR's Vegetation Management Technical Working Group to make informed decisions on the implementation of OTR's Framework Vegetation Management and Restoration Plan.

The proposed direction aligns precisely with TMRPA's efforts toward the NR Plan and we are keen to include any data and information resultant from the NLT-OTR collaboration into our natural resource data library. Further, the proposed project will help TMRPA describe conditions and restoration needs along the Truckee River within the narrative portion of the NR Plan, fostering discussions about the policies needed to help ensure our region is proactively planning for source water protection, vegetation management, and the ecological health of the Truckee River corridor.



Collection of data will begin on a small scale thanks to funding OTR has secured from the Carson-Truckee Water Conservation District, but the proposed goals cannot be achieved without additional funding for collaboration with partners, full synthesis and analysis of spatial data, and making this information accessible to participating agencies for implementation. TMRPA is eager to support the dissemination of important information about our Truckee River to a wide audience and can provide expertise around spatial data handling and analysis.

TMRPA is currently engaged with OTR as a partner agency and cooperates to help achieve the goals of the OTR Management Plan. Ongoing collaborative efforts include plans to host and maintain the Truckee River Information Gateway website and information (<http://www.truckeeriverinfo.org/>) and fine-scale delineation of the contribution areas to stormwater outfalls along the river using high-resolution LIDAR elevation data.

TMRPA is committed to continuing our collaboration with OTR and to providing assistance for projects that protect the Truckee River. We are eager to offer input on the data collection and analysis procedures proposed here by NLT and to making sure results are compatible and included in our NR Plan effort. We look forward to working together with the NLT and the OTR partnership in the future, as they secure funding to plan and implement watershed restoration projects along the Truckee River.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information regarding our pledge of support.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeremy M. Smith".

Jeremy M. Smith, PhD
Director of Regional Planning
775-225-0285 (cell)
jsmith@tmrpa.org

APPENDIX B:

Conflict of Interest Disclosure



D.2.2.15. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Officers

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Executive Director

Alicia Reban

**RE: Funding Opportunity No. R22AS00163 WaterSMART Cooperative
Watershed Management Program Phase I Grant Application**

Nevada Land Trust wishes to disclose the association between an employee of SWCA subcontractor RCI, Lynn Zonge, Principal Hydrologist/Ecologist, and the One Truckee River organization. Ms. Zonge currently serves as volunteer board chair of One Truckee River(OTR), which is a 501(c)(3) independent nonprofit organization. Nevada Land Trust (NLT) is a member of the OTR partnership and is represented on the board of OTR by NLT executive director Alicia Reban.

Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR), 2 CFR §1402.112, Nevada Land Trust certifies that no additional actual or potential conflict of interest exists at the time of submission, and that we will comply with the rules around Applicability, Notification, and Restrictions on lobbying.

Signed:

Alicia M Reban
Executive Director
Nevada Land Trust
March 30, 2022

