REVIEW AND RANK OF 2020 WATERSHED PROJECT PROPOSALS

SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION'S (BOR) TRINITY RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM (TRRP) 2020 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT (BOR-MP-20-F001)

Presented By TRRP Watershed Application Review Committee Co-Coordinators:

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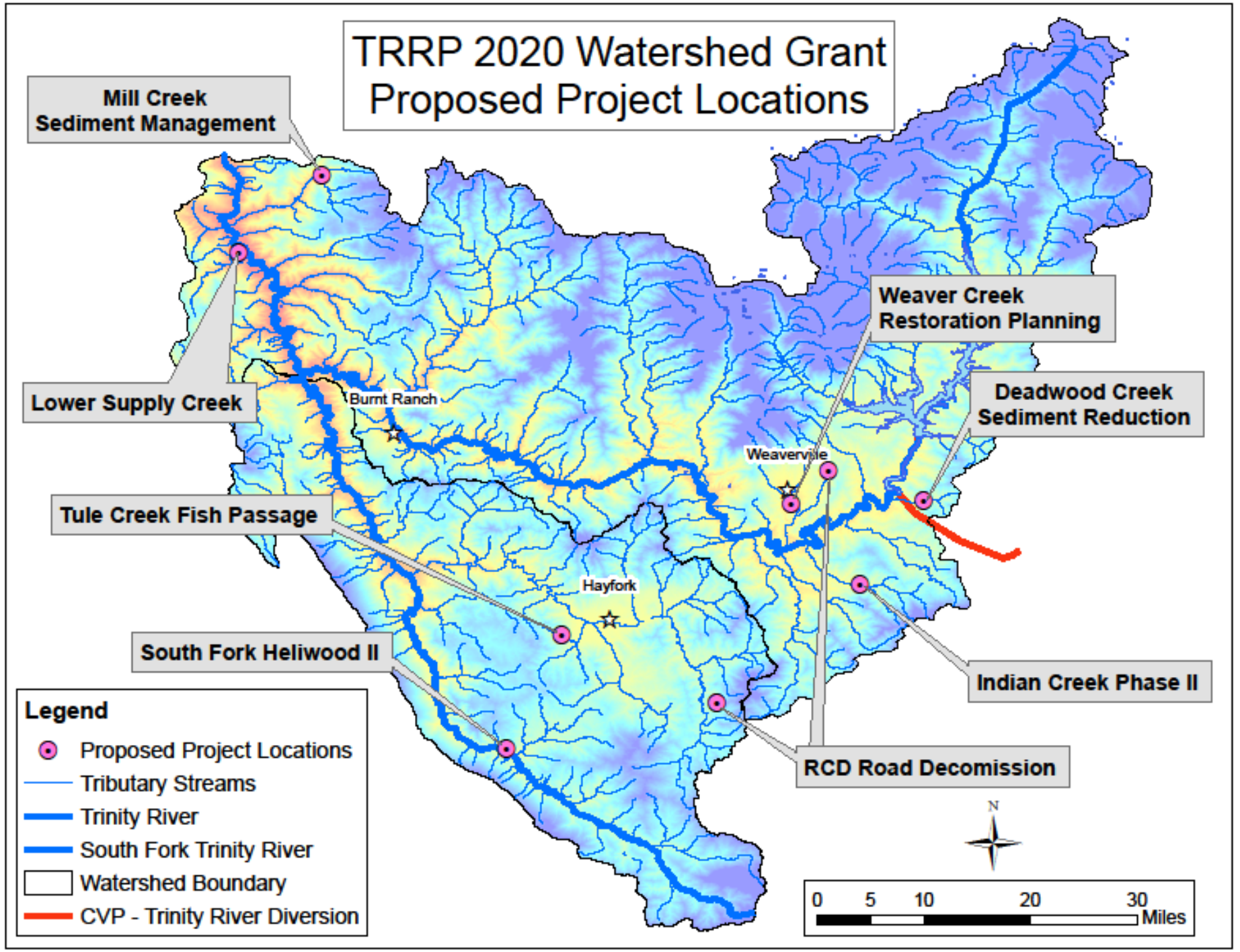
TRRP WATERSHED FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

- Funded every year since 2003 with the exception of 2019
- The 2020 funding amount is $500,000 with a potential for more
- 2020 Watershed Funding *Priorities* are:
  - Projects with benefits to stream reaches with medium or higher (>=0.33) intrinsic potential according to the SONCC Coho Recovery Plan
  - Projects that address low stream flows
- 2020 Watershed Proposal *Categories* are:
  - Fine Sediment Reduction and Prevention
  - Fish Habitat Connectivity Improvements
- Eight Project Proposals from Six Separate Entities were Submitted this year


TRRP 2020 Watershed Grant
Proposed Project Locations
Mill Creek
Sediment Management
Lower Supply Creek
Burnt Ranch
Weaver Creek
Restoration Planning
Deadwood Creek
Sediment Reduction
Weaverville
Tule Creek Fish Passage
Hayfork
South Fork Heliwood II
Indian Creek Phase II
RCD Road Decomission
Legend
Proposed Project Locations
Tributary Streams
Trinity River
South Fork Trinity River
Watershed Boundary
CVP - Trinity River Diversion
N
0 5 10 20 30
Miles

LOWER SUPPLY CREEK FLOODPLAIN AND FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

- **Proponent:** Hoopa Valley Tribe
- **Funding:** Requested - $183,124.00; Match - $0
- **Scalable:** Yes
- **Project Type:** Planning / Implementation
- **Project Objectives:** Remove 750 ft. of existing levee, create 0.65 acres of floodplain habitat, create 150 ft. of new channel, and install wood habitat and wood/boulder structures throughout the project area. This will connect Supply Creek to 2.3 acres of existing floodplain, 1400 ft. of existing side-channel habitat, and a 0.35 acre pond.
- **Background:** In 2016, state funding was used to remove 2100 ft. of existing levee, construct off-channel and side-channel habitats, large wood features, and restore floodplain connectivity in Lower Supply Creek. A 750 ft. section of levee remained following project completion and, in combination with winter high flows in 2018, isolated the previously constructed habitats.

PRO

- 2nd Phase of an existing project
- Directly benefit fish, including SONCC Coho Salmon
- Floodplain reconnection
- Wood addition (dependent on scaling)

CON

- No cost share

TULE CREEK FISH PASSAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

- **Proponent:** The Watershed Research and Training Center
- **Funding:** Requested - $44,709.38; match for total $80,646.48
- **Scalable:** Yes
- **Project Type:** Design / Implementation
- **Project Objectives:** This proposal would remove a 22 ft. concrete silled flashboard water diversion dam on West Tule Creek near Hayfork. This partial barrier limits adult and juvenile salmonid fish migration at various times of the year.
- **Background:** This project is an example of a landowner willing to improve conditions for salmon and steelhead on their property by removing a fish barrier and, through a separate project at the same site, decreasing their summer water diversion rate. Tule Creek is a cold water refugia for fish during the summer and the proposed project to result in improved access with potentially increased flow volume and reduced water temperatures for fish to utilize.

PRO

- Directly benefits anadromous fish
- Large cost share
- Coordinated with a project to improve flows in Tule Ck
- Increases access for 1.5 miles of stream

CON

- Scalable only by seeking further funds

DEADWOOD CREEK-CARR FIRE RECOVERY SEDIMENT REDUCTION PROJECT

- **Proponent:** NW CA Resource Conservation & Development Council
- **Funding:** Requested - $107,104.00; Match* for total $280,835
- **Scalable:** Not Advised
- **Project Type:** Planning / Implementation
- **Project Objectives:** This proposal would reduce road/stream crossing related sedimentation (~6,200 yd^3) at 32 locations within the high severity burn area of the 2018 Carr Fire.
- **Background:** Deadwood Creek is heavily utilized by coho salmon and steelhead for spawning. The 2018 Carr Fire burned at high severity in highly erodible soils throughout the Deadwood Creek watershed. In October 2018 a substantial rain event destabilized upslope areas and deposited sediments in the stream channel up to 3 ft. deep in areas. The sediment plugged eight culverts and impacted water quality in the Trinity River for the next 3 months.

PRO

- Reduces future fine sediment delivery to stream channel that is severely impaired by the Carr Fire
- Likely to directly benefit SONCC Coho Salmon

CON

- * Reallocation of $68,165 from TRRP watershed grant agreement (#00211) funds is included to achieve total
- Work ideally would have been funded and completed as part of Carr Fire BAER work through Trinity County.

MAINSTEM & SOUTH FORK TRINITY ROAD DECOMMISSIONING PROJECT

- **Proponent:** Trinity County Resource Conservation District (RCD)
- **Funding:** Requested - $44,952.79 , Match for total $62,912.00
- **Scalable:** Yes
- **Project Type:** Design / Implementation
- **Project Objectives:** This proposal would excavate 3100 yd^3 of material from six roaded stream crossing along 0.67 miles on two forest service roads identified for decommissioning. After excavation, rocks and logs will be placed in the channels and riparian planting will occur.
- **Background:** Road 34N96C occurs in the Weaver Creek watershed near Little Browns Creek and within the Weaverville Community Forest. The 30N16B occurs in the Upper Hayfork Creek watershed near Chanchelulla Gulch.

PRO

- Restores hydrologic integrity of multiple roaded stream crossings
- Enhancement of decommissioned stream crossings beyond existing planned decommission
- Little Browns Creek crossing is in, or very near to, SONCC Coho IP

CON

- Chanhelulla Gulch road work occurs where a high temperature mask overlays coho intrinsic (IP) potential which essentially nullifies the coho IP
- Scalability is stated as reducing to only Chanchelulla Gulch – Workgroup would prioritize Little Browns Creek.

WEAVER CREEK RESTORATION PLANNING PROJECT

- **Proponent:** Nor-Rel-Muk Wintu (but with Yurok doing most work)
- **Funding:** Requested - $156,619.67; Match - $0
- **Scalable:** Yes
- **Project Type:** Design / Planning
- **Project Objectives:** This proposal seeks funding in order to design, plan, and obtain necessary permits to implement a project on Weaver Creek near downtown Weaverville.
- **Background:** Weaver Creek is utilized by all species of anadromous fish found in the upper Trinity River. The watershed, particularly upstream of the project, are highly impacted by historic and current human activity. The project would occur within a large tract of BLM land at and below the confluence of East and West Weaver Creeks. A concrete encased sewer line visibly crosses the channel of East Weaver Creek at the top of the project area and is suggested to be a partial fish barrier. This is to be assessed though it is unclear if it will be addressed by future implementation.

PRO

- Large aquatic habitat restoration potential on public lands
- Directly benefit fish, including SONCC Coho Salmon
- Floodplain reconnection

CON

- Planning, not implementation
- No cost share

MILL CREEK SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT PROJECT

- **Proponent:** Hoopa Valley Tribe
- **Funding:** Requested - $194,662.41; Match - $0
- **Scalable:** Yes
- **Project Type:** Implementation
- **Project Objectives:** This project would implement road related sediment management treatments at; 14 roaded stream crossings, 2 landslides, 1 ditch relief culvert, and along 13.3 miles of unpaved road segments within the Mill Creek watershed.
- **Background:** Mill Creek, historically and contemporarily, is the most productive tributary for anadromous fish within the Hoopa Reservation. Fires, flooding, and anthropogenic disturbances have negatively impacted the watershed. The SONCC Coho Recovery Plan and Mill Creek Watershed Assessment have studied and provided recommendations for sediment control treatments here.

PRO

- Fine sediment reduction to SONCC stream

CON

- No cost share
- No hydraulic analysis to show culverts will be properly sized
- Project includes 12 miles of road maintenance that will likely not benefit fish.

HELIWOOD PHASE II PROJECT

- **Proponent:** Yurok Tribe
- **Funding:** Requested - $98,290.00; Match - $832,495.00
- **Scalable:** Yes
- **Project Type:** Plan, Design, Implement
- **Project Objectives:** This project intends to increase the habitat quality and ecological conditions for spring-run Chinook salmon by placing whole trees in the channel of the upper South Fork Trinity River.
- **Background:** South Fork had one of the last populations of wild spring-run Chinook, but that population has been decimated as the river has taken on sediments from poor historic land management combined with flood events (particularly 1964), leading to habitat degradation.

PRO

- Adds wood and complexity to a river in dire need
- SONCC Coho IP
- Highly supportive matching funds

CON

- ARC is aware that prior wood loading in South Fork significantly washed out by a major flow event. Although this project mentioned assessing 'lessons learned', monitoring reports are not yet complete and there is no indication of what the lessons learned are. (Q: will this just be a repeat?)
- Notable copy/paste error(s) left confusion on budget details

INDIAN CREEK HABITAT CONNECTIVITY PROJECT – PHASE II

- **Proponent:** Yurok Tribe
- **Funding:** Requested - $497,893.21; Match - $0
- **Scalable:** Yes
- **Project Type:** Plan, Design, Implement
- **Project Objectives:** Restore aquatic connectivity on a section of Indian Creek that goes subsurface during critical months for fish migration, creating a barrier to spawning and rearing by Coho and Chinook. Primary goal is to raise groundwater table to support connectivity.
- **Background:** Intensively mined area likely led to hydrology problem. A number of restoration efforts have been implemented on the site in 1980s, 90s, and 2011. All failed either due to geomorphic flood events or lack of vegetation survival. This project would try a 'stage zero' design.

PRO

- 2nd Phase of an existing project(?)
- SONCC Coho IP and other salmonids
- Addresses an area with a major issue but otherwise a lot of potential

CON

- No cost share
- Proposal very confusing:
  - almost no mention of Phase I or how this relates
    - What is status of Phase I?
  - Clearly sounds like a major project but at one point claims it does not need CEQA permitting because it is under 5 acres.

Project	USBR	USFWS	USFS	NOAA	Yurok	Hoopa	State	Average	Final	TRRP Cost	Total	Scaleable?	Running Total TRRP Cost
Supply Ck	111	95	NA	93	103	recused	105	101.4	101.4	$ 183,124.00	$ 183,124.00	yes	$ 183,124.00
Tule Ck	113	105	NA	103	104	88	94	101.2	101.2	$ 44,709.38	$ 80,646.48	yes	$ 227,833.38
Deadwood Creek	81	100	NA	98	104	88	99	95.0	95.0	$ 107,104.00	$ 280,835.00	not advised	$ 334,937.38
Road Decommissioning	97	100	NA	90	94	90	77	91.3	91.3	$ 44,952.79	$ 62,912.69	yes	$ 379,890.17
Weaver Creek	98.5	76	NA	105	recused	77	75	86.3	86.3	$ 156,619.67	$ 156,619.67	yes	$ 536,509.84
Mill Creek sediment	68	66	NA	66	84	recused	86	74	74.0	$ 194,662.41	$ 194,662.41	yes	$ 731,172.25
Heliwood	111	76	NA	68	recused	81	73	81.8	0.0	$98,290	$ 930,785.00	no	$ 829,462.25
Indian Ck Phase II	91	58	NA	77	recused	72	78	75.2	0.0	$497,893.21	$497,893.21	no	$ 1,327,355.46

2020 TRRP PROJECT PROPOSAL RANKINGS