

**Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group
Management Committee January 2009 Update**

Current CRM Status: As you are all aware the CRM staff was laid off, as of January 1st, due to the state budget crisis. The state notice sent on Dec. 19, 2008 suspended all bond-funded grants, those both under contract and those yet to be awarded. Due to the unfortunate timing of this action, we had recently finished the majority of our federal and county-funded projects and found ourselves relying on state funding for 95% of our current program. The staff is taking a proactive approach to the situation and is currently volunteering their time to research other potential funding sources. In the interim, we will be working on a few items that have other sources of funding, as allowed.

Kara Rockett was recently hired (12-1-2008) as the full-time CRM Monitoring Coordinator (Kara worked for the CRM last year as an Americorp member). The Sierra Nevada Alliance, who manages the Americorp program in the Sierra Nevada, approached the CRM at the end of December to see if we were interested in hosting another Americorp member as they had lost hosting sites due to the state budget situation. Kara is willing to serve another year as an Americorp member. Due to her generous commitment to the CRM program, we are able to keep her on fulltime; meaning our monitoring program will be sustained through this unfunded period. Thank-you, Kara!

Request for Committee Action: In reviewing our financial standing of each grant currently under contract we have identified a source of potential funding as a stop-gap during this unfunded period. The two Forum-funded Meadow Valley Projects, Spanish Creek @ Kellett's and Silver Creek, were completed this summer under budget due to construction bids lower than current market rates and culvert installation on Spanish Creek being included in the bridge replacement project by the County. As a result, we are proposing to the Plumas County Watershed Forum to reallocate these funds to compliment the ongoing effort to rehabilitate Spanish Creek both up and downstream of these projects, and provide some program coordination. Attached is a letter drafted for submittal to the Forum for your review. We and the Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District are requesting your approval of this reallocation request before submitting to the Forum. We are asking each voting member on the committee to respond to this request by emailing the Watershed Coordinator at gia@plumascounty.org by January 16th. Others are free to send comments and/or suggestions to the same address. We thank you in advance for responding to this request in a timely manner.

Members: Chair- Joe Hoffman

Vice Chair- John Kolb

Project & Design Chair – Ryan Nupen

Finance Chair– Dennis Heiman

Monitoring Chair– Kevin Pond

Education Chair- Rob Wade and Kristy Hoffman

Others-Dan Martynn, John Kolb, Holly George, Mark Steffek

Staff: Jim Wilcox, Terry Benoit, Leslie Mink, Gia Martynn, Jessica Albietz, Kara Rockett

A. Finance

1. Urban Streams- Prop 84 proposal for Spanish Creek submitted in November.
2. Environmental Enhancement Mitigation Program grant application submitted to Caltrans in December for Sulphur-Barry Stream Restoration Project.
3. SNC – Prop 84 grant awarded early December for Feather River Education and Stewardship

4. Red Clover-Poco submitted in December to CALFED Watershed Program
5. RAC (Apps available 12/22; Cycle 8 Deadline 2/19/09; Cycle 9 Deadline 4/30/09), applications will be submitted for Red Clover-Dotta and Meadowview-Rowland Creek project development and CEQA/NEPA.
6. Submitting an application this month to River Network for monitoring funding.
7. Currently looking at private foundation grants with the Packard Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Morgan Foundation, and Bonneville Environmental Foundation.

B. Project Updates

1. Bear Valley: CRM staff met with the water master on the project proposal. This project is currently on hold until issues can be resolved with the water master. Staff will be meeting with California Dept. of Fish & Game to strategize how to address the water rights issues while coordinating with the watermaster and downstream users.
2. Greenhorn Creek - Field meeting with landowners and TAC members was held in December. Currently in process of summarizing field meeting and formulating plan for next steps to be sent out for consensus.
3. Quincy CSD Wetland Project- Have currently received all final specialist reports and will be starting on the CEQA and permit applications as soon as the funding freeze is lifted.
4. Crescent Mills Wetland- Received a small contract with Caltrans to install wells and monitor. Wells were installed the end of November and are being monitored monthly.
5. Greenhouse- We will be planning some days in February to start potting native plants in the greenhouse for the upcoming season. All volunteers welcome!

C. Monitoring

1. Kara will be overseeing our monthly monitoring, and starting the draft of our annual monitoring report. As soon as the budget freeze is lifted we will set date for Annual Monitoring Committee Mtg.

D. Education

1. SNC Grant award- We were recently awarded a grant for approx. \$98,000 for Watershed Education and Stewardship. This is a Prop. 84 grant so we will not get a contract until the state freeze is lifted.
2. Meadow Video- We will be receiving this week the rough cut of our county-funded Meadow Restoration DVD for review. The segment on America's Heartland will air on Wednesday, February 4th at 7:30 pm on your local PBS station.
3. Our landowner brochure is finally completed and has gone to print. Brochures will be available at the end of the month. In addition, we are also printing up rack cards with watershed facts for distribution at public events. These will also be available at the end of the month. Other fun stuff- we had kid tattoos made with our new logo and tagline. These outreach materials complete the last of the Forum-funded education grant deliverables as part of the Feather River Watershed Awareness Campaign.
4. Upcoming events: Youth Stewardship Faire in March