

(Each site shall be considered a project; each project will have its own application.)

I certify that the information contained in the Application, including required attachments, is accurate.

Date _____

Name and Title *(print or typed)*

Fictional Project Name: Crescent Meadow and Creek Restoration

2. Project Summary (FICTIONAL)

This project proposed by El Dorado County Regional Parks, in a partnership, includes restoration of eight acres of meadow and four acres of wetland, and 0.5 miles of Crescent Creek. The property is USFS land, managed under a 30-year lease as a recreation area by El Dorado County Regional Park District. The project area historically has been logged, grazed and used by off-road vehicles. It remains popular for OHV use, fishing (although the fishery has been significantly reduced by silt deposition), hiking and camping in make-shift campsites. The dirt access road to Crescent Meadow, the existing campsites, OHV use and myriad creekside trails contribute significantly to the erosion and downstream soil deposition which has destroyed much of the native trout spawning beds for two to three miles downstream.

Restoration work will include:

Rerouting the area's dirt access road to reduce damage to the meadow and wetland; removing illegal campsites along Crescent Creek and constructing six new campsites in a less sensitive area to reduce erosion; realignment of .35 miles of creek through the meadow to its historic channel and restoration of the stream bed through the entire 0.5 miles of meadow and wetland; removal and revegetation of OHV-impacts in the meadow and wetland; removal of several volunteer hiking/fishing access trails along both sides of the creek, with a new trail and footbridge constructed to reduce further erosion; and removal of exotic plants in the meadow and wetland and replanting with native species.

The USFS is currently funding a \$1.2 million restoration project in the Crescent Valley watershed outside of Crescent Meadow that includes road realignment, elimination of illegal OHV trails, and reforestation/revegetation. Trout Unlimited is undertaking a Crescent Creek streambed restoration project immediately upstream from our proposed Crescent Valley Creek project.

These projects will significantly enhance recreation opportunities in the area, reduce downstream silt deposition, and restore native plants, increasing both protection of and habitat for endangered species, primarily the red legged frog.

Total Crescent Valley Creek project cost is \$155,000. We have \$40,000 available through in-kind services and funding allocated by El Dorado County. Total grant being requested is \$115,000.

3. Authorization to Apply or Resolution

(See sample formats in Application Packet)

4. Project Proposal

A. Land and Water Benefits

Historically Crescent Valley Creek where it flows through Crescent Meadow has been severely disturbed by logging operations, overgrazing and illegal off-road vehicle use. 2001 marked the end of 80 years of cattle grazing in the meadow and in the adjacent wetlands. During the past 30 years, fishermen, off-roaders and others have established camps in the meadow, primarily along the banks of Crescent Creek. Severe soil compaction from these unregulated uses has resulted in approximately 80 percent loss of native vegetation along the perennial creek. What was once a prime fishery and spawning area has been negatively impacted by stream bank erosion and the resultant deposition of waterborne sediment. Recent Dept. of Fish and Game stream surveys have declared this section of creek to be nearly void of insect habitat (fish food).

Access to the meadow is via the existing 1950s-era logging haul road that was not designed for long term vehicular use. El Dorado County periodically scrapes the road smooth; however, much of its bed now lies below the main meadow's elevation, creating bog-like conditions for the vehicles accessing the area during snowmelt and rain periods. Additional illegal off-road use has destroyed much of the wetlands located adjacent to the creek, near the meadow's east end.

Approximately .35 miles of stream will be redirected into its historic channel and four acres of wetlands and eight acres of meadow will be restored with native vegetation. The dirt road through the meadow will be realigned and a narrow recreational trail and foot bridge for fishing access will be constructed to significantly reduce streamside erosion and the resultant destruction of the creek's gravel bed trout spawning areas.

This proposed project will coincide and significantly augment watershed and streambed improvements that are being undertaken by the USFS on adjacent surrounding lands within the watershed. Trout Unlimited is completing a streambed restoration project directly upstream from Crescent Meadow. The overall result will be approximately 5 miles of Crescent Creek being restored with its prime spawning beds once again available for native trout.

During restoration/construction "best management practices" will be followed regarding the reduction, elimination or mitigation of adverse impacts, including appropriate erosion control devices, dry-season construction, and temporary area closures.

This project will provide the following Land and Water benefits:

1. Realignment will move the access road to higher ground along the north side of the meadow, eliminating continued damage to the central area of Crescent Meadow.
2. The road realignment will also eliminate a primary source of soil erosion that ultimately is washed into Crescent Creek.
3. Approximately .25 miles of creek that flows directly through the meadow will be realigned to its historic streambed, moved in the 1950s by logging operations. In combination with streambed restoration, this will eliminate the existing silt-filled channel.
4. Two acres of wetlands will be restored (removal of exotics, elimination of “volunteer trails” and planting of native species). Temporary fencing will be placed around the wetlands to allow native plants to adequately revegetate the area, restoring its natural soil/runoff filtering process.
5. Recreational access will be enhanced by constructing a single hiking trail and pedestrian crossing bridge that will replace the series of parallel volunteer trails that currently add to the streamside erosion problems. Additionally, six campsites will be established in the eastern portion of the meadow near the creek. This is the least sensitive area for camping and allows for easy stream access.
6. This project coincides with a watershed restoration project currently being undertaken by the USFS on lands outside, but adjacent to Crescent Meadow and by an upstream restoration project being completed by Trout Unlimited.

B. SNC Program Goals

1. The restored Crescent Creek fishery will encourage recreational fishing which essentially does not now exist. The improved campsites and formal hiking trail further will enhance and encourage increased public use.
2. The creek’s realignment to its historic channel, along with meadow and wetlands restoration will restore this area to its historically pristine condition.
3. The road realignment will allow the cattle grazing operations that occur in lands outside Crescent Meadow to begin earlier in the spring, and recreation access (fishing, hiking, camping) in and around Crescent Meadow will be significantly enhanced with additional protection for sensitive wetlands.
4. Eliminating the majority of illegal off-road use and replacing the illegal campsites with more appropriately designed and located campsites will reduce wildfire risk.
5. Both Crescent Meadow/Crescent Creek (downstream) water quality will be substantially enhanced with the reduction of up to 80 percent of the current levels of sediment flow, primarily during spring high water.
6. The improved meadow, fishery and camping opportunities will encourage additional recreational users, thereby enhancing the local economy.

7. El Dorado County will identify the Crescent Creek and Crescent Meadow areas on its recreational information maps and directories of public lands and facilities open to the public.

C. Implementability

Site Improvement/Restoration Project

1. Workplan and schedule

- CEQA (El Dorado County as lead agency: Negative Declaration—SCH # xxxxxx), NEPA (USFS as lead agency: Finding of no significant impact) have been approved. Other required permits have been filed/approved (see appendices). U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stream alteration permit has been approved. The Dept. of Fish and Game has assigned a biologist to work directly with us on this project.

March through May 2008:

- Organize and set work schedules for needed volunteers. Over 75 workers, most with previous experience in restoration projects, have indicated interest in participating in this project. Five volunteers are experienced heavy equipment operators who will be operating the rented bulldozer and backhoe.
- Confirm heavy equipment rentals and delivery to worksite.
- Base fish/insect counts in Crescent Creek and a meadow and wetlands plant survey will be conducted.

June /August 2008:

- Project ground work will begin as soon as snow levels/ground water permit site access. Work includes road realignment and filling/scarification of old road; removal of existing campsites along the creek; removal of “volunteer” trails along creek; construction of six new campsites, construction of an erosion resistant creekside trail with a pedestrian bridge; repair of OHV damage over the 8 acres of meadow and 4 acres of wetland; realignment of Crescent Creek (heavy equipment work) into original channel and filling of existing channel. Temporary protective fencing will be installed around the most sensitive portions of the meadow and wetlands in preparation for the revegetation project.

September/October 2008:

- Removal of exotic plant species and vegetation of meadow and adjacent wetland will be completed.

Spring/summer 2009:

- Replacement/repairing of the temporary fencing will be undertaken in those areas where plant surveys indicate need for further protection. The plant survey will also identify successful areas and those needing additional work. Complete additional plantings as needed. Crescent Creek fish counts and streambed insect morphology studies will be completed.
- Crescent Meadow will be promoted/advertised as new recreation area for camping, fishing, and hiking.

Spring/summer 2010:

- Plant surveys will be undertaken to identify successful areas and those needing additional work. Complete additional plantings as needed. Crescent Creek fish counts and streambed insect morphology studies will be completed.

2. Budget

a) Monetary and In-kind support

1. El Dorado County (\$25,000);
2. EEM grant approved this year (\$15,000);
3. Approximately 75 volunteers from the local chapter of the Sierra Club, and Trout Unlimited. Among the volunteers are several heavy equipment operators (\$5,000) and Dept. of Fish and Game plant and fisheries biologists (\$3,250)

b) Source and Amount of Funds:

1. El Dorado County is committed to continued management and maintenance of this project (see attached County Board of Supervisors' confirmation letter.)
2. EEM grant conveyed in 2007 for trail related work: \$15,000 (See attached documentation)
3. Volunteers: A minimum of \$16,250 of in-kind work (\$15/hr for hand workers.

c) Project Completion:

1. Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (CALTRANS/TEA) grant funds and El Dorado funding is currently available. The EEM grant funds (\$15,000) must be expended for the trail work by 2010. El Dorado County funds will be used initially as a deposit to secure the required heavy equipment (bulldozer).

2.

d) SNC funding:

1. SNC funding will cover the majority of the costs for this restoration project (\$115,000). The only portion of this project that be could be

completed without SNC funding is a portion of the trail rehab and realignment that is being funded through a \$15,000 EEM grant.

3. Land Tenure: Project land is owned by the USFS and operated under a 30-year contract by El Dorado County (expires 2025).
4. Status of technical documents and agreements (see appendix for all documents)
 - a. El Dorado County funding and project approval; USFS and El Dorado County partnership/project management and commitment agreements in place. Commitments in place from Sierra Club and Trout Unlimited.
 - b. CEQA filed/Negative Declaration SCH # XXXX; NEPA filed: No significant impact.
 - c. Stream realignment permit approved by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - d. No property restrictions in place.
 - e. Labor and materials: Plants must be ordered by January 2008 for summer delivery. All necessary labor (volunteers and admin staff) have been committed. See appendix.

D. Cooperation and Community Support

1. Letters of support from El Dorado County Supervisors, the USFS, Dept. of Fish and Game, Trout Unlimited, the Sierra Club, two adjacent private land owners, and the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce are included in the appendix.
2. Numerous planning meetings with USFS, DFG and El Dorado County officials have been held. Additionally, coverage of the project has been published in South Lake Tahoe Sierra News and a public announcement was part of the County Board of Supervisors public meeting where the El Dorado County Regional Park District was committed to this project. Eight people chose to speak at the public meeting, all in support of this project. The Sierra Nevada Regional Irrigation and Water District is supportive of this project (see appendix).
3. An OHV enthusiast expressed his concern at the County Board of Supervisors' meeting that OHV use would be restricted from using the area. His concerns are expressed in an attached letter. A letter of support for this project from the California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Commission is included in the appendix.
4. Two local teachers are included as volunteers on this project. They have expressed a desire to begin an ongoing monitoring/educational project for their 8th and 9th grade science classes. This will include plant identification, stream insect surveys/counts and hydrology. The project will significantly enhance camping and day-use opportunities in Crescent Meadow and Crescent Creek for nearby communities.
5. This project ties directly to the Recreation portion of the approved El Dorado County General Plan that calls for enhancing and expanding camping, hiking and fishing opportunities within the county.

6. Local media (newspapers and radio) are already onboard with this project by advertising for community volunteers to join the committed volunteers from the participating organizations (Sierra Club, Trout Unlimited, Granite Bay Flyfishers). Additionally, news releases have been sent to the local middle schools and high schools soliciting student volunteers who have an interest in meeting their required community volunteer commitments. When the project is completed in October 2008, a ribbon-cutting event will be staged and covered by local and regional media, including the Sacramento metropolitan area television stations. Local city, county and state government officials will be part of the event. Local visitor centers will have information available on new Crescent Meadow camping opportunities and the significantly improved fishing opportunities the project will provide. An informational kiosk will be constructed at the entrance to the campsites that will identify the funding and volunteer partners for this project.

E. Project Management and Adequacy of Design

- a. Roles of Partners: El Dorado County Regional Parks Department (EDCRPD) will be the project's lead agency and fiscal manager. Trout Unlimited, Sierra Club, DFG and others will work under the direct supervision of El Dorado County Regional Parks staff.
- b. El Dorado County Regional Parks has fulltime professional staff who have completed other similar projects, including the Mark's Valley and Placer Creek restorations. Additionally, we have several volunteers committed to this project, including a professional hydrologist, biologist and several construction heavy equipment operators, etc.
- c. Elements of the project planning process:
 - i. All planning has been completed, including GPS/GIS onsite plotting of road and creek realignments.
 - ii. Required professional planners, including a road construction engineer, scientists with specialties in hydrology, Sierra fisheries and plant taxonomy/biology and revegetation, were utilized during the planning process and will continue as advisors during the project.
 - iii. All grading, revegetation, relocation of existing campsites and creation of a single creek-side recreational access trail is designed to maximize project sustainability.
 - iv. Internal EDCRPD policy and compliance with NEPA and CEQA requires that the project result in minimal impact to natural and cultural resources. One area of the meadow contains indications of Native American use—an archeologist will supervise the revegetation of this area, with as little ground disturbance as possible.

- v. Native plants are being reintroduced to the meadow and wetland. Additionally, only local native rock/dirt is being used in the realignment and reconstruction of Crescent Creek. Campground development will be minimal with a rustic-style theme used for the information kiosk.
- vi. EDCRPD will manage the ongoing maintenance of the project site. El Dorado County Sheriff and the USFS have agreed to provide patrols in the area. EDCRPD will also conduct annual plant and stream surveys and take any appropriate corrective measures to ensure the long term success of this project.

F. Sustainability, Long-term Management

1. This project specifically allows for the long-term sustainability of the Crescent Meadow and Crescent Creek area. Environmental sustainability was not possible with the existing conditions of the creek, wetland and meadow as previous uses (camping, hiking, OHV, fishing, logging, cattle grazing) caused considerable damage that was increasing annually with each summer's use. Erosion had completely silted the creek bed for approximately two miles downstream. The restoration, combined with continued active observation and management, will essentially eliminate existing creek bed siltation and prevent future excess creek silt deposition, allowing for the renewal of this valuable natural and recreational resource. Realignment of the access road (dirt) will allow the seasonably heavy flow of recreation vehicles to bypass the central meadow area, further increasing the project's success potential. Additionally, the planned surrounding (upstream and downstream) watershed restoration projects (USFS and Trout Unlimited) will ensure that this project remains sustainable.
2. a. Long Term Management
 - i. Long Term Management will be the responsibility of EDCRPD as identified in the attached El Dorado County Supervisors' resolution. A long-term management plan has been approved by EDCRPD management and presented to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors for approval. Fencing and other measures may be temporarily employed in those areas of the meadow and wetland that appear to need additional temporary protection. Volunteers from the participating organizations have committed to continue periodic replanting of native plants and the ongoing removal of invasive exotic species.
 - ii. EDCRPD has been managing similar projects for more than twenty years, maintaining the required professional staff to ensure success.
 - iii. Funding for this project will come from El Dorado County through the EDCRPD annual budget.

b. Future Modifications

Future modifications will be minimal, restricted primarily to the creek realignment and streambed restoration designed to reduce additional erosion and siltation. Upgrades (water/hookups) to the project's six new campsites or increasing the number of campsites does not appear possible because of potential overuse resulting in habitat degradation.

c. N/A This is not a conservation easement.

G. **Model Project Values**

This project has utilized a partnership that includes a county acting as the project manager, with cooperation from the USFS and two nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organizations. The initial ongoing educational program being developed by science teachers from local middle schools and high schools will be a model that we expect will be expanded upon locally and can also be shared with other non-local schools situated near similar projects throughout the Sierra Nevada. Additionally, approximately 25 percent of this \$155,000 project is being funded by in-kind resources and by the leveraging of minimal local financial resources into the grant funding required to successfully complete this important project.

The following pages are not included in the “Maximum of 10 pages”

5. Project Location Map

(Not included in sample: See application packet for information)

6. Site Plan

(Not included in sample: See application packet for information)

7. Topographic Map

(Not included in sample: See application packet for information)

8. Photos of Project Site

(Not included in sample: See application packet for information—Maximum of 10 photos. Be sure they adequately show your project)

9. **Cost Estimates**

Project Budget
Crescent Meadow and Crescent Creek
Site Improvement and Restoration Project

Funds Received

Source 1: EEM Grant	\$15,000
Subtotal	\$15,000

In-Kind Services

Equipment operators: 100 hours @ \$50 hr.	\$5,000
Engineering, scientific specialists	\$3,250
El Dorado County Project Management/Admin	\$5,500
Volunteers 750 hours @ \$15 hr.	\$11,250
Subtotal	\$25,000
Total Funds	\$40,000

Project Expenses

Expense 1: Heavy Equipment Rental/transport 100 hrs @ \$250/hr.	\$25,000
Expense 2: Purchase native plants for reveg	\$22,500
Expense 3: Hand planting 1000 hours @ \$15/hr	\$15,000
Expense 4: Streambed handwork 800 hrs @ \$15/hr	\$12,000
Expense 5: Campsite development/equipment	\$24,000
Expense 6: Streamside recreation trail construction/erosion control	\$24,000
Expense 7: Stream pedestrian bridge	\$24,500
Expense 7: Direct Admin Expenses (approx 5%)	\$8,000
Total Cost	\$155,000

Budget Summary

Funding Committed	\$15,000
In-Kind Services Committed	\$25,000
SNC Grant Request	\$115,000
Total	\$155,000