

## **Narrative Description**

### Detailed Project Description

In early 2011, discussions began between the Tehama County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) regarding resource issues that have been identified within Childs Meadows. A significant portion of this high elevation meadow system is under TNC management. Among the issues discussed was head cutting that has developed within the meadow complex and which currently affects its stability and the water quality of Guernsey Creek, a small tributary to Deer Creek which contains anadromous fish habitat for the State and Federally listed Spring Run Chinook Salmon. Significantly, the Childs Meadows area has been found to also contain colonies of the State listed (endangered) Cascade Frog.

After investigation by Tehama County Resource Conservation District personnel along with input from TNC staff, a project proposal was developed that would lead to a fix of the current head cutting situation. As proposed, a head cut repair design would be completed by a wild land engineering firm who would prepare construction drawings and develop cost estimates for a structure that would stop head cutting. This portion of the overall project would also entail developing a request for proposal, selecting an engineering firm and preparing a professional services contract for engineering design and construction cost estimates. Funds would also be used for Tehama County RCD staff labor hours used to conduct and prepare necessary CEQA analysis and to apply for required environmental permits. Based upon the anticipated impacts related to project implementation, a CEQA Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) document would need to be prepared. To accomplish this, a Request for Proposal and contract documents would be prepared in order to procure the services of archeological and biological consultants who would conduct surveys and reports, the results of

which would be incorporated into the Cultural Resources and Biological Resources sections of the IS/MND. With these measures completed, construction work could begin immediately once implementation dollars were obtained.

### **Project Summary**

The Childs Meadows Head Cut Repair Design and Environmental Analysis Project will result in a shovel ready engineering solution that will stop head cutting by a tributary of Gurnsey Creek at a location within Childs Meadows thus eliminating a source of sediment into Deer Creek, a major tributary to the Sacramento River. The environmental impacts of the construction work scope developed out this effort would be analyzed in a CEQA Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration document prepared by the Tehama County Resource Conservation District with input provided by professional consultants, agency personnel and The Nature Conservancy.

### **Environmental Setting**

The project area is located within the 1,272 acre Childs Meadows owned in fee title by The Nature Conservancy. This pristine high elevation meadow is located roughly 10 miles south of Lassen Volcanic National Park in Eastern Tehama County at an elevation of approximately 4,800'. Undeveloped high elevation meadows are a rarity in the Southern Cascades and Northern Sierra Nevada Range and Childs Meadows contains 4.5 miles of the Gurnsey Creek stream channel along with a number of that stream's tributaries one of which is impacted by the head cut site. The meadow is surrounded by pine and mixed conifer forests managed either privately or by the Lassen National Forest.

Childs Meadow is a key property within The Nature Conservancy's Lassen Foothills Project as it is within the headwaters of Deer Creek, an important

anadroumous species habitat within the southern Cascade Range. Childs Meadows also provides habitat for the largest migratory deer herd in California along with a wide variety of bird species. The entire meadow area is covered under a TNC managed conservation easement that prevents subdivision, mining, and the introduction of non-native species. The conservation easement does allow limited grazing under requirements established by The Nature Conservancy. Over the past 2 years, the Tehama County Resource Conservation District has been working with TNC in developing funding sources to address resource issues identified in that organization's site assessment and addressed in its conservation easement documents.

#### Workplan and Schedule

This repair design and environmental analysis project will require consultation with a wild land engineering firm who will develop a head cut repair design, construction drawings and cost estimates for a structure that will stop head cutting. Professional archeological biological services will be procured in order to adequately address these resource issues in the IS/MND. These procurements will require the TCRCD's preparation of Request for Proposal and contract documents. Assistance with analyzing environmental impacts related to project implementation will also be provided by the California Department of Fish and Game, the Water Quality Control Board, staff scientists from The Nature Conservancy and TCRCD personnel. These individuals will provide input into the repair design work scope and Mitigation Measures in order to reduce negative impacts to meadow ecosystems to a less than significant level. Local residents will be invited to a community meeting via an announcement in local newspapers in order to introduce the head cut repair project and ask for input regarding resource issues surrounding its implementation.

A draft IS/MND document will be prepared utilizing input from professionals and the public which will be reviewed by responsible agencies. The draft document will be posted on the TCRCD web site, available for final public review and comment. Once comments have been reviewed, a final draft of the document will be

prepared by TCRCDD personnel along with a CEQA findings and determination statement. The final draft IS/MND will be presented to the TCRCDD Board of Directors for ratification and a Notice of Determination will be prepared and posted as required under CEQA.

<p><b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b></p> <p><b>Engineering Design Component</b></p>	<p><b>TIMELINE</b></p>
<p>Obtain signed access agreement from The Nature Conservancy in order to conduct project work on TNC property.</p>	<p>September 2012</p>
<p>Develop RFP for engineering consulting services in connection with the repair design engineering and schematics along with archeological and biological survey services related to the Cultural and Biological Resources section of the IS/MND. Deliverables include Request for Proposal documents sent to potential consultants.</p>	<p>September 2012</p>
<p>Analyze proposals for engineering, archeological and biological consulting services and select consultant to provide these services. Deliverables include fully executed contract for professional services.</p>	<p>October 2012</p>
<p>Announce and conduct a community meeting in order to introduce the head cut repair project and to request the public's input as to environmental issues related to project work. Deliverables include meeting announcement in local newspapers along with meeting notes and sign in sheets.</p>	<p>October 2012</p>
<p>Selected consultant will describe the existing (and historic, if known) channel planform upstream and downstream of the project area. The consultant will provide a geomorphologic analysis of historic channel conditions and an analysis of any changes in the channel and watershed along with an analysis of probable effects of past watershed changes on channel process and form. The proposed design will be developed based on documented historic conditions or on reference reach characteristics, or both. In addition, the consultant will provide specific descriptive information of the historic conditions or reference reach and describe the applicability to the proposed project reach. The consultant will provide the location for all reference reaches and conduct hydraulic/hydrologic evaluation assessments that preceded the design and describe any flood flow alterations related to</p>	<p>October 2012-November 2012</p>

the proposed project.	
The consultant will conduct a field-based detailed longitudinal profile survey of the existing and proposed design channels, showing station numbers, slopes, and elevations for all existing and proposed features (i.e. pools, riffles, grade control structures, vanes, weirs, culverts, bridges, flood prone areas, etc.). Identify the D50 and D84 of the streambed material for the existing condition and the desired D50 and D84 for the proposed project using field-based modified Wolman pebble counts.	October 2012
The consultant will provide a plan view drawing and cross sections for the entire reach with beginning and ending station numbers, showing placement of all structures and proposed treatments. The plan view will also identify any sections of the reach that are to remain untreated. The consultant will identify structures, proposed treatments, and reaches to remain untreated on an aerial photograph(s), if available. Aerial photograph(s) should show the existing conditions and the proposed design channel.	November 2012
The consultant will provide a headcut stabilization mitigation plan. This will include: (1) the development of typical drawings of all structures that are proposed within the reach, including dimensions such as length, width, depth, surface area, depth below constructed bed, size of rock, angle of installation, and slope; and relative elevation of the structure as compared to the channel bed, especially for cross-channel features; (2) quantifying the volume of rock or other fill needed for each proposed treatment feature or structure for the project; (3) an estimation of the volume of material to be excavated to create a new channel, and an estimate of the amount of fill to be placed in the existing channel, if any; (4) determining the amount and disposal location for any other projected excess materials generated by the project; and (5) identifying the specific locations where riparian or wetland sod and/or vegetation will be removed for use in project construction and specifically how the borrow site will be restored to ensure minimal adverse impact; and where and how much excess excavated material (spoil) is to be placed.	November 2012
The consultant will describe Best Management Practices to be used in the project area to reduce/eliminate sediment from entering the stream or wetland. If utilized, consultant will describe how installation of temporary diversion structures, pumping operations, or other actions will be undertaken to reduce/eliminate turbidity downstream during construction.	December 2012

The consultant will prepare draft and final design report/schematics containing the information developed through the processes described above.	January 2013
<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>  <b>Environmental Assessment Component</b>	
TCRCD will conduct consultation with responsible and trustee agencies along with conducting a the community meeting mentioned above in order to introduce the project and develop CEQA scoping issues to be analyzed in the IS/MND document. Project deliverables include response letters from consulting agencies along with conducting and documenting a community meeting.	October 2012-November 2012
Preparation and submittal of 6 Month Progress Report	February 2013
TCRCD personnel will prepare CEQA IS/MND document which incorporates information and data from archeological and biological consultants', TNC studies as well as information developed by TCRCD personnel and responding agencies. Deliverables include initial and final draft IS/MND document.	October 2012 through April 2013
TCRCD will issue announcement in local newspapers mentioning the availability of the Draft IS/MND on the TCRCD website and requesting community input as to its content and Mitigation Measures. Issue final draft IS/MND. Deliverables include newspaper announcement, documented comments from members of the public and final draft IS/MND.	April 2013
TCRCD personnel will make findings and determination regarding the project's potential impacts on environmental resources. Deliverables include an adoption resolution to be ratified by the TCRCD Board of Directors.	April 2013
TCRCD personnel will present contents of IS/MND along with adoption resolution to the TCRCD Board of Directors for ratification. Deliverables includes ratified adoption resolution.	April 2013
Prepare and post Notice of Determination. Deliverables include Notice of Determination.	May 2013
Preparation and submittal of Final Progress report.	May 2013

## Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements

### Restrictions/Agreements

#### Property Restrictions

In addition to engineering design and CEQA environmental analysis, another pre-project implementation activity to be completed in connection with the Child Meadows Head Cut Repair, Design and Environmental Analysis Project is obtaining an access agreement from The Nature Conservancy who owns and manages the land on which the project site is located as well as the immediately surrounding area. TNC fully supports this project (see letters of support) and has assured the TCRCD that access will be provided.

#### Regulatory Requirements/Permits

It is anticipated that permits will be required from the following agencies:

#### **California Environmental Quality Act**

It is anticipated that the Child Meadows Head Cut Repair, Design and Environmental Analysis Project is subject to CEQA analysis and is thus the subject of this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration development project

#### **State Office of Historic Preservation**

Cultural Resources Submission of Findings to State Historic Preservation Officer per National Historic Preservation Act. Section 106

#### **California Department of Fish and Game**

Streambed Alteration Agreement (Sec 1600) and Possible Incidental Take Permit

#### **California Regional Water Quality Control Board**

401 Water Quality Certificate

### Organizational Capacity

The TCRCD has been involved in numerous watershed restoration and protection projects that have required the design of improvements to in place stream diversion infrastructure as well as the design and installation of natural in-stream erosion control measures along degraded and cut banks. These efforts included the design of retrofits to a diversion dam on Antelope Creek along with

the installation of stream flow dissipation structures and vegetative bank protection measures. District personnel have also completed seven CEQA Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration documents for various watershed protection projects.

TCRCD staff to be involved in this effort include the District's Manager who will provide budget and organizational management of the project work scope and manage contracts with consultants. The TCRCD's Watershed Coordinator will act as the liaison between consultants, TNC, reviewing agencies and the TCRCD. He will coordinate the activities of the design and environmental consultants with those of the TCRCD. In addition, the Watershed Coordinator will review consultants reports and incorporate that content into the IS/MND along with input from TNC, the TCRCD, reviewing agencies as well as comments from community members. The Watershed Coordinator will prepare a draft and final version of the IS/MND and submit the final document to the TCRCD Board for review and adoption. Finally, the Watershed Coordinator will prepare required CEQA notices, necessary permits and public notices regarding input into the environmental analysis process. The District accountant will track and monitor all project costs, develop accounting information incorporated into project billings as well as update scheduling and budget information. Over the past six years, these individuals have managed watershed resource protection projects totaling more than \$1,500,000.

#### Cooperation and Community Support

The Child's Meadows Head Cut Repair, Design and Environmental Analysis Project developed out of continuing collaboration between The Nature Conservancy and the Tehama County RCD. Through such cooperation, an array of mutually beneficial projects have been completed including the development of an oak woodland protection plan for Tehama County, a fire management mapping project, a vegetation map and classification report for the Lassen Foothills area, a report related to potential fire behavior in the Lassen Foothills and a map showing departure from historic fire return intervals within the Lassen

Foothills. In addition to TCRCD and TNC support for this project, a letter of support has been provided by the California Department of Fish and Game.

#### Long Term Management and Sustainability

The Childs Meadows Head Cut Repair, Design and Environmental Analysis project will be completed in a relatively short period of time and no additional management will be required other than assuring that the work scope and Mitigation Measures as developed in the IS/MND are adhered to. The portion of Childs Meadows in which the area is located is under the control and management of The Nature Conservancy who will provide long term management and repair of the erosion control structures that will be developed once implementation funding is obtained.

#### Performance Measures

##### Quantitative Performance Measures

##### Number and Diversity of People Reached

Providing significant information to the public about the environmental impacts of a project as well as allowing significant public input into the process of identifying and analyzing such impacts is a major goal and requirement of the CEQA process. In fulfilling these requirements, the TCRCD will maximize the number and diversity of people informed and involved with the process of preparing the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Child's Meadows Head Cut Repair, Design and Environmental Analysis project. To accomplish this, the RCD will announce this project in the local newspapers and will request public input into the environmental assessment process. Community input will also be developed through a community meeting. These comments and input will be incorporated into the draft and final IS/MND.

Dollar Value of Resources Leverage for the Sierra Nevada's  
(Not Applicable as no cash match is bring provided to this project)

Number and Type of Jobs Created

(Not Applicable as only four TCRCD personnel will be paid to participate in this project)

Number of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities

(Not Applicable as the number of economic activities protected by this project can not be estimated)

Project-Specific Performance Measures

Percent of Pre-Project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation

It is anticipated that the Childs Meadows Head Cut Repair Design and Environmental Analysis Project will lead directly to implementation of stream cutting stabilization once environmental impacts related to project work have been analyzed, protection measures incorporated into the work scope and Mitigation Measures developed. It is also expected that once implementation of fuel break work begins it will be completed within three to four months. Consequently this performance measure will be determined by establishing that all project work analyzed in the CEQA document has been completed on time and as described in the IS/MND.

**Appendix B3**  
**SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**  
**PROPOSITION 84 - DETAILED BUDGET FORM**

**Project Name:** Childs Meadows Head Cut Repair Design and Environmental Analysis Project

**Applicant:** Tehama County Resource Conservation District

<b>SECTION ONE DIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>Year One</b>	<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Year Five</b>	<b>Total</b>
Project Management Costs	\$1,518.00					\$1,518.00
Project Accounting	\$1,157.00					\$1,157.00
Environmental Analysis	\$8,362.00					\$8,362.00
CEQA Filing Fees	\$2,102.00					\$2,102.00
Engineering Consultant	\$17,000.00					\$17,000.00
Archeological Consultant	\$2,000.00					\$2,000.00
Biological Consultnat	\$500.00					\$500.00
DFG Streambank Alteration Agreement	\$840					\$840.00
COE Nationwide Permit #27	\$2,000.00					\$2,000.00
	\$0.00					\$0.00
<b>DIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:</b>	<b>\$35,479.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$35,479.00</b>

<b>SECTION TWO INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>Year One</b>	<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Year Five</b>	<b>Total</b>
Monitoring	\$500.00					\$500.00
Project materials & supplies purchased	\$250.00					\$250.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
<b>INDIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:</b>	<b>\$750.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$750.00</b>
<b>PROJECT TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$36,229.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$36,229.00</b>

<b>SECTION THREE Administrative Costs (Costs may not exceed 15% of total Project Cost) :</b>						<b>Total</b>
*Organization operating/overhead costs	\$5,434.00					\$5,434.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$5,434.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$5,434.00</b>
<b>SNC TOTAL GRANT REQUEST:</b>	<b>\$41,663.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$41,663.00</b>

<b>SECTION FOUR OTHER PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>Year One</b>	<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Year Five</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>List other funding or in-kind contributors to project (i.e. Sierra Business Council, Department of Water Resources, etc.)</i>						
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
<b>Total Other Contributions:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**NOTE:** The categories listed on this form are examples and may or may not be an expense related to the project. Rows may be added or deleted on the form as needed. Applicants should contact the SNC if questions arise.

\* Operating Costs should be allocated to the percentage that is applicable to the grant based on your cost allocation methodology and cannot exceed 15% of your total project costs.