UPPER FEATHER RIVER IRWM

PROJECT INFORMATION FORM

Please submit by 5:00 p.m. on August 3, 2015, to UFR.contact@gmail.com

Please provide information in the tables below:

I. PROJECT PROPONENT INFORMATION

Agency / Organization	Maidu Summit Consortium
Name of Primary Contact	Kenneth Holbrook
Name of Secondary Contact	Lorena Gorbet
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 682, Chester, CA, 96020
E-mail	director@maidusummit.org
Phone	530-258-2299
Other Cooperating Agencies / Organizations / Stakeholders	California Department of Fish & Wildlife Lassen National Forest, Almanor Ranger District
Is your agency/organization committed to the project through completion? If not, please explain	Yes

II. GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title	TAC-2: Big Springs Vegetation Management
Project Category	☐ **Agricultural Land Stewardship** ☒ **Floodplains/Meadows/Waterbodies** ☐ **Municipal Services** ☒ **Tribal Advisory Committee** ☒ **Uplands/Forest**
Project Description (Briefly describe the project, in 300 words or less)	Big Springs, near Humbug Valley has become overgrown with unmanaged vegetation. The flow of water has been impeded by the unmitigated growth and work must be done to thoroughly open up this important cold-water spring. The surrounding habitat of Fenn bog and Aspen groves are critically stressed due to poor spring vegetation management. The Maidu Tribe utilizes this site for traditional practices and that use is threatened by continued under-management of the site. The surrounding forest is a high fuels fire risk which further endangers the health of the Spring, and limits the Maidus' traditional uses that would otherwise occur here, such as native food gathering and propagation.
Project Location Description (e.g., along the south bank of stream/river between river miles or miles from Towns/intersection and/or address):	The Big Springs site is largely public land owned by the U.S.F.S. Staff at the Almanor Ranger District have a "NEPA ready" Aspen Restoration Project that they have been seeking implementation funding for, for some time. The Aspen

	Restoration Project includes mechanical treatment of the surrounding conifer stands, as well as hand treatment for the immediate area surrounding the Springs. We propose that The Maidu Summit Consortium be able to contract for this work, and that a Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) driven ethno-botany study be performed in conjunction with the Aspen restoration. This would ensure that none of the proposed actions would endanger sensitive cultural resources that occur at this site.
Latitude:	40.1336064
Longitude:	-121.2649196

III. APPLICABLE IRWM PLAN OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED

For each of the objectives addressed by the project, provide a one to two sentence description of how the project contributes to attaining the objective and how the project outcomes will be quantified. If the project does not address *any* of the IRWM plan objectives, provide a one to two sentence description of how the project relates to a challenge or opportunity of the Region.

Upper Feather River IRWM Objectives:	**Will the project address the objective?**	**Brief explanation of project linkage to selected Objective**	**Quantification** (e.g. acres of streams/wetlands restored or enhanced)
Restore natural hydrologic functions.	☒ Yes ☐ N/A	Substantial improvement to the hydrological functions and beneficial uses of this substantial cold-water spring will be accomplished through sustained vegetation traditional Maidu management of this site. Coldwater habitat in the North Fork of the Upper Feather watershed will be enhanced by increase cold-water flows.	~ 2-3 acres of spring area supporting a large cold-water spring aquatic habitat 15 miles of CDFW designated Wild Trout Water is supported by Big Springs 2,000+ acres adjacent meadow that is fed by Big Springs
Reduce potential for catastrophic wildland fires in the Region.	☒ Yes ☐ N/A	By enhancing the flow of these springs, we improve the wetlands of the adjacent montane meadow, subsequently reducing wildland fire risk through improved meadow hydrology.	
Build communication and collaboration among water resources stakeholders in the Region.	☒ Yes ☐ N/A	This is achieved through our collaborative planning for this project with the Almanor Ranger District (USFS) and with	

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		the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.	
Work with DWR to develop strategies and actions for the management, operation, and control of SWP facilities in the Upper Feather River Watershed in order to increase water supply, recreational, and environmental benefits to the Region.	☒ Yes ☐ N/A	We want to demonstrate to the DWR the importance of mandating widespread use of TEK springs rehabilitation approaches and techniques for improving summer water flows and water quality. The TEK assessment, rehabilitation, ongoing management and monitoring approach needs to be demonstrated to encourage more widespread employment of TEK in our region.	~ 2-3 acres of spring area supporting a large cold-water spring aquatic habitat 15 miles of CDFW designated Wild Trout Water is supported by Big Springs 2,000+ acres adjacent meadow that is fed by Big Springs
Encourage municipal service providers to participate in regional water management actions that improve water supply and water quality.	☒ Yes ☐ N/A	We want to demonstrate to the DWR and the SWP contractors cost-effective TEK springs management approaches from both Maidu and downstream beneficiary points of view, and thus, encourage more widespread employment of TEK for enhanced springs management on their vast tracts of USFS land.	~ 2-3 acres of spring area supporting a large cold-water spring aquatic habitat 15 miles of CDFW designated Wild Trout Water is supported by Big Springs 2,000+ acres adjacent meadow that is fed by Big Springs
Continue to actively engage in FERC relicensing of hydroelectric facilities in the Region.	☒ Yes ☐ N/A	This project will bring our group into direct participation with PG&E, other Forest and Watershed stewardship partners and interests such as the FERC #1962 ERC, ensuring that environmental justice for the Maidu People is sustainable over time through “buy in” by potential partners	~ 2-3 acres of spring area supporting a large cold-water spring aquatic habitat 15 miles of CDFW designated Wild Trout Water is supported by Big Springs 2,000+ acres adjacent meadow that is fed by Big Springs

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Address economic challenges of municipal service providers to serve customers.	☐ Yes ☒ N/A		
Protect, restore, and enhance the quality of surface and groundwater resources for all beneficial uses, consistent with the RWQC Basin Plan.	☒ Yes ☐ N/A	**TEK UFR IRWM Plan General Ben Use Goal -** Beneficial uses of water including but not limited to: fish consumption, wildlife habitat, plant and animal species, recreation and the water quality and quantity to support such activities. This includes those uses that support the cultural, spiritual and traditional lifeways of California Indian Tribes, Tribal communities and families.	
Address water resources and wastewater needs of DACs and Native Americans.	☒ Yes ☐ N/A	The TAC has proposed cultural beneficial uses that define benefits to water resources such as coldwater habitat and water quality enhancements. (See above.)	
Coordinate management of recharge areas and protect groundwater resources.	☐ Yes ☒ N/A		
Improve coordination of land use and water resources planning.	☒ Yes ☐ N/A	Use TEK	
Maximize agricultural, environmental and municipal water use efficiency.	☐ Yes ☒ N/A		
Effectively address climate change adaptation and/or mitigation in water resources management.	☒ Yes ☐ N/A	The TAC has proposed cultural beneficial uses that define benefits to water resources such as coldwater habitat and water quality enhancements. Climate change projections for the UFFR watershed predict declines in coldwater in surface water bodies during hotter and longer summers.	
Improve efficiency and	☐ Yes		

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reliability of water supply and other water-related infrastructure.	☒ N/A		
Enhance public awareness and understanding of water management issues and needs.	☒ Yes ☐ N/A	Use TEK	
Address economic challenges of agricultural producers.	☐ Yes ☒ N/A		
Work with counties/ communities/groups to make sure staff capacity exists for actual administration and implementation of grant funding.	☒ Yes ☐ N/A	We are partnering with the Mountain Meadows Conservancy, the Feather River Land Trust, the Sierra Institute, Plumas Corp., and Deer Creek Resources, in order to ensure full project planning/implementation objectives are met in a timely manner throughout the life of the grant	

If no objectives are addressed, describe how the project relates to a challenge or opportunity for the Region:

IV. PROJECT IMPACTS AND BENEFITS

Please provide a summary of the expected project benefits and impacts in the table below or check N/A if not applicable; **do no leave a blank cell.** Note that DWR encourages multi-benefit projects.

If applicable, describe benefits or impacts of the project with respect to:		
a. Native American Tribal Communities	☒ Yes ☐ N/A	This project directly enhances local tribes in the conservation of important cultural resources such as springs, meadows and forests. An organization representing the Maidu tribal concerns regarding conservation and resource protection will own the land immediately adjacent to the project site. This project will provide the tribe the ability to practice traditional ecology across ownership boundaries, thus

		promoting cultural practices that could immensely improve UFR watershed management.
b. Disadvantaged Communities[1]	☒ N/A	The project site is positioned in the upper watershed, and could directly impact resource enhancement and allocation, for a number of DACs that occur at many places further down the watershed, near the project site but the locations and magnitudes of actual impacts are unknown.
c. Environmental Justice[2]	☒ N/A	Allowing the local Native tribe the ability to improve our shared resources through direct support for tribal partners employing long-held stewardship techniques that broadly improves ecosystem functioning will have economic and cultural benefits, but specific impacts are unknown.
d. Drought Preparedness	☒ N/A	We enhance the present water supply of the Upper Feather River watershed by opening up these springs and protecting them from contamination of nearby grazing cattle. Specific impacts are unknown.
e. Assist the region in adapting to effects of climate change[3]	☒ N/A	We assist the issues of climate change in our region by reducing wildfire risk. Specific impacts are unknown.
f. Generation or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. green technology)	☒ N/A	
g. Other expected impacts or benefits that are not already mentioned elsewhere	☒ Yes	Botanical vigor and diversity and wildlife use of improved spring habitat will be encouraged by improved functioning of springs and surrounding vegetation.

[1] A Disadvantaged Community is defined as a community with an annual median household (MHI) income that is less than 80 percent of the Statewide annual MHI. DWR's DAC mapping is available on the UFR website (http://featherriver.org/maps/) .

[2] Environmental Justice is defined as the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. An example of environmental justice benefit would be to improve conditions (e.g. water supply, flooding, and sanitation) in an area of racial minorities.

[3] Climate change effects are likely to include increased flooding, extended drought, and associated secondary effects such as increased wildfire risk, erosion, and sedimentation.

DWR encourages multiple benefit projects which address one or more of the following elements (PRC §75026(a). Indicate which elements are addressed by your project.

a. Water supply reliability, water conservation, water use efficiency	☒ N/A	g. Drinking water treatment and distribution	☐ Yes ☒ N/A
b. Stormwater capture, storage, clean-up, treatment, management	☒ N/A	h. Watershed protection and management	☒ Yes ☐ N/A
c. Removal of invasive non-native species, creation/enhancement of wetlands, acquisition/protection/restoration of open space and watershed lands	☒ Yes	i. Contaminant and salt removal through reclamation/desalting, other treatment technologies and conveyance of recycled water for distribution to users	☐ Yes ☒ N/A
d. Non-point source pollution reduction, management and monitoring	☒ Yes	j. Planning and implementation of multipurpose flood management programs	☐ Yes ☒ N/A
e. Groundwater recharge and management projects	☒ N/A	k. Ecosystem and fisheries restoration and protection	☒ Yes ☐ N/A
f. Water banking, exchange, reclamation, and improvement of water quality	☒ N/A		

V. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

For each resource management strategy (RMS) employed by the project, provide a one to two sentence description in the table below of how the project incorporates the strategy. A description of the RMS can be found in Volume 2 of the 2013 California Water Plan (http://featherriver.org/2013-california-water-plan-update/).

Resource Management Strategy	Will the Project incorporate RMS?	Description of how RMS to be employed, if applicable
Reduce Water Demand		
Agricultural Water Use Efficiency	☐ Yes ☒ No	
Urban water use efficiency	☐ Yes ☒ No	
Improve Flood Management		
Flood management	☐ Yes ☒ No	
Improve Operational Efficiency and Transfers		
Conveyance – regional/local	☐ Yes ☒ No	
System reoperation	☐ Yes ☒ No	
Water transfers	☐ Yes ☒ No	
Increase Water Supply		
Conjunctive management	☐ Yes ☒ No	
Precipitation Enhancement	☐ Yes ☒ No	
Municipal recycled water	☐ Yes ☒ No	
Surface storage – regional/local	☐ Yes ☒ No	
Improve Water Quality		
Drinking water treatment and distribution	☐ Yes ☒ No	

Resource Management Strategy	Will the Project incorporate RMS?	Description of how RMS to be employed, if applicable
Groundwater remediation/aquifer remediation	☐ Yes ☒ No	
Matching water quality to water use	☐ Yes ☒ No	
Pollution prevention	☒ Yes ☐ No	Enhancing coldwater habitat improves water quality and reduces warm water associated pollution like algae.
Salt and salinity management	☐ Yes ☒ No	
Urban storm water runoff management	☐ Yes ☒ No	
Practice Resource Stewardship		
Agricultural land stewardship	☒ Yes ☐ No	If livestock fencing is necessary it will be installed to protect spring functions and water quality.
Ecosystem restoration	☒ Yes ☐ No	Springs are critical water features for many wildlife species and culturally important plant species.
Forest management	☒ Yes ☐ No	Hand treatment of surrounding forest, which is dense with wildfire fuels will reduce wildfire risks and enhance groundwater recharge into springs and meadows.
Land use planning and management	☒ Yes ☐ No	Results of this project will directly impact the potential for objectives in the Land Management Plan for the adjacent Humbug Valley, which will be owned by the Maidu Summit Organization by Summer 2016
Recharge area protection	☐ Yes ☒ No	
Sediment management	☐ Yes ☒ No	
Watershed management	☒ Yes ☐ No	Integrating forest, meadow, and spring restoration is an important part of watershed management.
People and Water		
Economic incentives	☒ Yes ☐ No	Through the Pacific Forest Stewardship process and the FERC # 1962 ERC process, economic incentives are potentially available to help implement this project.
Outreach and engagement	☒ Yes ☐ No	TEK will be demonstrated and shared with interested visitors and partners.
Water and culture	☒ Yes ☐ No	The Maidu will be able to restore cultural practices and continuity, as they restore aquatic habitat
Water-dependent recreation	☒ Yes ☐ No	Downstream improvements to the coldwater fishery will benefit anglers.
Wastewater/NPDES	☐ Yes ☒ No	

Other RMS addressed and explanation:

VI. PROJECT COST AND FINANCING

Please provide any estimates of project cost, sources of funding, and operation and maintenance costs, as well as the source of the project cost in the table below.

PROJECT BUDGET

Project serves a need of a DAC?: ☒ Yes ☐ No
Funding Match Waiver request?: ☒ Yes ☐ No

	Category	Requested Grant Amount	Cost Share: Non-State Fund Source* (Funding Match)	Cost Share: Other State Fund Source*	Total Cost
a.	**Direct Project Administration**	185,000	0	0	185,000
b.	**Land Purchase/Easement**	0	0	0	0
c.	**Planning/Design/Engineering / Environmental**	60,000	0	0	60,000
d.	**Construction/Implementation**	100,000	0	0	100,000
e.	**Environmental Compliance/ Mitigation/Enhancement**	25,000	0	0	25,000
f.	**Construction Administration**	0	0	0	0
g.	**Other Costs**	35,000	0	0	35,000
h.	**Construction/Implementation Contingency**	0	0	0	0
i.	**Grand Total (Sum rows (a) through (h) for each column)**	400,000	0	0	400,000

j.	**Can the Project be phased?** ☒ Yes ☐ No If **yes**, provide cost breakdown by phases			
		Project Cost	**O&M Cost**	**Description of Phase**
	Phase 1	50,000	40,000	2 year growth cycle
	Phase 2	50,000	40,000	2 year growth cycle
	Phase 3	50,000	40,000	2 year growth cycle
	Phase 4	55,000	55,000	Final veg. man., impact survey

k.	**Explain how operation and maintenance costs will be financed for the 20-year planning period for project implementation (not grant funded).**	We will be partnering with the USFS in order to develop a long-term site management plan, predicated on this project work and on related work they are already planning to do for a nearby Aspen stand.
l.	**Has a Cost/Benefit analysis been completed?**	☐ Yes ☒ No
m.	**Describe what impact there may be if the project is not funded (300 words or less)**	The Yellow Creek will not have the increased water supply that will occur as a result of this project, nor will it receive the benefit of decreases to water temperature that this will

		provide. Currently the Spring produces ground level water temperatures of 48-49**°.**

*List all sources of funding.
Note: See Project Development Manual, Exhibit B, for assistance in completing this table (http://featherriver.org/documents/).

VIII. PROJECT STATUS AND SCHEDULE

Please provide a status of the project, level of completion as well as a description of the activities planned for each project stage. If unknown, enter **TBD**.

Project Stage	Check the Current Project Stage	Completed?	Description of Activities in Each Project Stage	Planned/ Actual Start Date (mm/yr)	Planned/ Actual Completion Date (mm/yr)
a. Assessment and Evaluation	☒	☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A	Attempting to receive project design funding to begin the design element, and to begin the compliance process	May 1st, 2016	July 31st, 2016
b. Final Design	☐	☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A			
c. Environmental Documentation (CEQA / NEPA)	☐	☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A			
d. Permitting	☐	☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A			
e. Construction Contracting	☐	☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A			
f. Construction Implementation	☐	☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A			
Provide explanation if more than one project stage is checked as current status					

IX. PROJECT TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY

Please provide any related documents (date, title, author, and page numbers) that describe and confirm the technical feasibility of the project. See www.featherriver.org/catalog/index.php for documents gathered on the UFR Region.

a. List the adopted planning documents the proposed project is consistent with or supported by (e.g. General Plans, UWMPs, GWMPs, Water Master Plan, Habitat Conservation Plans, TMDLs, Basin Plans, etc.).	Plumas County General Plan, CDFW Wild Trout Waters designation, Meadow Valley GWMP, Humbug LMP
b. List technical reports and studies supporting the feasibility of this project.	Yellow Creek Summary Report
c. Concisely describe the scientific basis (e.g. how much research has been conducted) **of the proposed project in 300 words or less.**	The Maidu Summit Consortium has conducted a multi-year study of the visual impacts to the site, after having implemented a one-time treatment of the site in 2008. It is clear that with sustained vegetation management at the site, over a long period of time, will be necessary for plant communities to return to a more native variety and therefore provide less need for concerted management annually, allowing for a much more ecologically balanced habitat. Along with this concern is our certainty that we will be revitalizing Maidu cultural practices, as they relate to ecosystem, as a direct means of mitigating social problems currently experienced by our tribal community.
d. Does the project implement green technology (e.g. alternate forms of energy, recycled materials, LID techniques, etc.).	☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
e. Are you an Urban Water Supplier[1]?	☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
f. Are you are an Agricultural Water Supplier[2]?	☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
g. Is the project related to groundwater?	☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A If yes, please indicate which groundwater basin.

[1] Urban Water Supplier is defined as a supplier, either publicly or privately owned, providing water for municipal purposes either directly or indirectly to more than 3,000 customers or supplying more than 3,000 acre-feet of water annually.

[2] Agricultural Water Supplier is defined as a water supplier, either publicly or privately owned, providing water to 10,000 or more irrigated acres, excluding the acreage that receives recycled water.