

Plumas Watershed Forum

Status Report

February 2, 2011

The Plumas Watershed Forum was established in 2003 and received its last infusion of funding in 2006. The program has been relatively inactive since 2009, having expended all but about \$100,000 of the \$4 million that was provided under the Monterey Settlement. Thirty-two projects were completed, with five projects still in progress. The Forum did not hold an annual meeting in 2010, and no future meetings have been scheduled.

The Monterey Settlement provides for an additional \$4 million in funding after successful completion of the “Monterey Plus” Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The Department of Water Resources issued the new EIR in early 2010, and it is currently the subject of litigation in Sacramento County Superior Court. At this time, there is no reasonable estimate as to when the litigation may be complete or whether its outcome will or will not result in additional funding for the Plumas Watershed Forum.

Project Updates

Red Clover - Poco

Sponsor: Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group

Approved Funding: \$12,600 (A funds)

Expended By 6/30/10: \$12,600

The Forum provided funding to pay part of the cost of environmental review, permitting, and design for a pond-and-plug restoration project along three miles of Red Clover Creek. The project ties in to extensive work that was completed upstream in Red Clover Valley in 2006, as well as a number of earlier projects. Design and environmental review were completed in 2009, and the project was constructed in 2010 with \$1.1 million in funding from the CalFed Watershed Program.

Red Clover Valley is one of two sites in the Upper Feather River watershed where State Water Project reservoirs were authorized but never constructed. The extensive restoration work through Red Clover Valley has reestablished much of the groundwater storage capacity of the basin. A final report on the overall project is forthcoming and will be posted on the website of the Feather River CRM at <http://www.feather-river-crm.org/>.

Irrigated Lands Water Quality

Sponsor: Upper Feather River Watershed Group

Approved Funding: \$30,000 (A funds)

Expended By 6/30/10: \$0

Expended By 12/31/2010: \$10,750

This project is intended to encourage implementation of best management practices on irrigated lands, including enhancements such as fencing riparian areas, providing off-stream stockwater, and creating low-impact stream crossings. The project provides matching funds to bridge the gap between funding available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Services Agency and the amount of money that landowners are able or willing to pay to implement projects. Projects are prioritized by the Upper Feather River Watershed Group (the local irrigated lands coalition) in consultation with NRCS and FSA. The following projects have been approved:

	<u>NRCS</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Forum</u>	<u>Total Project</u>
VV Bar Ranch	\$17,755	\$9,900	\$3,000	\$30,655
JG Ranch	\$31,410	\$12,175	\$3,500	\$47,085
Engel Ranch	\$23,651	\$12,712	\$6,000	\$40,363
Genasci Ranch	\$5,195	\$3,750	\$1,750	\$10,695
Goodwin Ranch	\$35,450	\$12,200	\$3,000	\$50,650
Roberti Ranch	\$15,450	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$21,250

VV Bar Ranch: 1,400 feet of riparian exclusion fence; one solar stockwatering facility; 7 acres of permanent riparian exclusion; three years of irrigation water monitoring; 1,680 feet of cross fencing; 45-acre wetland habitat corridor management plan.

JG Ranch: 8,200 feet of riparian exclusion fence; 3 off-stream stockwatering sites; 50 acres of range planting and deferred grazing; 13 acres of invasive weed eradication; 600 acre grazing plan.

Engel Ranch: 8,250 feet of riparian exclusion fence; 5 acres of riparian revegetation; solar pump, water tank, and two 500-gallon troughs; 3 years of grazing exclusion on 29 acres.

CG Ranch: solar-powered off-stream stockwater; 500 feet of riparian exclusion fence; revegetation with native species.

Goodwin Ranch: solar powered mobile stockwatering facility; 17,600 feet of riparian exclusion fence; 3 years of deferred grazing on 415 acres of meadow.

Roberti Ranch: 7,600 feet of riparian exclusion fence; 2 years of deferred grazing.

Irrigated Lands Water Quality Improvement Project



Goodwin Ranch – Solar powered, mobile watering station, for use in Sierra Valley and Red Clover Valley



Engel Ranch – Off-stream water and electric fence along riparian border



Engel Ranch – Controlled stream crossing with electric fence

Mountain Meadows Watershed Restoration Action Plan

Sponsor: Mountain Meadows Conservancy

Approved Funding: \$25,000 (A funds)

Expended By 6/30/10: \$11,009

This project is developing a watershed restoration action plan for the Mountain Meadows basin, a 130,000-acre watershed upstream of Lake Almanor. Development of the plan was originally recommended by the California Department of Fish and Game, which has identified 13,000 acres out of the watershed's 59,000 privately-owned acres for conservation acquisition. Mountain Meadows is a sizeable groundwater basin identified in Bulletin 118, and significant opportunities exist for meadow, stream, and forest restoration.

Mountain Meadows Conservancy has conducted consultation with the Center for Watershed Sciences at U.C. Davis, the Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group, and interested stakeholders, and some of the field assessment work for the project has been completed. Progress has been limited in 2010 due to staff turnover at Mountain Meadows Conservancy.

Spanish Creek in Meadow Valley

Sponsor: Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group

Approved Funding: \$44,300 (A funds)

Expended By 6/30/10: \$28,023

Expended By 12/31/10: \$38,304

This project includes design work and environmental review to restore a stretch of Spanish Creek in Meadow Valley between two other restoration projects that were previously supported by the Forum. The upstream section of Spanish Creek in the Meadow Valley project reach receives large quantities of coarse sediment primarily from old hydraulic mine sites upstream. This bedload is quickly transported to Greens Flat, the upper section of the project reach where much of the material is stored, and the lower section of the project reach, where much of the damage from this load is occurring. The eventual restoration project will reduce the amount of bedload transported downstream from Greens Flat by regulating the amount stored there and reduce erosion of the entrenchment banks through the lower section. Where possible, Spanish Creek will be reconnected to the available floodplain within the entrenchment.

Work completed to date includes stakeholder meetings; all field data collection, including cross-sectional surveys, longitudinal profiles, pebble counts and bulk samples; calculating gravel bar volume; data analysis of cross sections; development of concept design; development of a map of the area of potential effects; and advertising and award of contracts for resource surveys.

Spanish Creek in American Valley

Sponsor: Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group

Approved Funding: \$38,100 (A funds)

Expended By 6/30/10: \$2,099

Expended By 12/31/10: \$10,946

This project includes design work and environmental review for future physical work on Spanish Creek in the upper area of American Valley as part of a larger restoration effort. The project area receives large quantities of coarse sediment (bedload), primarily old hydraulic mining waste. Much of this bedload deposits as large gravel bars and islands within the project reach before being transported downstream, where much of the damage from this load is occurring.

Work that has been completed on the project includes site assessment, data collection, resource surveys, stakeholder meetings, and Technical Advisory Committee design review.

Finances

On June 30, 2009, use of the Minority/B fund was discontinued and a residual balance of \$335 was credited to the Majority/A fund.

The following page shows budgeted and actual expenditures for the 2009-10 fiscal year and budgeted amounts for the 2010-11 fiscal year. Five ongoing projects continue to be budgeted with funds previously approved by the Forum, and expenditures for staff, services, and supplies continue at the previously approved levels. A new charge for “overhead” has been included based on the recently updated Plumas County cost plan, which allocates charges for facilities, utilities, internal staff services (Auditor, Human Resources, etc.) and other costs based on a combination of budgets, transactions, and other factors.

2010-2011 Majority "A" Fund Budget

	09-10 Budget	09-10 Actual	10-11 Budget
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 214,880.18	\$ 214,880.18	\$ 144,181.67
Revenue			
46611 Revenue from Settlement	\$ -		
43010 Interest	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,168.18	\$ 1,000.00
Transfer Balance from B Fund	\$ 335.87	\$ 335.87	
Total Assests	\$ 217,216.05	\$ 217,384.23	\$ 145,181.67
Expenditures - District Staff			
5100 Regular Wages	\$ 14,600.00	\$ 14,364.24	\$ 14,600.00
51020 Other Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
51070 UI	\$ 85.00	\$ -	\$ 53.00
51080 Retirement	\$ 2,850.00	\$ 2,723.54	\$ 2,850.00
51090 Group Insurance	\$ 1,240.00	\$ 1,284.01	\$ 1,240.00
51100 OASDI	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 1,098.89	\$ 1,150.00
51110 Workers Comp		\$ -	\$ 229.00
51119 Liability		\$ -	\$ 89.00
Total Salary & Benefits	\$ 19,925.00	\$ 19,470.68	\$ 20,211.00
Service & Supplies			
52020 Communications			
52170 Miscellaneous			
52180 Office Expense			
52190 Professional Services/Projects	\$ 169,276.10	\$ 53,731.88	\$ 115,544.22
SVGMD Well Enhancement	\$ 19,276.10	\$ -	\$ 19,276.10
Irrigated Lands Water Quality	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00
Mountain Meadows WRAP	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 11,009.06	\$ 13,990.94
CRM - Red Clover - Poco	\$ 12,600.00	\$ 12,600.00	\$ -
CRM - Spanish Creek American Valley	\$ 38,100.00	\$ 2,099.21	\$ 36,000.79
CRM - Spanish Creek Meadow Valley	\$ 44,300.00	\$ 28,023.61	\$ 16,276.39
	<u>\$ 169,276.10</u>	<u>\$ 53,731.88</u>	<u>\$ 115,544.22</u>
52500 Overhead (1)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,198.00
52740 Routine Travel	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00
Total Service & Supplies	\$ 169,676.10	\$ 53,731.88	\$ 119,042.22
Total Expenditures	\$ 189,601.10	\$ 73,202.56	\$ 139,253.22
Uncommitted Funds	\$ 27,614.95	\$ 28,637.45	\$ 5,928.45

Notes

(1) Overhead is new charge assessed on funds by the Plumas County cost plan, which includes support services, facilities, utilities, etc.