

Upper Feather River Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan Performance Annual Report Years 2022-2023

Plan Performance is evaluated in terms of the Plan-level benefits (UFR IRWM Plan, Chapter 10 *Impacts and Benefits*), the Plan objectives (UFR IRWM Plan, Chapter 5 *Goals and Objectives*), and additional measures described in this Annual Report.

Each project approved under the IRWM Plan addresses at least one of the Plan objectives. Plan Performance in terms of those objectives depends largely on the success of individual projects.

The following table presents the 5 Plan-level benefits, 18 Plan objectives, and 6 additional measures by which the IRWM Plan Performance are assessed along with metrics to quantify success and a summary of accomplishments during the reporting period (2016 through 2021).

Many IRWM Plan Performance measures are assessed using metrics defined for individual projects (project-specific criteria) that cannot be defined at the Plan level. Other measures are assessed in terms of the number and variety of projects approved under the Plan (project selection). Finally, some measures are quantified directly, such as local and regional planning agency efforts, number of public outreach programs, tracking attendance and participation in public meetings, public opinion surveys, cooperation and workload sharing among agencies, and the amount of grant funding obtained.

The Annual Report to the RWMG on Plan Performance summarizes progress made in the preceding years in terms of each of the 29 measures in the table below.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	METRICS	REPORTING
Plan-level Benefits		
Years 2022 - 2023		
<p>1. Fostering understanding and information sharing within the Region</p>	<p>Conduct RWMG public meetings</p> <p>Update Featherriver.org website</p> <p>Data Management Standard</p> <p>Determine qualitative perceptions of participating stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted 1 RWMG public meeting (March 2022) • Provided 6 quarterly reports in 2021 and 2022 in lieu of public meetings, due to lack of a quorum to meet; posted on website • Updated and maintained the website • Participated in the Sierra Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan project • Participated in IRWM Roundtable of Regions quarterly stakeholder meetings and Disadvantaged Community Involvement TAC meetings •
<p>2. Opportunities to collaborate on project development and solving regional issues</p>	<p>Coordinate with stakeholder agencies (including staff)</p> <p>Involve the public in project selection</p> <p>Involve DACs and Tribal representatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular email updates and quarterly reports sent to stakeholders and posted on website • Prop 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Round 2 project selection at March 2022 RWMG public meeting • Prop 1 IRWM Grant Round 2 application preparation and subsequent award for two implementation projects within the region • Participated in the Sierra Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan project • Outreach to DACs and Tribes through the Prop 1 Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal Project • Participated in IRWM Roundtable of Regions quarterly stakeholder meetings and Disadvantaged Community Involvement TAC meetings • Region representatives are conversing with members of the Water Solutions Network Watershed Framework to explore synergistic opportunities connecting headwaters with end-users

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	METRICS	REPORTING
Plan-level Benefits		Years 2022 - 2023
3. Identification of diverse funding sources	<p>Track the number and diversity of successful grant applications</p> <p>Assemble and disseminate lists of grant opportunities targeted to various stakeholder groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prop 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Rounds 1 and 2 and Urban Multi Benefit Drought Resilience Program – funding awards for two water supply and storage projects (\$1,671,233) • Regular distribution of grant opportunities to stakeholder distribution lists • Participated in IRWM Roundtable of Regions quarterly stakeholder meetings and Disadvantaged Community Involvement TAC meetings
4. Capacity building	<p>Coordinate with stakeholder agencies, including staff (organizational capacity-building trainings)</p> <p>Contact UC Davis Extension – Agriculture, NRCS, and other programs to provide funding and assistance to private land owners</p> <p>Improve efficiency and reduce redundancy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated with Plumas Watershed Forum to distribute grant opportunities • Participated in the Sierra Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan project
5. Venue to address policy-related and regulatory processes	<p>Conduct RWMG public meetings</p> <p>Update Featherriver.org website</p> <p>Evaluate Plan Performance annually</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted 1 RWMG public meeting (March 2022) • Provided 6 quarterly reports in 2021 and 2022 in lieu of public meetings, due to inability to achieve a quorum to meet; distributed to stakeholders and posted on website • Maintained an updated website • Maintained an updated contact list of stakeholders in the region • Annual Plan Performance Report, March 2024 (covering 2022-2023)
Plan Objectives		

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	METRICS	REPORTING
Plan-level Benefits		
Years 2022 - 2023		
<p>1. Restore natural hydrologic functions</p>	<p>Implement 3 Plan projects that restore natural hydrologic functions</p> <p>Update the project list and technical and scientific studies at the annual RWMG meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project list was updated in 2023 • Open project solicitation posted on website; new projects reviewed at next RWMG meeting • Participated in the Sierra Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan project
<p>2. Reduce potential for catastrophic wildland fires in the Region</p>	<p>Implement 3 Plan projects that reduce catastrophic wildfire potential</p> <p>Update the project list and technical/scientific studies at the annual RWMG meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plumas County Fire Safe Council implements hazardous fuels reduction projects throughout the County including, but not limited to, the Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance Program, Community Chipping Program, Mohawk Valley Hazard Fuel Reduction (1,050 acres), Plumas Disadvantaged Communities project (900 acres), Plumas Collaborative Forest Health Project (6,057 acres since 2019), Quincy Wildfire Protection Project (143 acres), and Eastern Plumas Wildfire Prevention project (5,000 acres), the Lake Almanor Peninsula Hazardous Fuel Reduction project and Clear Creek/Hamilton Fuel Break project (1,000 acres), Emergency Forest Restoration Team, Lakes Basin Forest Health project (2,113 acres), and the Greenhorn Hazardous Fuel Reduction project (148 acres). • Plumas Underburn Cooperative is a volunteer-based group of individuals who share skills, time, and equipment to help community members burn green waste. • Biomass Working Group is a committee of the Plumas County Fire Safe Council that is exploring options for green waste disposal for Plumas County residents. • The Feather River Resource Conservation District is leading The Emergency Forest Restoration Team (EFoRT) that will provide assistance to landowners impacted by the North Complex (2020), Beckwourth Complex (2021), and Dixie (2021) fires. • Two water supply and storage projects have been awarded funding through the Prop 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Rounds 1 and 2 and Urban Multi Benefit Drought Resilience Program (\$1,671,233). Project 1 has been completed and Project 2 is in progress. • The project list was updated in 2023.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	METRICS	REPORTING
Plan-level Benefits		Years 2022 - 2023
<p>3. Balance the needs of forest health, habitat preservation, fuels reduction, forest fire prevention, and economic activity in the Region</p>	<p>Continue to support the integration of biomass electrical generation biofuels development with 1) forest and habitat conservation in US Forest Service (USFS) plan updates, 2) in the carbon sequestration and conservation plan for forests (CA Air Resources Board [ARB]), and 3) by implementing projects UF-12 and TAC-6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 letters of support for wildfire resilience related projects implementing and/or supporting objectives of the UFR IRWM Plan have been provided
<p>4. Build communication and collaboration among water resources stakeholders in the Region</p>	<p>Continue MOU development with water and land management entities in the Region</p> <p>Develop a process for supporting and endorsing collaborative projects, studies, and actions sponsored by MOU signatories</p> <p>Develop a review process for monitoring information and needs</p> <p>Develop a process for updates on conflicts identified in the Plan during public meetings, on the featherriver.org website, and through Inter-agency coordination/consultation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 letters of support for projects implementing and/or supporting objectives of the UFR IRWM Plan have been provided • Participated in development of the Sierra Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan project • Coordinated with the Plumas Watershed Forum to conduct outreach to UFR IRWM region stakeholders regarding grant opportunities.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	METRICS	REPORTING
Plan-level Benefits		Years 2022 - 2023
<p>5. Work with DWR to develop strategies and actions for the management, operation, and control of State Water Project (SWP) facilities in the watershed in order to increase water supply and recreational and environmental benefits to the Region</p>	<p>Review proposals and management planning for lands, habitat, and cultural/historical resources within and downstream from SWP facilities in the watershed</p> <p>May develop an informational item that updates inter-agency and inter-regional planning efforts at a specific RWMG meeting every year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWP reservoirs that are operated for water supply, recreation, and flood control in Plumas County include Frenchman Reservoir, Lake Davis, and Antelope Reservoir • Participated in the Sierra Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan development • Participating in implementation of the Sierra Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan
<p>6. Encourage municipal service providers to participate in regional water management actions that improve water supply and water quality</p>	<p>Get involved in inter-agency, intra-regional planning efforts</p> <p>Participate in project selection</p> <p>Develop project-specific criteria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prop 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Rounds 1 and 2 grant award benefits two municipal service providers: Sierraville PUD and Indian Valley CSD • RWMG Coordinator assisted municipal service providers to develop project-specific criteria for grant applications • Distribution of funding opportunities to municipal service providers in the region

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	METRICS	REPORTING
Plan-level Benefits		Years 2022 - 2023
<p>7. Continue to actively engage in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing of hydroelectric facilities in the Region</p>	<p>Obtain an annual progress report from FERC regarding its implementation of hydroelectric license conditions as scheduled for FERC No. 2100, 2107, 699, 2105</p> <p>Obtain a 'letter of intent' from FERC on fish and amphibian passage improvements, wildfire recovery projects, the James Lee and Indian Jim visitors and outdoor recreation and education and events center, the Rock Creek Bench river access project, and the accidental spill response plans. These are implementation priorities for water stakeholders in the North Fork Feather River Canyon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual progress reports for FERC License No. 2107 (Poe), 1962 (Rock Creek-Cresta), 619 (Bucks Creek), and 2105 (Upper North Fork Feather River) were obtained
<p>8. Address economic challenges of municipal service providers to serve customers</p>	<p>Determine Plan-level efforts of participating entities</p> <p>Obtain outside funding</p> <p>Review efforts by regional and local planning agencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful IRWM Prop 1 Rounds 1 and 2 grant award (\$1,671,233) and implementation to support the DAC communities of Sierraville (SPUD) and Greenville (IVCSD)
<p>9. Protect, restore, and enhance the quality of surface and groundwater resources for all beneficial uses, consistent with the Basin Plan</p>	<p>Implement 2-3 Plan projects that address surface and groundwater resource conservation and quality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported the SVGMD successful application for funding to implement the Sierra Valley GSP, an implementation project included in the UFR IRWM Plan (\$7.5m) Participation in Sierra Valley GSP TAC team meetings

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	METRICS	REPORTING
Plan-level Benefits		Years 2022 - 2023
<p>10. Address water resources and wastewater needs of Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) and Native Americans</p>	<p>Implement 4 Tribal benefit and 17 DAC benefit Plan projects</p> <p>Update the DAC water needs inventory every five years, or as needed by the RWMG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing 2 water supply and storage projects benefitting DACs that were awarded grant funds through Prop 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Rounds 1 and 2 and Urban Multi Benefit Drought Resiliency Program
<p>11. Coordinate management of recharge areas and protect groundwater resources</p>	<p>Implement 3 Plan projects that include recharge area and groundwater conservation efforts</p> <p>Assess whether inter-agency, intra-regional planning efforts include implementation of the region-wide LIDAR project (UF-13)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported the SVGMD successful implementation of a Prop 68 grant to prepare the Sierra Valley GSP, an implementation project included in the UFR IRWM Plan (\$2m) Supported the SVGMD successful grant application to implement the Sierra Valley GSP (\$7.5m)

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	METRICS	REPORTING
Plan-level Benefits		Years 2022 - 2023
<p>12. Improve coordination of land use and water resources planning</p>	<p>Incorporate the UFR IRWM Plan into updates of land, water, and natural resource planning for the three national forests in the Region</p> <p>Submit the UFR IRWM Plan as a planning reference for the Plumas, Lassen, and Tahoe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan updates</p> <p>Support efforts by regional and local entities to participate in ARB's carbon sequestration and conservation plan for forest and agricultural landscapes</p> <p>Integrate TEK into USFS, ARB, and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) plans</p> <p>Provide resource management strategy recommendations developed by the IRWM Plan workgroups for the next update of the California Water Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UFR IRWM Plan was incorporated into the 2020 Update to the Plumas County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) through data and information from the hazard profiles. The IRWM Plan concluded that within the UFR Plan area, wildfire, flooding, drought, and infrastructure failures are the primary water-related hazards and that the highest fuel hazard is along the Feather River Canyon. For example, IRWM Plan Objective 1, restore natural hydrologic functions, discusses reducing peak flood intensities that support potential benefits of reduced costs for flood damage repair; IRWM Plan Objective 2, reduce potential for catastrophic wildland fires in the region, seeks to implement projects that reduce forest fuels; and IRWM Plan Objective 11, coordinate management of recharge areas and protect groundwater resources, supports and offers strategies for the protection and monitoring of groundwater recharge areas for improving drought control and preparedness within the watershed. • Plumas County supports participation in ARB's carbon sequestration and conservation plan for forest and agricultural landscapes • Plumas County Coordinating Council (PCCC) continues to coordinate the plans, policies, and priorities concerning land use and water resource planning in Plumas County with those of federal and state agencies, particularly the United States Forest Service • Region representatives are conversing with members of the Water Solutions Network Watershed Framework to explore synergistic opportunities connecting headwaters with end-users
<p>13. Maximize agricultural, environmental and municipal water use efficiency</p>	<p>Implement 2-3 Plan projects that address water use efficiencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachand, P.A.M., Burt, K.S., Carlton, S. and Bachand, S.M., 2020. <i>Sierra Valley, CA—A white paper on the opportunities and challenges for management of groundwater under SGMA</i> • Bachand, P.A.M. and Burt, K.S. and Carlton, S. and Bachand, S.M. 2020. <i>Groundwater relationships to pumping, precipitation and geology in high-elevation basin, Sierra Valley, CA.</i> Davis, CA, Bachand & Associates, 58pp

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	METRICS	REPORTING
Plan-level Benefits		
Years 2022 - 2023		
<p>14. Effectively address climate change adaptation and/or mitigation in water resources management</p>	<p>Implement 3-4 Plan projects that address GHG reductions, and climate adaptation and mitigation in water and watershed management</p> <p>Update the project list and technical and scientific studies at the annual RWMG meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing two water supply and storage projects grant-funded through the Prop 1 Round 1 and Round 2 and Urban Multibenefit Drought Resiliency Program, both of which address climate adaptation and mitigation (\$1,671,233): SPUD and IVCS D • The project list has been updated four times since the Plan’s adoption in 2016, all projects address climate adaptation and mitigation
<p>15. Improve efficiency and reliability of water supply and other water-related infrastructure</p>	<p>Implement 2-3 Plan projects that address water use efficiencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing two water supply and storage projects grant-funded through the Prop 1 Round 1 and Round 2 and Urban Multi Benefit Drought Resiliency Program, both of which address water supply and infrastructure needs (\$1,671,233): SPUD and IVCS D
<p>16. Enhance public awareness and understanding of water management issues and needs</p>	<p>Implement 4 Plan projects that enhance public awareness and public education about water issues and needs</p> <p>Update the project list and technical and scientific studies at the annual RWMG meeting</p> <p>Support MOU signatory proposals for public outreach/education, public workshops and meetings, and water and watershed education in school programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 RWMG public meeting and 6 quarterly reports distributed to stakeholders and posted on website • Maintain an updated website • Maintain an updated contact list of stakeholders in the region • Annual Plan Performance Reports: June 2021 (covering 2017-2021), March 2024 (covering 2022-2023) • Two special districts were awarded Prop 1 IRWM Implementation funding for water infrastructure projects, both of which will support water supply needs of customers (DACs) • Two IRWM Plan implementation projects have been awarded Monterey Settlement grant funding through the Plumas Watershed Forum: Taylorsville Mill Race Dam Resurfacing (ALS-1) and Little Last Chance Lake (ALS-13)
<p>17. Address economic challenges of agricultural producers</p>	<p>Encourage agricultural producers to participate in potential funding opportunities through IRWM and other sources</p> <p>Obtain outside funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided a letter of support for the SVGMD application for DWR funding to implement the Sierra Valley GSP • Participation in Sierra Valley GSP TAC team meetings

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	METRICS	REPORTING
Plan-level Benefits		Years 2022 - 2023
<p>18. Work with counties/communities/groups to make sure staff capacity exists for actual administration and implementation of grant funding</p>	<p>Implement 2 to 3 Plan projects that include capacity building for project development, implementation, and evaluation</p> <p>Update the project list and technical/ scientific studies at the annual RWMG meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with Plumas County Environmental Health regarding potential funding opportunities through SB 200 and AB 1688 • Completed the DACI Technical Assistant Grant project (5/19/2022)– Plumas County Environmental Health developed a Water Shortage Preparedness and Contingency Plan as a pilot project for replication within the region
Additional Measures		
<p>1. How robust the IRWM Plan process has been after Plan development</p>	<p>List the number of RWMG meetings held vs. identified benchmarks</p> <p>Quarterly RWMG meetings</p> <p>RWMG meetings will be cohosted with member organizations when appropriate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted 1 RWMG public meeting and provided 6 quarterly reports in lieu of in person meetings; distributed to stakeholders and posted on website
<p>2. Public outreach and engagement</p>	<p>List the number and variety of attendees compared to what was targeted by the RWMG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RWMG held one meeting in 2022 and none in 2021. It has been difficult to achieve a quorum for conducting public meetings. • In the absence of public meetings, 6 quarterly reports have been prepared and distributed to stakeholders since the last RWMG meeting in March 2022.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	METRICS	REPORTING
Plan-level Benefits		Years 2022 - 2023
<p>3. Economic benefits</p>	<p>Develop a process for quantifying and assessing the amount of funding and local job creation associated with the implementation of projects identified in the Plan</p> <p>Retain and grow water management and watershed stewardship job opportunities</p> <p>Develop volunteer water management positions on regional boards and commissions for community health, education, and improvement activities, including school programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process to be developed • Lake Almanor Watershed Group, created in 2005, is active in watershed stewardship • The South Lassen Watersheds Group (SLWG) began meeting in 2017 and includes a powerfully diverse mix of local partners interested pursuing high priority, large-scale, multi-jurisdictional projects to improve forest and watershed health, reduce wildfire risk, protect critical habitat, and support local contractors and industry. Born from Lake Almanor Watershed Group strategic planning meetings, the group also adopted a number of guiding principles from the IRWM Plan. SLWG participants include IRWM planners as well as representatives from local, state, and federal agencies; nonprofits; and community groups. The Group is working on a number of projects in the Lassen area including the Dixie Fire Community Protection Project, Upper Butte Creek Project, and hazard reduction projects in Lassen National Park. • Plumas Corporation is an active participant in the Watershed Awareness Through Education, Recreation, and Stewardship (WATERS) Committee, which facilitates education efforts through the implementation of community and school-based education programs and stewardship events throughout the Feather River Watershed. WATERS meets quarterly to coordinate watershed education efforts throughout the watershed. Plumas Corporation annually hosts the Great Sierra River Cleanup along Spanish Creek in Quincy and has hosted numerous community watershed stewardship activities in the upper Feather River Watershed. • In accordance with the terms of the Monterey Settlement Agreement, the Plumas Watershed Forum was re-initiated in 2022 for the purpose of coordinating and managing the disbursement of funds per the Agreement. • Region representatives are conversing with members of the Water Solutions Network Watershed Framework to explore synergistic opportunities connecting headwaters with end-users.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	METRICS	REPORTING
Plan-level Benefits		Years 2022 - 2023
<p>4. Reduction of conflicts identified in the Plan</p>	<p>Develop a process for evaluating improved collaboration that includes responding to stakeholder participants and their qualitative perceptions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process to be developed
<p>5. Overall effectiveness of the planning process</p>	<p>List the number of funded and implemented Plan projects</p> <p>List the number of DAC needs and projects that have advanced to implementation readiness</p> <p>List the number of tribal partnership projects funded and implemented</p> <p>Develop administrative capacity for the RWMG and for MOU signatories and project partners</p> <p>List the number of RMS recommendations that are incorporated into the next California Water Plan update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 implementation projects identified in the Plan have been funded • 4 DAC projects have been advanced to implementation readiness • The RWMG has maintained a Coordinator under annual contract since 2017 to provide planning and administrative support to the RWMG and MOU signatories
<p>6. Up-to-date understanding of climate change vulnerability</p>	<p>Review the most current climate change projections, every five years</p> <p>Review actions to address priority climate change vulnerabilities, annually</p> <p>Re-prioritize climate change vulnerabilities, every three years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional representatives of DWR's Climate Program provide updates at the quarterly RWMG meetings • Implementation project proposals required to include worksheets identifying GHG emission quantification and climate vulnerabilities and adaptations