Yuba IRWMP – BYLT-01

Project Short Form[1]

Please fill out the following information to the best of your ability/knowledge. Once the project has been received and a preliminary review completed, the project team will work with you to develop additional information.

Project Sponsor Contact Information

Lead Agency/Organization	Bear Yuba Land Trust
Name of Primary Contact(s)	Erin Tarr
Mailing Address	12183 Auburn Road, Grass Valley, CA 95949
Email Address	erin@bylt.org
Phone (###) ###-####	530-272-5994 ext 205
Project Partners/Collaborators	SYRCL, private landowners

General Project Information

Project Title	Yuba Land Conservation Easements
Project Total Budget, based on current knowledge	$5,000,000
Project Funding Match, if any	$1,250,000 in land value (25%) or more
Total Project Funding Request	$3,750,000
Can a detailed cost estimate be provided upon request?	Yes, depending on timing. Actual cost is based on appraised value at the time of funding.
Project Location (map if available)	Various
City/Community	Dobbins and Smartsville
Watershed/subwatershed	Yuba
Groundwater Basin	Fractured Hard Rock Aquifer
Project Type (highlight in gray all that apply)	Conceptual Feasibility Study Study/Assessment Planning Engineering/Design Permitting CEQA/NEPA Facility Construction Restoration Monitoring Best Management Practices Acquisition Demonstration/Pilot Project

[1] Completed Project Short Forms should be sent via email to Katie Burdick at admin@burdico.net ***and*** Elizabeth Herrera at **Elizabeth.herrera@fishsciences.net**

Project Description

Write a narrative briefly describing the project components and/or characteristics (maximum of 300 words).

This project encompasses the purchase of up to four conservation easements on private land located on the Yuba River with a goal to permanently protect and maintain critical watershed land and natural resources. Each of the target properties are of substantial size, encompassing several miles of Yuba River shoreline in Yuba County. The effort seeks to limit urban development on high value river-front real estate to maintain water quality, to protect migratory corridors, and to conserve a diverse oak woodland natural habitat.

Because of improved transportation corridors, proximity to a growing population area, and high-desirability of river-front property, this region is under development pressure. Urban development results in the adverse impacts of water quality degradation. The negative effects of road and structure construction, septic and well installation, unnatural runoff from hardscape materials and non-native plantings will be stopped forever, with these conservation easements.

This intact, healthy, oak woodland serves several beneficial ecological functions including reducing soil erosion. The riparian zone provides critical habitat for a wide range of terrestrial and aquatic species while also contributing to water quality by filtering excessive nutrients and other pollutants before the water reaches the river. Land conservation will improve and ensure the healthy functioning of these natural systems.

The flexibility of each conservation easement will protect property containing wildlife habitat, while an easement on a farm might allow continued farming. The easements may apply to all or a portion of the properties, and may or may not require public access, depending on land use and landowner desires.

Land and water management activities as defined in the conservation easements will include the removal of invasive and noxious weeds and the management of toxic runoff from a large abandoned mine site. Cattle grazing objectives would encourage biodiversity, reduce invasive plants, and reduce fire danger. Annual easement monitoring will ensure that land management is meeting objectives.

I. Project Rationale/Issues Statement

Briefly describe the need for the project and the desired outcomes/deliverables (maximum of 200 words).

The project addresses the following identified regional issues:

1. Water Quality Contamination/Agricultural Run-off: Maintain and improve water quality by mitigating for urban runoff – provide a legal prohibition from development in a sensitive habitat; manage agricultural run-off by utilizing land management best practices; ensure the healthy functioning of natural systems that filter excessive nutrients and other pollutants before they reach the river.

2. Sediment Management: Manage sedimentation and implement erosion control to prevent contamination – land conservation to protect an intact, healthy, oak woodland and utilize land management best practices.

3. Invasive Species: Identify and manage for invasive species and their impacts on watershed health through land stewardship – land and water management activities in conservation easements will include the removal of invasive and noxious weeds. Cattle grazing objectives would encourage biodiversity, reduce both invasive plants and fire danger. Annual easement monitoring will ensure that

land management is meeting agreed-upon objectives.

4. Land Conservation: Address the connection between land-use planning and water; Enhance recreational opportunities; Protect working landscapes – This project will limit urban development on high value river-front real estate to maintain water quality, to protect migratory corridors, to conserve a diverse oak woodland natural habitat, protect agricultural land and allow for recreational development (e.g. hunting, fishing, hiking) as landowners permit.

5. Legacy Mining Toxins: Address the physical and chemical hazards of abandoned mine lands(AMLs) with a focus on watershed-scale remediation from the most toxic mine tailings – One target property for a conservation easement is on a large abandoned mine site.