



Maintenance & Resources Management Committee

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Jan. 20, 2021 – Feb. 16, 2021

Environmental Resources Program Overview:

During the last month, the Environmental Resources Program activities have included project development for the English Meadow Wildlife Conservation Board's upcoming grant; fire fuels treatment at Scotts Flat Reservoir; and grant planning and reporting. Environmental Resources staff are developing the CEQA documents for the English Meadow Restoration Project in partnership with Plumas Corporation, and are actively working with regional partners to finalize the update to the Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba River (CABY) Integrated Regional Water Management plan.

Cascade Pipeline Pump Station Hazard Tree Removal Feb. 2021



Pre-removal conditions, note large madrone and additional trees in background.



Post-removal conditions with hazard trees removed.

GENERAL WATERSHED AND HEALTHY FORESTS PROGRAM UPDATE

Fire Fuels Treatment and Hazard Tree Removal on District Property

Environmental Resources staff have completed hazard tree removal near the Cascade Pump Station as indicated above. In 2020, NID Environmental Resources staff visited the Cascade Pipeline above the community of Cascade Shores, and identified 8 hazard trees that were threatening this facility. The trees have been felled and cleanup is nearly complete. This area is adjacent to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's grant funded Scotts Flat Phase 4 Fire Fuels Treatment Project. This is a key facility within NID's water distribution system. Staff will continue working near Scotts Flat and evaluating requests for fuels treatment using our prioritization scoring to ensure that we have met defensible space requirements for neighboring residences. Public Resource Code 4291 directs that a minimum defensible space of 100 ft adjacent to buildings shall be maintained.

Forest Management Plan for District-owned lands

Under development.

English Meadow

NID staff are working with a technical consultant on environmental compliance and permit application development for project implementation. Environmental Resources staff have assisted with development of the project description and biological sections for a Mitigated Negative Declaration and associated permit applications that will be completed during the spring 2021. The Initial Study is nearly completed.

GRANTS UPDATE

CAL FIRE CFIP Grant for Rollins Reservoir

Work is planned to begin February 2021 near Rollins Reservoir. CAL FIRE contract is executed for \$145,000 in funding through the California Forest Improvement Program for fire fuels treatment on an additional 103 acres at Orchard Springs and Long Ravine Campgrounds. Site preparation has begun and is being coordinated with nearby PG&E line hardening activities to remove trees and brush in the utility easement area. A CAL FIRE site inspection is planned as Washington Ridge Conservation Crews will be incorporated into the project at District campgrounds.

SNC Fuels Treatment at Scotts Flat Phase 4

Project implementation continues however winter conditions have delayed activities for the short-term due to snow and saturated conditions. This grant agreement is executed with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for \$981,000 at Scotts Flat Reservoir to masticate fire fuels and improve forest health by creating a multi-species, multi-aged, properly spaced community. This project will improve watershed health while protecting water system infrastructure, terrestrial and aquatic habitats, and communities from elevated fire risk. In total, we will treat 300 acres by Jan. 1, 2022.

Wildlife Conservation Board English Meadow Floodplain Enhancement & Restoration Project- Recommended for Full Funding

This grant will be considered during August 2021 for award by the WCB Board. NID is developing a Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration in partnership with Plumas Corporation and Kevin Whitlock, Under the Trees (consulting forester) in preparation for project implementation. An application was submitted for \$1.2M to WCB's Forest Conservation Program (Prop 68) to complete instream channel modifications (woody debris jam installation, filling of dewatering ditches, and headcut repairs on tributaries) and forest treatment to improve meadow floodplain functionality, reduce accumulated fire fuels, and thin the adjacent forested watershed of the Middle Yuba River headwaters.

OUTREACH, COLLABORATION & EDUCATION

CABY and Integrated Regional Water Management Planning

The Cosumnes American Bear Yuba IRWM Plan update is nearing completion, and an Administrative Draft is publicly available at www.cabyregion.org. Environmental Resources staff are participating in the activities of the Regional Water Management Group as final revisions are considered. After final revision are agreed upon by the group, the CABY IRWM Plan will be submitted to the Dept. of Water Resources for their internal review and public process, with an anticipated completion date in April-May 2021. DWR will have approximately 30 days for their internal review, and then they open a 30 day public review process. After this is concluded, the plan is considered final and approved by DWR, and is then ready for adoption by the CABY members. For more information see www.CABYregion.org

Education & Outreach

No report at this time.
