

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

ACCG Request for Project Support Submission Form (DRAFT)

Instructions: Complete this form when seeking project support from the ACCG. Before completing this form, please review the ACCG Project Development & Support Process (link to [flowchart](#)) and ACCG Project Endorsement Guidelines (link to [guidelines](#)). Contact the ACCG Administrator with questions: Regine Miller, regine.chips@gmail.com.

1. Submission Date: July 10, 2020
2. Project Name: Mattley Meadow Restoration Project
3. Organization/Entity Requesting Support: Plumas Corporation
4. Project Proponent Contact (name, phone, and email address): Gia Martynn, (530)283-3739,x127, gia@plumascorporation.org; USFS contact Zac Croyle, (209)813-6035, Zachary.croyle@usda.gov
5. Committed Project Partners: Stanislaus NF, Calaveras RD; Pvt LO Stan Dell'Orto
6. Grant Program (if applicable): WCB Forest Conservation Program
7. Name and address to whom the Letter of Support from the ACCG should be addressed: CA Wildlife Conservation Board Forest Conservation Program P.O. Box 944209 Sacramento, CA 94244-2090; Address letter to WCB Technical Grant Reviewers, Staff, and Board Members
8. Due Date for Letter of Support: 10am on July 16, 2020; all grant application documents must be submitted electronically together
9. Project Budget Total Amount: \$553,208
10. Project Dollar Amount Being Requested through Grant Program (if applicable): \$504,887
11. Has this project been presented to the ACCG before? If so, describe prior engagement with the ACCG about this project.

Yes, was part of the Cornerstone CFLRP in 2011.

12. Project Summary

Provide a summary of your project that describes:

- a) the existing condition of the landscape, the purpose and need/ goals and objectives of the project, any planned work, the acreage and location of project activities.

Mattley Meadow was identified as a target meadow for restoration in the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG) Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) Project (2006). The 45-acre project is located on Forest Service managed public lands within Stanislaus National Forest, Calaveras Ranger District (32 acres) and private lands owned by Stan Dell'Orto (13 acres) in the headwaters of the Mokelumne River Watershed. The purpose of the project is to restore ecosystem function in the currently degraded channel floodplain system in Mattley and Mattley

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

ACCG Request for Project Support Submission Form (DRAFT)

Creek meadows. Historically, the Mattley meadow complex lacked deep stream channels and water travelled as sheet flow and through shallow swales on the surface of the meadows. Existing remnant vegetation indicates Mattley Meadow once supported a large aspen stand and a vigorous wet meadow plant community. However, natural and human caused disturbances over the past 100 years have caused the formation of three large gully channels in Mattley Meadow and one gully in Mattley Creek Meadow which have resulted in meadow degradation and impaired ecological function. The gullies prevent surface flows from accessing the floodplain and cause accelerated erosion. The gullies have also effectively drained the meadow by lowering ground water elevations, reducing groundwater storage, and altering stream flows. These hydrologic alterations in turn have negatively impacted the plant community and wildlife habitat. The aspen stand has suffered mass die-offs and has been encroached by conifers as the meadow has dried. There has been a conversion of moist plant communities to drier plant communities, increased conifer encroachment, and an overall deterioration of aquatic and terrestrial habitats. The project poses to address the problem by restoring the natural hydrologic functions of the Mattley Meadow system to provide improved water quality and timing of flows, increased extent and vigor of meadow vegetation and aspen stands, and enhanced aquatic and terrestrial habitats onsite and downstream. To meet these objectives the gullies within the meadow will be filled using local fill taken from meadow margins or other elevated features. The project also includes the relocation of a 0.1 mile segment of motorized trail that crosses Mattley Creek Meadow and fencing to restrict and manage livestock use within the restored areas. **Table 1** summarizes the action items proposed to restore the hydrologic functions of the Mattley meadow complex.

Table 1. Action items of the Mattley Meadow Restoration Project

Item Number	Action
1	<p>Fill and stabilize the gullied channels in Mattley Meadow and Mattley Creek Meadow through (Figure 2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excavation of approximately 15,991 yd³ of material from nine (9) borrow pits along the margins of the meadow and other elevated features in the meadow. This material will be used to construct the plugs. The ponds will total approximately 3.34 acres.• Construction of six (6) plugs in the meadow(s) to achieve the partial or complete filling of approximately 2,688 feet of channels. The plugs will total approximately 2.67 acres in size. <p>Motorized equipment in the meadow would be used in order to accomplish this action item. The existing project area consists of approximately 0.79 acres of wet meadow floodplain, 0.32 acres are intermittent and perennial channels, and 43.89 acres of upland.</p>
2	<p>Plant riparian vegetation in all disturbed areas within the meadow (access routes, borrow pond margins, gully fill/plugs). Sod and willow transplants would be excavated and placed using heavy equipment. Native seeding and willow plantings would be done by hand.</p>
3	<p>Reroute a 0.1 mile segment of motorized trail 17EV16 that crosses Mattley Creek Meadow around the meadow. The new rerouted trail segment would be approximately 0.2-0.4 miles in length. The existing trail segment in the meadow would be scarified and woody debris and/or vegetation placed as</p>

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

ACCG Request for Project Support Submission Form (DRAFT)

Item Number	Action
	needed to promote vegetative regrowth. The new trail segment stream crossing would be armored with approximately 5 cubic yards of 6 inch rock.
4	To restrict grazing in the restored areas until treatment areas are revegetated and stabilized (3 years), range fencing would be reconstructed on the north property boundary and east edge of Mattley Meadow. Temporary fencing would be constructed around the immediate restored area in Mattley Creek Meadow. An off-channel water source may be constructed to increase livestock dispersal.

Implementation is proposed to occur in September 2021 during the lowest/no flow period when the stream channels are expected to be dry. The Project area can be delineated into four gullied channel reaches delineated as follows: In Mattley Meadow- the “East” channel, an isolated “Middle” gully (a central constructed channel that is no longer functional but has contributed to the meadow drying out), and the “West” channel; and one channel in Mattley Creek Meadow. The West channel in Mattley Meadow would not be treated or directly impacted as part of the proposed project due to the presence of a population of Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs (SNYLF), a federal and State endangered species. The attached **Figure 1** (Vicinity Area Map) shows the general location of the treatment areas and **Figure 2** (Project Design Plan View) shows the relative location of each treatment reach.

Other project activities include monitoring to measure project effectiveness on water quality, timing of flows, and enhancement of wildlife and aquatic habitats. Monitoring parameters and methods that would be utilized are outlined in **Table 2**.

Table 2. Project Effectiveness Monitoring of the Proposed Action

Monitoring Parameter	Method	Responsible Party
Water Temperature	Water temperature data loggers installed above and below project area May-Sept*	Plumas Corporation**
Aquatic Habitat	California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) conducted once pre- and post-project	Plumas Corporation
Groundwater	6 groundwater wells (approximately 6 to 12 ft in depth) made of 3/4" galvanized perforated pipe, measured monthly*	Plumas Corporation**; USFS as time allows
Stream Flow	Staff gage and pressure transducer installed at the bottom of project area; monthly* manual calibration flow measurements; quarterly* collection of oxygen isotope samples and measurement of electrical conductivity (EC) from inflows, springs, and wells	Plumas Corporation**

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

ACCG Request for Project Support Submission Form (DRAFT)

Monitoring Parameter	Method	Responsible Party
Sediment Supply	Channel cross-section surveys; CRAM	Plumas Corporation
Meadow Vegetation	All revegetation areas would be monitored for three years following project completion. Monitoring will quantify willow survival and percent cover of native meadow vegetation.	USFS
Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog Population	Existing SNYLF population in the untreated “West” channel would be monitored annually, as well as the remnant channel and borrow ponds in the restored area of Mattley Meadow for potential SNYLF dispersal.	USFS

**As access permits*

***Plumas Corporation has secured funding for monitoring through June 2022. Implementation funding, if secured, would provide for continued monitoring through March 2025.*

- b) how the project addresses the environmental, social, and local economic benefits of comprising the ACCG’s triple bottom-line mission. Specifically reference the ACCG’s Principles and Policies in your response. (link to [Principles and Policies document](#)).

The Mattley Meadow project meets ACCG’s principles of “designing and implementing activities that protect and restore forest ecosystem resiliency, structures, processes and functions within local watershed” by restoring the hydrologic function of a mountain meadow complex. The project will also “enhance wildlife and plant habitat” by raising groundwater levels resulting in improved wetland and aspen habitat conditions. Restoring the connection between the meadow channels and floodplain meets ACCG’s natural environment policy to “protect watershed soil integrity and water quality and quantity”. Project planning and implementation meets ACCG’s community policy through collaboration with a local private landowner, the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority, the Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center (CSERC). The project also involved local public outreach through project scoping by the Forest Service and the NEPA and CEQA environmental review processes. Tribal consultation was initiated with the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk in 2015 during an annual meeting followed by a later field trip to the project. Tribal consultation with the Calaveras Band of Miwuk and Washoe was initiated in 2015 through an annual consultation letter followed by a field trip to the project. Additional consultation through CEQA was done in 2020 through letters and email to the Lone Band of Miwok Indians, California Valley Miwok Tribe, and Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk.

The economy policy is addressed through utilizing “adaptive management” in implementing watershed work via project monitoring and management to ensure project benefits are sustained in perpetuity.

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

ACCG Request for Project Support Submission Form (DRAFT)

c) [Placeholder that will have applicants refer to forthcoming socioeconomic guidance document]

d) any actions that could cause controversy among ACCG members, indicating what category of controversy as clarified in the following document (link to [forest treatments guidance tool](#)). How have you attempted to minimize controversy? What are some possible solutions you could employ to address ongoing controversy?

The public scoping and environmental review of the project through the NEPA and CEQA processes did not identify any controversy over the project, nor are the proposed project actions anticipated to cause controversy among ACCG members.

13. Describe desired outcomes/future conditions that the project achieves/supports.

Restoring Mattley Meadow will increase wet meadow and aspen habitat acres, and natural hydrologic regime miles. The project will improve water quality and temperature, meadow hydrology, surface water recharge, reduce erosion and bank cutting, and reduce effects of extreme events through flood attenuation. The hydrology and frog data collection and monitoring component of the project contribute to greater understanding of the benefits and effects of these project types.

14. Describe status of environmental documentation (NEPA/CEQA/other).

The USFS Decision Memo was filed on May 4, 2020. The CEQA Decision Notice is anticipated to be filed in late July/early August 2020 by the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority, CEQA Lead Agency for the project.

15. Attach project map and any other supporting documentation that would enhance the ACCG's understanding of the project.

Link to project CEQA document(s) <http://www.umrwa.org/docs.html>

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

ACCG Request for Project Support Submission Form (DRAFT)

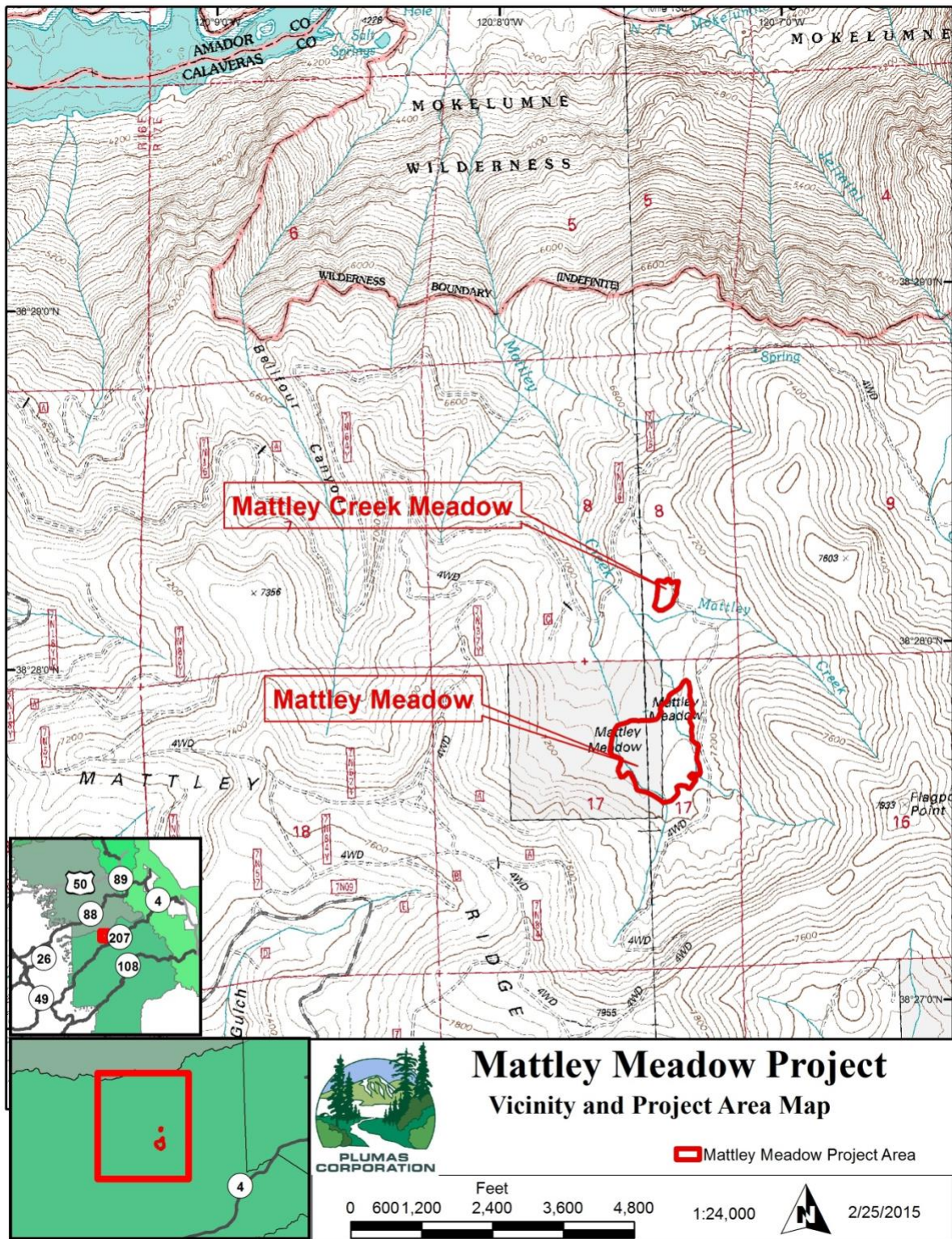


Figure 1. Mattley Meadow Restoration Project Area Locations

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

ACCG Request for Project Support Submission Form (DRAFT)

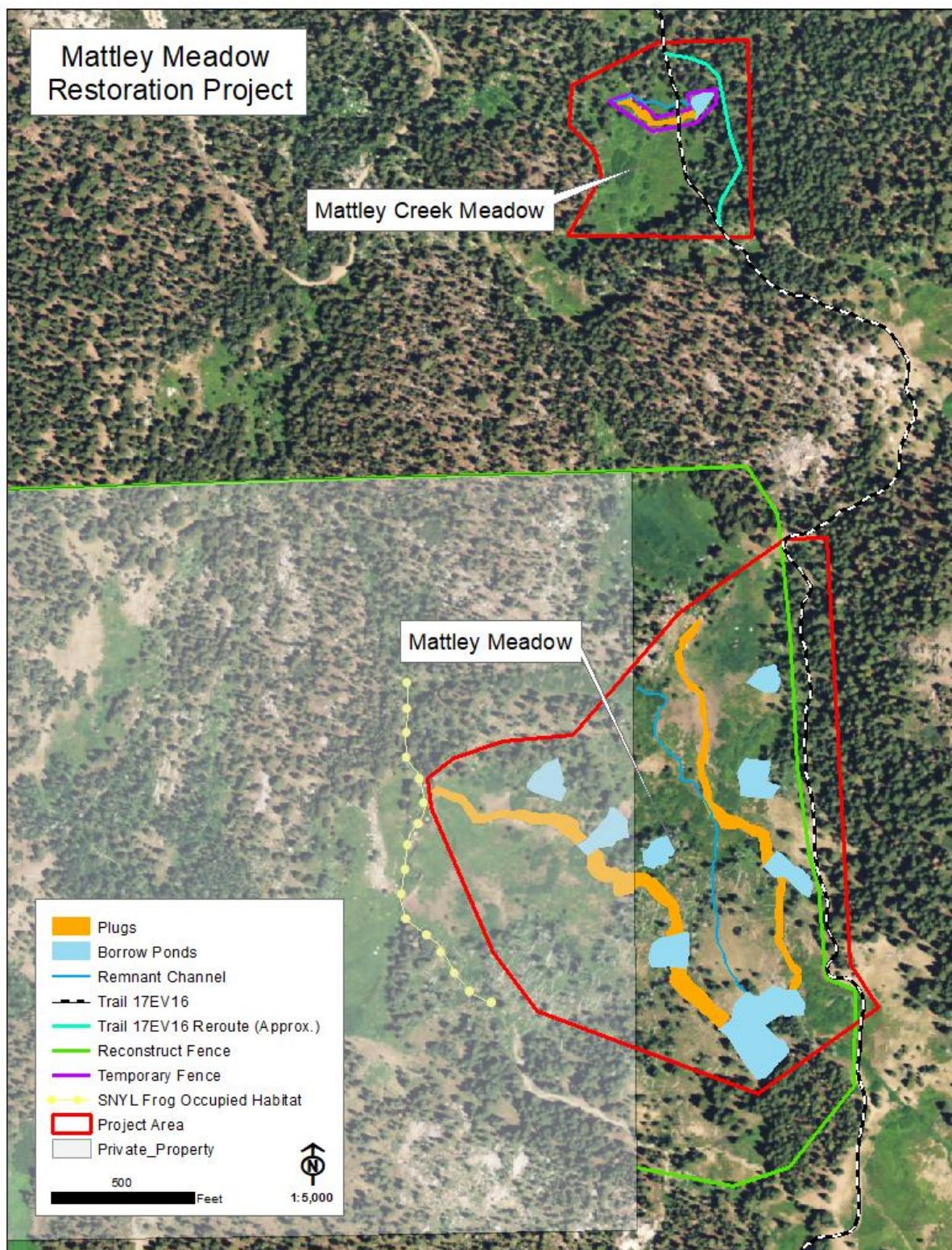


Figure 2. Mattley Meadow Restoration Project Treatment Reaches