



November 6, 2000

To All Russian River Watershed Council Members and Interested Citizens:

Our next Russian River Watershed Council (RRWC) meeting will be held on **Saturday, November 18, 2000** at the Veteran's Memorial Hall in Cloverdale, at 205 West First Street. See the attached draft agenda developed by the RRWC Steering Committee.

The Corps of Engineers has received the State Resources Agency's project funding for FY 2000. The funding will support the biological assessment and habitat mapping scheduled to be completed in 2001 by the Department of Fish and Game. Also, Mendocino County has received the State's funding for hiring the RRWC coordinator.

The RRWC Coordinator Selection Committee will be providing their recommendation for the RRWC coordinator at the November 18 RRWC meeting. We are looking forward to all the RRWC members to be present at the upcoming meeting to ratify the selection of the RRWC coordinator. The selection process for the coordinator was professionally completed and everyone involved was dedicated to ensure that the process was fair and unbiased. It will be a great benefit to the Council to have a dedicated person to assist in making the operations of the RRWC work smoothly.

The Salmonid Restoration workgroup is bringing forward a proposal for the RRWC approval at the upcoming meeting. The draft proposal is enclosed for your review. Also, the Rules of Operation workgroup will be seeking final approval of Section 3 of the Rules of Operation, enclosed.

We have the honor of presenting to the RRWC Tom Schott, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Tom Spittler, U.S. Geological Survey, who will discuss the effects of roads on the health and sustainability of the watershed, road construction techniques, the importance of adequate maintenance, and road maintenance techniques. Please join us at the November 18 RRWC meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Shoemaker".

Richard Shoemaker
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1090
Ukiah, California 95482
(707) 463-4221

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Reilly".

Mike Reilly
575 Administration Drive, Room 100A
Santa Rosa, California 95403-2887
(707) 527-2241

RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

RRWC Meeting
Saturday, November 18, 2000
8:30a.m. – 1:00p.m.

Veteran's Memorial Hall
205 West First Street,
Cloverdale

The mission of the Russian River Watershed Council is to protect, restore, and enhance the biological health of the Russian River and its watershed through a community-based process, which facilitates communication and collaboration among all interested parties.

8:30-9:00 Coffee and Sign-in

DRAFT AGENDA

9:00-9:10	Approve Agenda	ACTION ITEM
9:10-9:15	Approve Minutes of September 9, 2000 RRWC Meetings	ACTION ITEM
9:15-9:45	Announcements	DISCUSSION
9:45-10:10	RRWC Coordinator	ACTION ITEM
10:10- 10:30	Budget and the Budgetary Process	DISCUSSION/ NEXT STEPS SUPPORT
10:30-10:50	Salmonid Restoration Workgroup Proposal	ACTION ITEM
10:50-11:00	Rules of Operation Workgroup Approval of RRWC Rules of Operation, Section 3 – Workgroups Non-Profit Status Update	ACTION ITEM
11:00-11:30	<i>Break</i>	
11:30-12:30	Roads – Building and Maintaining Roads for a Healthy Environment Tom Schott, Natural Resource Conservation Service Tom Spittler, U.S. Geological Survey	PRESENTATION
12:30-12:45	Issues for the Next Meeting. 2001 Meeting Dates: January 13 RRWC Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation: Pierce's Disease and the Glassy Winged Sharp Shooter• Non-Profit Documentation March 10, May 12, July 14, September 8, November 10 RRWC future meetings March 31 Water Rights Law Seminar <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finley Community Center, Santa Rosa	SUPPORT

Section 3: RRWC Workgroups

- The RRWC and/or the Steering Committee may designate workgroups, as necessary.
- Participation in the workgroups is open to all interested parties.
- The Steering Committee will designate a Steering Committee member to act as a liaison for each workgroup.
- Each workgroup will consist of a RRWC member as a coordinator and two or more RRWC members. The workgroup will select the coordinator of the workgroup. Workgroup meetings will have a quorum of 3 RRWC members and/or alternates at all meetings.
- The studies, findings and recommendations of workgroups will be reported to the RRWC for consideration and action. All items will be brought to the Steering Committee for agendaing.
- All proposals which are to be action items must be submitted in writing to the Steering Committee and shall be sponsored by at least one member of all three caucuses. All proposals must include minutes and a roster of participants with a record of support as an element of the proposal being advanced for action by RRWC. Steering Committee review and comments will be provided as part of the presentation to the RRWC. All proposals that meet the requirements as stated will be agendaed in a timely fashion.
- Workgroups may adopt such rules for the conduct of business as are appropriate and are consistent with these rules. Minutes (with workgroup attendees) must be kept. Notification of workgroup meetings will be sent 72 hours prior to the date of the meeting. The notification will be sent to workgroup members, caucus information liaisons, and appropriate staff.
- Each workgroup will report annually to the RRWC on their objectives and accomplishments or at the request of the RRWC or Steering Committee.
- The RRWC will have the following standing workgroups. The purpose and/or function of the workgroups will include but not be limited to the following:

BUDGET WORKGROUP responsibilities would include but not be limited to: 1) Managing all funds and securities of the RRWC and work with foundations, local, State, and Federal agencies to identify new funds to fulfill the RRWC mission. 2) Providing support and advice to the RRWC and the Steering Committee on contracts, accounts, and financial records. The Budget workgroup will include at least one Steering Committee member from each caucus.

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION WORKGROUP responsibilities would include but not be limited to: 1) Informing the public of watershed problems and solutions. 2) Ensuring that accurate information is provided. 3) Developing and distributing information through a newsletter, webpage, brochures, media packets,

and informational packets to libraries and schools. 4) Providing information to schools by conducting workshops, curriculum units, and materials for resource libraries in the classrooms.

SALMONID RESTORATION WORKGROUP responsibilities would include but not be limited to: 1) Developing a historical understanding of the salmonid population and the factors and processes that impede restoration. 2) Defining the lost economies associated with anadromous fish. 3) Identifying the salmonid recovery objectives and ways to achieve those objectives. 4) Promoting Federal and State agency involvement in salmonid recovery. 5) Evaluating the best ways to remove migration barriers in the main stem and selected tributaries.

WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND QUANTITY WORKGROUP responsibilities would include but not be limited to: 1) Assessing the impacts of developing new water supplies, to determine flows in all tributaries and main stem and impacts of fluctuating flows. 2) Assessing water quality data/testing including point and non-point sources. 3) Developing water conservation methods and water consumption in the watershed. 4) Assessing water policies of individual agencies. 5) Assessing the impact of urbanization and agriculture on the water sources in the watershed.

WATERSHED INFORMATION, ASSESSMENT, & MONITORING

WORKGROUP responsibilities would include but not be limited to: 1) Assessing the biological health of the watershed and those factors limiting the restoration of, and supporting the preservation of, healthy salmonid populations. 2) Developing a watershed information system to gauge watershed health and restoration through time. 3) Form a scientific and technical panel to validate and interpret the data used to assess watershed conditions.

DAM OPERATIONS WORKGROUP responsibilities would include but not be limited to: 1) Organizing, review, and distribute Corps documents that detail precipitation, stream flow and channel boundaries before dam construction to present. 2) Evaluating the impacts of the public and private dams in the Russian River watershed. 3) Developing alternatives for fish ladders to bypass migration barriers to fish. 4) Identifying technologies to prevent and/or remove accumulated sediments from dam reservoirs.

TRIBUTARY CLEAN-UP WORKGROUP responsibilities would include but not be limited to: 1) Developing an assessment of selected tributaries to evaluate their health and function. 2) Mapping tributaries to identify invasive species, migration barriers, and riparian health. 3) Supporting local community efforts to clean-up tributaries and remove exotic plants from the waterways of the Russian River watershed.

Willow Creek Watershed Proposal Development For Proposition 13 Funding

**Submitted to the RRWC for
Fiscal Year 2001 Russian River Watershed Council
Watershed Restoration Analysis Projects Funding**

PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION:

The Salmonid Restoration workgroup is seeking \$10,000 to provide matching funds for a Willow Creek watershed proposal to compete for Proposition 13 funding.

There are several groups that have approached California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) with interest in doing restoration and education projects within the Willow Creek watershed. State Parks is coordinating a collaborative effort to produce a combined Proposition 13 proposal for the Willow Creek watershed. The RRWC funds will be given to the Proposition 13 proposal coordinator chosen from State Park's coordination efforts.

State Parks will hold a meeting prior to the November 18 RRWC meeting to discuss and develop the Proposition 13 pre-proposal. Specific details on the final pre-proposal will be provided at the November 18 RRWC meeting.

PROPOSAL COORDINATOR:

The proposal coordinator is yet to be determined and will be identified by the November 18 RRWC meeting.

PROJECT LOCATION:

Willow Creek watershed, tributary to the Russian River, on coastal Sonoma County

PROPOSITION 13 PROPOSAL TIMING:

The initial Proposition 13 pre-proposal is due November 27, 2000. The Russian River Watershed Project Evaluation Team (Evaluation Team) will notify all selected pre-proposals for further consideration by December 11, 2000. The final detailed workplan and application is due by January 22, 2001. The proposals selected for funding will be announced by February 26, 2001. See the Evaluation Team's proposal announcement dated October 24, 2000 for further information.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES:

This proposal will fund efforts to develop and implement a management program that will enable the Willow Creek partnership to restore, protect, and monitor significant wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitats within the Willow Creek watershed. The Willow Creek watershed drains an area of approximately 8.7 square miles, nearly all of which is owned and managed by two large landowners; State Parks and Mendocino Redwoods Company. The Willow Creek valley has a history of heavy logging and road building activity on top of an already geologically active, erosive area. As a result, it has become very degraded, and the fish population has declined seriously.

These habitats are severely threatened by excessive sedimentation resulting from uncorrected land management practices, including road building, timber harvesting, and grazing. Fisheries habitat for threatened and endangered anadromous salmonids and water quality have been degraded to the extent that the entire lower channel is now filled with sediments, leaving a discontinuous, braided stream through which fish must attempt to migrate.

The final Proposition 13 proposal will assist coordination and cooperation of all major stakeholders in the watershed, including both private and public interests. The initial planning process should identify any and all watershed information that may be available for the Willow Creek basin. This information will then be used as a basis from which additional data will be collected and integrated to formulate specific strategies and designs for reducing excess sediments, restoring natural fluvial processes, and monitoring riparian and wetland habitats of Willow Creek. Public outreach and education should also be a significant component of this project, as several educational, nonprofit, and citizens organizations have long expressed interest and have been actively involved in the protection of the Willow Creek watershed. Data developed from this proposal will be shared with the Russian River Interactive Information System.

AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WILLOW CREEK PARTNERSHIP:

California Department of Parks and Recreation	Russian River Watershed Council
California Department of Fish and Game	Trout Unlimited
California Division of Mines and Geology	Stewards of Slavianka
Sonoma Coast Advisory Council	Mendocino Redwood Company
Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region	

NEED FOR PROPOSITION 13 FUNDING:

The Willow Creek basin is considered a significant natural area, worthy of preserve classification. Willow Creek is also a coastal tributary of the Russian River, one of the basins that has been listed as an impaired watershed for sediment under Section 303d of the Clean Water Act. The Willow Creek channel has supported federally listed anadromous fish, steelhead and coho salmon, at least in the recent past. The federally listed red-legged frog has also been recently documented in the lower wetland and channel areas.

In recognition of the significance of this area, State Parks funded a preliminary assessment of the sedimentation problems and has recently held meetings with several interest groups, including several agencies and the upstream timber landowner. Under the guidance of the California Department of Fish and Game, Trout Unlimited has conducted in-stream inventories in Willow Creek and has completed some upslope erosion control projects. Plans are currently underway by the upper watershed landowners to further assess sedimentation sources associated with roads. However, there is still a strong consensus among the interest groups that a comprehensive restoration and monitoring plan and program needs to be developed and implemented to thoroughly address and correct the sedimentation problems, before Willow Creek is degraded to a point of no recovery.

Proposition 13 funding will enable the Willow Creek Partnership to collaboratively accomplish this goal and to pursue additional matching funds from other sources to implement a long-term restoration, educational, and monitoring program aimed at returning Willow Creek to a healthy, natural ecosystem.

BUDGET SUMMARY TABLE
REAL/ACTUAL (What the RRWC has - as of November 18, 2000)

Description	FY 2000			FY2001 (Funds available to RRWC)			FY2002 (Funds available to RRWC)		
	Non-Federal		Federal	Non-Federal		Federal	Non-Federal		Federal
	Cash	In-Kind		Cash	In-Kind		Cash	In-Kind	
Russian River Watershed Council Operations		\$65,000			\$30,000			\$65,000	
SCWA – Staff support, food, AV equipment for RRWC meetings.					\$50,000				
RWQCB – Staff support, mailing for RRWC meetings					\$20,000				
Strategic Plan with Implementation Scope	\$65,000			\$40,000					
Develop Russian River Watershed Restoration information System									
Data Analysis and Synthesis			\$25,000						
Problem-specific Restoration Analysis and Synthesis						\$10,000			
Scientific Panel Analysis and Synthesis									
RRIIS			\$50,000	\$60,000		\$40,000	\$65,000		\$35,000
Education						\$12,000			
Outreach						\$8,000			
Corps Planning and Project and Program Management			\$55,000			\$130,000			\$95,000
	\$65,000	\$65,000		\$100,000	\$100,000		\$65,000	\$65,000	
SUBTOTAL	\$130,000		\$130,000	\$200,000		\$200,000	\$130,000		\$130,000
TOTAL	\$260,000			\$400,000			\$260,000		

Budget Workgroup

Proposed Budget
Russian River Watershed Council
Fiscal Years 2002 - 2003

The majority of the RRWC's funding should be directed to 5 areas: 1) to implement Council operations, 2) to develop a Russian River Interactive Information System and models for analysis of potential alternative futures, 3) to develop educational outreach programs, 4) to support implementation of restoration projects and 5) to evaluation dam operations. While retaining the various project recommendations of Council workgroups, the Budget workgroup recommended that RRWC support RRIIS and the associated collection, assessment and future alternative analysis, which will support an intensive Council study of the problems involved in salmonid recovery in the Russian River. This evaluation and the concurrent education program will have as an essential component of refining and implementing the various tasks generated by Council workgroups.

Council has finalized the RRWC Rules of Operation and is hiring a coordinator. The next steps are to coordinate a scientific and technical panel; data synthesis and analysis; develop the RRIIS database; develop models such as potential alternative future analysis; work with Federal, State, local agencies, and the public to develop policies and educational programs to support the stability of the Russian River watershed; and to support the implementation of restoration projects throughout the watershed.

This is a budget shaped specifically with consideration of the concerns of the various stakeholders. It springs from efforts of the RRWC at compromise; it seeks to find a way to be informed and carefully, but progressively, move forward. As well, this budget provides that the Council and the larger community are well informed and that the projects the Council supports are firmly based in scientific and social realities.

In all, the proposed budget reflects a care that the process go forward with a conscious eye towards undertakings that unify elements of the community, rather than create tension. Mutual good will and essential understanding are what we want to forward with this budget. It is intended to be practical evidence of conciliation -- the enterprise of compromise -- and that is the spirit in which it is presented. It is not possible to devise perfect solutions to such complex problems as we now face, but neither is it impossible to advance towards a solution, step by step. To that end, these are ways of working which we put forward for the immediate future of the RRWC and the health of our watershed.

3.1.1 Russian River Watershed Council Operations

FY 2002: \$250,000 FY2003: \$300,000

The Council will use operating funds to convene meetings, develop programs, become informed, communicate, organize, develop alternative sources of funds, interact with public agencies, and fulfill state and federal accountability requirements. Operating funds will cover:

- * Salary and benefits for a Council Coordinator (who will be responsible for communication within the Council, representing the Council at meetings with public agencies and other organizations, preparing documents for Council meetings and gatherings; correspondence; program development, and other activities). These funds will also pay for the Coordinator's supplies, telephone, travel and approved purchases (such as a computer).
- * For part-time clerical and accounting assistance.
- * Rent for Council meeting places (Sonoma County's in-kind contribution)
- * Fees for professional facilitators to conduct Council meetings.
- * Printing, copying and mailings of Council materials.
- * Purchase of books, periodicals and reports related to watershed issues for the research and implementation purposes of the Council.
- * Approved travel so Council Members or the Coordinator may attend meetings, conferences and workshops

3.1.2 Strategic Plan with Implementation Scope

FY 2002: \$400,000 FY2003: \$400,000

The Russian River Watershed Council (RRWC) supports the health and sustainability of the watershed's natural resources. To assist in achieving this objective, the funding would support the following needs:

Salmonid Restoration: 1) Developing an historical understanding of the salmonid population and the factors and processes that impede restoration. 2) Defining the lost economies associated with anadromous fish. 3) Identifying the salmonid recovery objectives and ways to achieve those objectives. 4) Promoting Federal and State agency involvement in salmonid recovery. 5) Evaluating the best ways to remove migration barriers in the main stem and selected tributaries.

Water Quality, Supply, and Quantity: 1) Assessing the impacts of developing new water supplies, to determine flows in all tributaries and main stem and impacts of fluctuating flows. 2) Assessing water quality data/testing including point and non-point sources. 3) Developing water conservation methods and water consumption in the watershed. 4) Assessing water policies of

individual agencies. 5) Assessing the impact of urbanization and agriculture on the water sources in the watershed.

Tributary Clean-Up: 1) Developing an assessment of selected tributaries to evaluate their health and function. 2) Mapping tributaries to identify invasive species, migration barriers, and riparian health. 3) Supporting local community efforts to clean-up tributaries and remove exotic plants from the waterways of the Russian River watershed.

3.1.3 Public Outreach and Education

FY 2002: \$80,000 FY2003: \$80,000

Education (\$35,000 per year). Funds will also be used to develop and test a watershed curriculum for elementary and high school students. Programs would be provided for teachers to develop multidisciplinary units. The RRWC would work cooperatively with the Sonoma and Mendocino County Departments of Education and existing environmental education programs (including Sonoma State University) in developing curricula and materials. This would be a multi-year project with the first year devoted to curriculum development. It is expected that curricula would be distributed, in part, through the RRIIS webpage.

Outreach (\$45,000 per year). A program to build public support and involvement in river protection and restoration. One of the programs being considered by the RRWC is a process to educate and inform local agencies and the public of the detrimental effects of roads on the landscape and the importance of adequate maintenance. To support this program and other programs and projects, as they are developed, some of the communication tools to be developed/used are a newsletter, webpage (RRIIS), RRWC brochure, press releases and a resources library which will include books, videos, slides, and posters.

3.1.4 Problem-Specific Restoration Analysis and Synthesis

FY 2002: \$75,000 FY2003: \$75,000
(*\$65,000 was allocated for FY 2000 and \$40,000 for FY 2001*)

In each of the two years, \$65,000 will be directed to State Fish and Game's Stream Assessment Program led by Department of Fish and Game Biologist, Bob Coey. This program on-site habitat assessment in watershed tributaries providing important information on restoration potential and tributary problems. The program helps to build positive relationships with landowners and provides volunteer opportunities for the general public.

In each of the two years, \$10,000 will be directed toward coordinating a watershed-wide tributary cleanup that will be coordinated with the Fish and Game's program. This cleanup will have as its goal the removal of trash and debris from the river's tributaries.

3.1.5 Develop Russian River Integrated Information System (RRIIS)

FY 2002: \$100,000 FY2003: 0

(\$50,000 was allocated for FY 2000 and \$100,000 for FY2001)

Data Analysis and Synthesis (\$250,000). A review and synthesis, coupled with analysis, of previous scientific studies on the Russian River and its watershed to discover what information remains useful and relevant to watershed restoration projects and public policy, and what work still needs to be done so that the Council can confidently set its project and policy priorities. This process would include: 1) Assessing the biological health of the watershed and those factors limiting the restoration of, and supporting the preservation of, healthy salmonid populations. 2) Gauge watershed health and restoration through time. 3) Validate and interpret the data used to assess watershed conditions.

3.1.6 Analysis of Potential Alternative Futures (Modeling Studies)

FY 2002: \$290,000 FY2003: \$695,000

(Projected cost estimate is \$1,000 per square mile or \$1,485,000 total project cost)

Develop alternative scenarios of future land use and water resource management. The effects of the scenarios might be assessed, for example, for two endpoints: 1) water quality (estimated loading rates of suspended sediments and nutrients, etc), 2) salmonids (habitat suitability and availability within the watershed, etc).

The alternative futures assessment could address a number of basic questions, including:

1. How have humans altered the landscape of the Russian River watershed over the last 150 years?
2. How might human land and water use management and policies alter the basin's landscape in the future?
3. What are the likely ecological and socio-economic consequences of these alternative futures?
4. What types of human activities and management actions, and where, are likely to have the greatest effects?
5. Landscape change analysis to study how urbanization and changes in farming patterns might effect water use, sedimentation, riparian habitat, etc

Problem-specific studies that will be conducted and reviewed by consultants hired by the Council, including such areas as: salmonids, hydrology, groundwater recharge, flows, sedimentation/turbidity, riparian vegetation, flood regimes, water quality and water supplies.

3.1.7 Scientific and Technical Panel

FY 2002: \$100,000 FY2003: \$100,000

To assist in data analysis and quality control, the Council will select a panel of scientific professionals, agency biologists and hydrologists and academic experts to provide input for Council projects and to review conclusions. The Panel would have clerical support to coordinate the Panels review process.

3.1.8 Dam Operations

FY 2002: \$50,000 FY2003: \$100,000

The RRWC will work with the Corps of Engineers to collect and review existing data regarding dam operations in the watershed and possible solutions that have been implemented in other watersheds. The task would include: 1) Organize, review, and distribute Corps documents that detail precipitation, stream flow and channel boundaries from before dam construction to present. 2) Evaluating the impacts of the public and private dams in the Russian River watershed. 3) Developing alternatives for fish ladders to bypass migration barriers to fish. 4) Identifying technologies to prevent and/or remove accumulated sediments from dam reservoirs.

3.1.9 Planning, Program, and Project Management

FY 2002: \$155,000 FY2003: \$155,000

These are the RRWC's federal costs. They must be covered in order to pay for ongoing support and consultation with the Corps; development and revision of planning documents, and review and evaluation of progress. Services include legal counsel, accounting, contracting and fiscal management strategy. Funds that are not used may be shifted to other categories.

SUBTOTAL: FY 2002: \$1,500,000 FY2003: \$1,900,000

TWO YEAR TOTAL: \$3,400,000

**PROPOSED
DRAFT BUDGET SUMMARY TABLE**
(Funding total identified in Project Study Plan (PSP) - approved by the RRWC)

Description	FY2002			FY2003		
	Non-Federal		Federal	Non-Federal		Federal
	Cash	In-Kind		Cash	In-Kind	
3.1.1 Russian River Watershed Council Operations	\$15,000	\$65,000	\$70,000	\$35,000	\$65,000	\$50,000
SCWA – Staff support, food, AV equipment for RRWC meetings.	0	\$50,000	0	0	\$50,000	0
RWQCB – Staff support, mailing for RRWC meetings	0	\$50,000	0	0	\$100,000	0
3.1.2 Strategic Plan with Implementation Scope	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000
3.1.3 Public Outreach and Education	\$30,000	\$10,000	\$40,000	\$30,000	\$10,000	\$40,000
3.1.4 Problem-specific Restoration Analysis and Synthesis	\$75,000	0	0	\$75,000	0	0
3.1.5 RRIIS	\$65,000	0	\$35,000	0	0	0
3.1.6 Future Alternative Analysis	\$65,000	\$50,000	\$175,000	\$240,000	\$50,000	\$405,000
3.1.7 Scientific and Technical Panel Analysis and Synthesis	0	\$50,000	\$50,000	0	\$50,000	\$50,000
3.1.8 Dam Operations	\$25,000	0	\$25,000	\$50,000	0	\$50,000
3.1.9 Corps Planning, Project and Program Management	0	0	\$155,000	0	0	\$155,000
SUBTOTAL	\$375,000.00	\$375,000.00	\$750,000.00	\$525,000.00	\$425,000.00	\$950,000.00
	\$750,000.00			\$950,000		
TOTAL	\$1,500,000			\$1,900,000		