



June 25, 2023

Valerie Aubrey
Eagle Lake Guardians
686-795 Bamboo Way
Spalding Tract Eagle Lake
Susanville CA 96130

Sent via email to: eaglelakeguardians@yahoo.com

Re: Trout Unlimited Proposal to Eagle Lake Guardians

Dear Valerie,

Trout Unlimited (TU) appreciates the opportunity to submit this funding proposal to Eagle Lake Guardians. TU recognizes that Eagle Lake Guardians has long been at the forefront of the effort to conserve Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout (ELRT) and has been an important partner to TU in our work to promote ELRT over the past decade-plus. Following below are three projects for possible funding support that are aimed at improving ELRT spawning habitat and flows by accelerating meadow restoration in Pine Creek.

For background on TU's recent projects in the Eagle Lake Watershed, we secured a grant in October 2020 from the California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to work in partnership with American Rivers to design and implement meadow restoration projects in Pine Creek. Meadow restoration in Pine Creek focuses on returning hydrologic and geomorphic processes to regimes that more closely resemble their historic patterns than exists today.

At Confluence Meadow, in the fall of 2022, the earthmoving and initial revegetation actions for restoration were implemented. Based on field observations made in June 2023, after high flows had receded, the project appears to have successfully restored connectivity of the creek to the floodplain, and to have improved aquifer storage for late season baseflows. Additional revegetation actions are planned for the fall.

At Logan Springs Meadow, TU is currently working to raise funding to implement a design



Confluence Meadow – post restoration, June 2023

plan approved by the US Forest Service in November 2022. TU’s goal is to begin restoration implementation in the fall of 2024.

The Confluence and Logan Springs Meadow restoration will set the stage for much larger restoration projects in the future at McCoy Flat and Champs Flat, closer to Eagle Lake. TU is in the process of working with partners to secure funding for design and permitting for these two projects. We hope to begin the design process in early 2024.

As part of the restoration process, pre-implementation monitoring is needed at Logan Springs, McCoy Flat and Champs Flat. TU is prepared to implement monitoring at the first two of these sites during the summer and fall of 2023.



Logan Springs Meadow – pre restoration, June 2023

Project 1: McCoy Flat Meadow Pre-Project Habitat Surveys. This project follows a planning methodology known as Stream Condition Inventory (SCI), based on the USFS Region 5 Stream Inventory Protocol. It involves estimating and defining the total length and number of reaches and channel units that can be surveyed using this habitat typing methodology. It then entails field work to record habitat types in those sampling reaches, using TU’s AmeriCorps stream team and additional field assistants. The TU Science team will create basic project maps that illustrate various habitat types that currently exist throughout the McCoy Flat reach of Pine Creek.



McCoy Flat Meadow – pre restoration, June 2023

The final product will be a report that documents the existing habitat types in Pine Creek at McCoy Flat and will be used to inform the upcoming restoration design process and will serve as baseline data for post-project effectiveness monitoring. The project team will be led by Sabra Purdy and include TU CA Science Director Rene Henery, Northern Sierra Project Manager Michael Cameron, and TU and AmeriCorps staff. This project is currently not funded and will cost \$15,000.

Project 2: Logan Springs Meadow Pre-Project Vegetation Monitoring. The restoration objectives for Logan Springs Meadow include, among others, enhancing aquatic and terrestrial habitat value, raising groundwater elevations, and increasing vegetative productivity. TU will be conducting pre-project vegetation monitoring at Logan Springs in the summer of 2023 to create baseline data to compare to post-project conditions and evaluate restoration effectiveness against these objectives. TU will be implementing the Sierra Meadows Wetland Riparian Area Monitoring Plan (SM-WRAMP) methodology. We will inventory plant species composition using on-the-ground plots and transects and will conduct meadow-wide vegetation mapping using drone imagery. TU will also be contracting for high-resolution satellite imagery for all the Pine Creek meadows. These images will be used to generate the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) for the landscape to allow tracking of changes in the amount and vigor of terrestrial vegetation over time. The results of these efforts will be documented in reports for future use. This project is mostly funded and \$5,000 will enable to us to close the gap and implement these actions fully.

Project 3: Outreach to increase the pace and scale of implementation of the 2015 ELRT Conservation Agreement. The 2015 Conservation Agreement set out an ambitious schedule of projects to ensure the long-term sustainability of Eagle Lake Trout. While progress has been made, some measures are not on track. TU seeks to work with the signatories of the agreement – the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the US Forest Service – as well as other key stakeholders, to identify opportunities to increase the pace and scale of implementation. Much has changed since 2015, including the Dixie Fire, COVID, and turn-over at key positions in the agencies. The goal of this project is to reinvigorate the conservation agreement and renew the commitment of all parties to its timely and successful implementation. This outreach effort currently is not funded and will cost \$5,000 over 6-9 months.

The total of all three of these projects is \$25,000. We would welcome the chance to describe these projects in more detail if that would be helpful. Thank you, again, for the opportunity to present this proposal.

Sincerely,



Michael Cameron
Northern Sierra Project Manager
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