

SUBGRANT SCOPE OF WORK

Washoe County Parks Weed Management and Revegetation

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project would remove noxious and invasive weeds and re-establish native vegetation in Washoe County Park and Open Space areas. Project implementation would include weed inventory, GIS mapping and reporting, chemical and mechanical treatments, and re-vegetation through seeding and planting of container stock. An Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) Plan was developed for Washoe County Parks in June 2020. Treatments would follow the guidance and recommendations in the IVM Plan to establish stable perennial plant communities which will help to improve fish and wildlife habitat, enhance recreational opportunities, improve water quality through soil stabilization, reduce fire hazard, and increase the visual quality of park and open space areas.

Priority treatment areas identified include Crystal Peak Park, Riverbend Open Space, Mogul Park, Canepa Ranch Open Space, Carcione Open Space, Mayberry Park, Dorostkar Park, Ambrose Park, Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park, Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Anderson Park, Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, Lockwood Park, Lazy 5 Regional Park, Red Hill Open Space, Swan Lake Nature Study Area, South Valleys Regional Park, Hidden Valley Regional Park, North Valleys Regional Park, Wilson Commons, Ballardini Open Space, and Arrowcreek Open Space. Additional priority areas may be identified as new weed infestations are discovered and may include revegetation of areas affected by future wildfires.

A majority of the parks along the Truckee River Corridor were inventoried and treated at least once in 2019-2020 and weed treatments would continue over the next few years based on 2019 inventory results. New inventories would be conducted at additional locations beginning in 2021. A variety of treatments may be used including mowing, hand pulling, and herbicide application. Target weed species include, but are not limited to, hoary cress (*Cardaria draba*), musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*), spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*), Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*), diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*), yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*), teasel (*Dispacus spp.*), jointed goatgrass (*Aegilops cylindrica*) and medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*). Re-vegetation efforts may include seeding and planting of native and adapted vegetation and be focused on areas with larger weed infestations, previous disturbances, and areas affected by fire. Shrub gardens may be planted in larger areas to introduce a native seed source and help the area recover over time.

A combination of Washoe County staff time, contracts, and volunteer efforts would be used to implement the project. Volunteer events will be coordinated internally through the Washoe County Parks Volunteer Coordinator and with other partners such as Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful and the Nevada Land Trust. Volunteer events will occur throughout each year and include weed removal and seeding/planting with an estimated volunteer contribution of 865 hours over 3 years.

PROJECT GOALS AND MEASURABLE OUTCOMES:

Project goals include identifying, mapping, and treating noxious weeds in Washoe County Park and Open Space areas. Inventories would be conducted to determine the location and size of weed infestations. Pre-treatment maps would be generated showing the number of acres inventoried and the number of acres needing treatment. In addition to weed treatments, project goals include re-establishment of native vegetation through seeding and planting of container stock. Success of seeding and planting efforts would be monitored over subsequent years. Results would be measured by the total number of acres inventoried, treated, seeded, and planted.

TIMELINE:

Project work would begin in April 2021 and continue through June 30, 2023. Weed inventories and treatments would typically occur spring-fall. Re-vegetation including seeding and planting would be targeted for the late fall and early winter months, but planting of container stock may also occur in the spring if conditions are appropriate and temporary watering is feasible. A final report detailing project accomplishments and associated shapefiles would be submitted within 45 days of project completion, and no later than August 14, 2023.

PROJECT BUDGET:

The project budget includes a total of \$105,000 for contract work, \$40,000 for supplies, \$30,000 in Washoe County staff time, \$22,000 in volunteer time, and \$3,000 in indirect charges. Contract work may include chemical and mechanical weed treatments, site preparation for revegetation, seeding, planting, and temporary irrigation. Supply purchases may include native seed mixes, container plants from the Washoe Nursery or other sources, terra-sorb polymer, mulch, herbicide and surfactants, and equipment needed for herbicide spraying such as backpack sprayers and PPE.

Washoe County matching funds will include \$30,000 in staff time for project management and implementation, \$45,000 in cash match, \$22,000 in volunteer time, and \$3,000 in indirect costs (based on the 10% rate). The \$45,000 in cash match will be provided through a Truckee River Fund Grant made through the Community Foundation of Western Nevada. These funds are sourced locally through the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) and qualify as non-federal match.

