

Appendix B-8

ROUND 8 LAKE TAHOE RESTORATION PROJECTS ESTIMATED NECESSARY EXPENSES & KEY MILESTONE DATES

Project Name: Aspen Community Restoration Agency: USFS LTBMU
 Prepared by: Victor Lyon Phone: (530) 543-2749 EIP#: 10080
 SNPLMA Project#: XXX

Identify estimated costs of eligible reimbursement expenses:

1. Planning, Environmental Assessment and Research Costs (specialist surveys, reports, monitoring, data collection, analysis, NEPA, etc.)	\$ <u>10,000</u>	<u>5</u> %
2. FWS Consultation – Endangered Species Act	<u>1,000</u>	<u>0.5</u> %
3. Direct Labor (Payroll) to Perform the Project	\$ <u>10,000</u>	<u>5</u> %
4. Project Equipment (tools, software, specialized equipment, etc.)	\$ <u>1,000</u>	<u>0.5</u> %
5. Travel (including per diem where official travel status required to carry out project, such as serve as COR, experts to review reports, etc.)	\$ <u>1,000</u>	<u>0.5</u> %
6. Official Vehicle Use (pro rata cost for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out project)	\$ <u>6,000</u>	<u>3</u> %
7. Cost of Contracts, Grants and/or Agreements to Perform the Project	\$ <u>140,000</u>	<u>70</u> %
8. Other Direct and Contracted Labor: Agency payroll for the Contracting Officer to do project procurement, COR, Project Inspector, Sec. 106 Consultation if required, NEPA Lead, Project Manager, Project Supervisor, and subject experts to review contracted surveys, designs/drawings, plans, reports, etc.; Also covered is the cost to contract for a Project Manager and/or Project Supervisor if contracted separately from other project contracts)	\$ <u>7,000</u>	<u>3.5</u> %
9. Other Necessary Expenses (See Appendix B-9)	<u>24,000</u>	<u>12.0</u>
TOTAL:	\$ <u>200,000</u>	<u>100</u>

%

Estimated Milestone Dates:

Milestones/Deliverables	Date:
First round of treatments applied	November 2008
1st year post project monitoring report completed	January 2009
Second round of treatments applied	November 2009
2nd year post project monitoring report completed	February 2010
Final Completion Date:	May 2010

COMMENTS:

APPENDIX I

ROUND 8 LAKE TAHOE CAPITAL PROJECT PROPOSAL

Project Name: Aspen Community Restoration

Capital Focus Area: Watershed and Habitat Improvement (Habitat Improvement)

EIP # 10080

Lead Agency: USFS LTBMU

Contact: Victor Lyon

Threshold: V, W, SC2

Phone Number: (530) 543-2749

Threshold Standard: V-1 Deciduous Riparian, W-2 Riparian Habitat, SC-2 Stream Environment Zones

Email Address: vlyon@fs.fed.us

Is this a multi-year Project? Yes
(If "Yes", describe in the Detailed Project Description below number of Years or phases and which year the Requested funding will cover)

Total Project Cost: \$3,100,000

Funding Request in this Round: \$200,000

Project Summary (maximum 200 words):

Aspen ecosystems support an exceptionally diverse array of associated species and generally occur in association with streams, wet meadows, and other wet areas. Aspen ecosystems were recognized as one of the Ecologically Significant Areas in the Lake Tahoe Basin (Watershed Assessment 2000) for their biological diversity and rarity. Unfortunately, this scarce ecosystem type is being replaced by conifers due to changes in the historic fire regime. This project is necessary to sustain healthy aspen communities in the absence or suppression of natural wildfires, which thin-out encroaching conifers, stimulate aspen regeneration, promote structural complexity in the canopy and a diverse and productive understory, and support an extraordinary degree of species richness, endemism, and diversity. The goals of this project are to restore healthy ecosystem function, biological diversity, and enhance aspen stands identified by the Aspen Community Assessment Project (EIP #10080).

Detailed Project Description:

The LTBMU completed assessments of the location, size, condition, and risk of loss of all aspen stands on the Forest (work conducted in 2002, 2003, 2005, and 2006) and produced a general technical report (GTR) on the ecology and management of aspen communities in the Sierra Nevada (with emphasis on the Lake Tahoe Basin). The LTBMU is currently producing a report describing the findings and recommendations developed from the Aspen Community Assessment Project. The findings and recommendations of the Aspen Community Assessment Project and GTR will direct the planning, environmental analysis, implementation (e.g., conifer removal, root scarification, removal of senescent aspens, and/or prescribed burning etc.), and monitoring of the Aspen Community Restoration Project. The Aspen Restoration Project will restore healthy ecosystem function and seral trajectory to aspen stands in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The SNPLMA Round 8 funds requested will cover the costs of implementation and monitoring for fiscal years 2008 and 2009.

Describe the goals and objectives of the project:

The goals of this project are to restore healthy ecosystem function, biological diversity, and seral trajectory to aspen stands on the LTBMU.

The objectives of this project are to:

1. WR/HI-7: ‘*Conserve* and assess the condition of habitats that contribute to overall basin landscape diversity (e.g., aspen, fens, riparian zones, wetlands)’ as determined by the Aspen Community Assessment Project.
2. WR/HI-14: ‘Restore or enhance aspen stands’ through: controlling conifer encroachment, stimulating aspen regeneration, developing multiple age-class canopies, developing diverse and productive understories. Accomplishing this objective will also provide naturally fire-resistant areas and enhance wildlife diversity and integrity.

Describe the anticipated project accomplishments:

Restoration efforts will focus on the 395 aspen stands (estimated 1,551 acres) determined to be in the ‘moderate’ to ‘highest’ risk categories by the Aspen Community Assessment Project (Table 1). The Forest plans to restore approximately 35 acres of the highest priority aspen stands per year in 2008-9. The SNPLMA Round 8 funding requested is expected to accomplish approximately 70 acres of aspen stand treatments. The project will control conifer encroachment, stimulate aspen regeneration, develop multiple age-class canopies, develop diverse and productive understories, provide naturally fire-resistant areas, and enhance wildlife diversity.

Table 1. Aspen Stand Risk Assessments from Aspen Community Assessment Project, 2002-06.

Aspen Stand Risk	Number of Stands	Acres	Percentage (of Acres)
None	22	46	1.8 %
Low	141	972	37.8 %
Moderate	175	875	34.1 %
High	165	566	22.0 %
Highest	55	110	4.3 %
Totals	558	2569	100 %

Describe the “readiness” of this project to move forward (urgency, capacity, capability, Environmental documentation etc.):

The Forest completed aspen stand assessment surveys across the Lake Tahoe Basin in 2006. The LTBMU also partnered with Rocky Mountain Research Station to develop a general technical report describing ecology and management of aspen communities in the Sierra Nevada (with emphasis on the Lake Tahoe Basin) in 2006. The Forest is currently using Round 6 funds to prepare and initiate project implementation.

Describe partnerships for this project. (Include documentation):**

The LTBMU contracted Rocky Mountain Research Station to develop a general technical report describing ecology and management of aspen communities in the Sierra Nevada (with emphasis on the Lake Tahoe Basin). The Forest anticipates that collaborative efforts with The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, California Tahoe Conservancy, California State Parks and Recreation, and Nevada State Parks for the Aspen Community Restoration Project will be developed informally as for the Aspen Community

Assessment Project. The Forest will also likely develop a partnership with the local Washoe Tribe.

Describe the project monitoring that will be implemented as part of this project including: (The funding in this Round will only accomplish pre-project and two years of post project monitoring)

1) The questions the monitoring program is designed to answer

- What is the biological response to aspen restoration projects using different vegetation management practices?

(2) The monitoring approach

- Aspen Restoration Vegetation and Wildlife Monitoring: determine the effectiveness of aspen restoration projects on improving aspen stand condition.

3) Whether this project monitoring fits into a larger monitoring or research program? Part of LTBMU 5 year Plan, as described in LTBMU 5 Year Plan, 2006.

Describe how the project results will be communicated and made-available to the public. Results/accomplishments summarized in Annual Forest Monitoring Program Report, as well as project-specific monitoring reports. Project-specific monitoring reports will be produced one to five years after project implementation, depending on the variables being monitored and the questions to be answered.

Include an 8 ½ X 11 map depicting the project. (see Figure 1 below)

Figure 1. Aspen Community Restoration Project Map. The project includes aspen stands (indicated as green dots) on Forest Service lands (shown as the shaded green area) within the Lake Tahoe Basin. Aspen stand conditions not indicated on map due to scale.

