

**TAHOE PROJECT PROPOSAL
ESTIMATED COSTS & KEY MILESTONE DATES**

Project Name: Cookhouse Meadow Restoration **Sponsoring Agency:** U.S. Forest Service, LTBMU **Date:** March 10, 2004

Contact: Jim Howard **Phone:** 530-543-2657 **EIP #** 10133.1

Identify estimated costs of eligible reimbursement expenses:

1. Planning and Environmental Costs (conceptual drawings, specialist reports, archaeology, wildlife, biology, engineering, and environmental documentation, etc.,)	\$ 0	<u>0 %</u>
2. Pre-construction Engineering Costs (surveys, engineering technical reports, architectural and design services, contract preparation, permitting, etc.,)	\$ 0	<u>0 %</u>
3. Acquisition (easements, land acquisitions, etc.)	\$ 0	<u>0 %</u>
4. Project Administration (contract admin services, procurement costs, etc.,) Final completion report only.	\$ 2,100	<u>1 %</u>
5. Construction/Implementation Costs (including site restoration)	\$ 900,000	<u>99 %</u>
6. Authorized Federal Direct Labor (must provide justification showing direct labor is more cost effective than private contract)	\$ 0	<u>0 %</u>
7. Other (Explain)	\$ 0	<u>0 %</u>
8. Contingency reserve (Not to exceed 10%)	\$ 0	<u>0 %</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 902,100	<u>100 %</u>

Estimated Key Milestone Dates:

Milestones:	Date:	Estimated Costs
Excavate New Stream Channel	August 1, 2005	\$ 450,000
Fill Old Channel and Restore Site (final completion)	Sept 30, 2006	\$ 450,000
Administration (final contract completion report only)	Sept 30, 2006	\$2,100

COMMENTS:

Appendix I-2**TAHOE PROJECT PROPOSAL**

Project Name: Cookhouse Meadow Restoration Project **EIP #** 10133.1
Lead Agency: USFS, LTBMU **Contact:** Jim Howard
Threshold: W, SC, WQ, F, V **Phone Number:** 530-543-2657
Threshold Standard: W-1, W-2, SC-2, **Email Address:** jmhoward@fs.fed.us
WQ-1, WQ-4, WQ-5, WQ-6, F-2, V-1 **Total Project Cost:** \$902,100

Project Description:

The LTBMU, Ecosystem Restoration Group proposes to restore fluvial geomorphic and ecological processes at Cookhouse Meadow by constructing a new section of the Big Meadow Creek channel through the meadow. The new section of channel will replace the deeply incised channel that has disconnected stream flows and ground water from the meadow surface.

Describe the purpose and need for the project:

Cookhouse Meadow and its surrounding ecosystem have suffered a series of historical alterations due to human infrastructure and land-use practices, including sheep and cattle grazing, road building, and irrigation. The most notable result of these impacts is channel incision, which has disconnected stream flows and ground water from the meadow surface. Regular storm flows no longer deposit sediment on the meadow surface, rather they cause further erosion of the incised channel and transport sediment downstream, ultimately to Lake Tahoe. Meadow vegetation, which used to support a rich and diverse ecosystem, can no longer access the receding water table for most of the growing season. The proposed project will restore the natural processes that support and maintain healthy ecosystem function and greatly improve water quality in the Big Meadow Creek watershed.

Describe the goals and objective of the project (for Science & Research Projects describe Key Management Questions being addressed):

The goals of the Cookhouse Meadow Restoration Project include restoration of natural fluvial geomorphic and ecological processes that sustain a healthy, functioning stream and meadow environment. The objectives of the project include construction of a stream channel with appropriate dimension, pattern and profile that allows overbank flows at the 1.5-year recurrence interval, supports natural sediment transport dynamics under the full range of stream discharge events, maintains a water table within the rooting depth of meadow and riparian vegetation communities throughout most of the growing season, and supports diverse, self-sustaining populations of aquatic biota.

Describe the anticipated project accomplishments:

The Cookhouse Meadow Restoration Project will restore natural ecological processes to 25 acres of stream/meadow ecosystem. The project will restore fluvial geomorphic function and stability to 2,200 feet of stream channel.

Describe the “readiness” of this project to move forward (environmental documentation, etc.):

In September, 2003, the LTBMU Ecosystem Restoration Group awarded the Big Meadow Watershed Ecosystem Assessment and Restoration Plan contract to Swanson Hydrology and Geomorphology. The Ecosystem Restoration Group has also retained the services of Mike Morrison, PhD Wildlife Ecologist. The combined team has performed a thorough assessment of physical and ecological processes associated with Cookhouse Meadow. The team has developed 50% plans for restoration of Cookhouse Meadow, held three meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee, which includes representatives of the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, submitted 50% plans for review by the aforementioned regulatory agencies, and completed scoping of the proposed action. The team will submit 90% plans along with an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the mandatory NEPA 30-day Pre-decisional Comment Period by mid-March, 2004. The team expects the Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact to be signed by the Forest Supervisor by May 1, 2004, at which time we will begin the solicitation process for a construction contract. The team expects to award the construction contract and begin work in August, 2005.

Describe partnerships for this project. (Include documentation)

NA

For Science & Research Projects describe how this project will guide future management activities:

NA

Include an 8 ½ X 11 map depicting the project, or research/study area.

See below.

