

Land Stewardship Proposal for Burney Gardens Planning Unit

Collaborating Organizations

**Fee Title Holder: Fall River Resource Conservation District
Land Conservation Partner: Shasta Land Trust**

Part One—Organizational Information

Contact Information

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Executive Summary

The Fall River Resource Conservation District (RCD) has been assisting landowners and partners develop and implement projects for over two decades. These have included numerous natural resource improvement projects (e.g. meadow restoration, forest health), agriculture efficiency projects, and youth education.

The RCD has successfully accomplished much of this work using the Watershed Coordinator model, wherein qualified individuals are hired to serve as Watershed Coordinators. This model relies upon identifying “voids” in the capacity of project partners or within project work. After identifying these voids, the RCD then assists by providing staff technical expertise, locating other project partners to help, or writing grants to secure funds for project planning and implementation. In the last ten years, one of these voids was general strategic planning for the region. The RCD teamed with other local RCD’s to develop multiple broad-scale planning projects (i.e. Upper Pit River Watershed Management Strategy), and these were later modified to comply with the State’s Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program. This leadership and development of broad plans has been instrumental for partners to prioritize and develop projects which are frequently implemented through successful grant funding.

The divestiture of PG&E lands brought about new opportunities for the RCD. Through public meetings and outreach from local stakeholders, the RCD was encouraged to apply for the McArthur Swamp Planning Unit as well as other planning units. Community members felt the Beneficial Public Values aligned well with RCD goals and their Strategic Plan, and that the RCD had the experience and technical capability to own and manage these lands. At times, land management objectives come into conflict with natural resource concerns, and the RCD is committed to finding a solution to these conflicts. The recent fee title transfer of the McArthur Swamp Planning Unit to the RCD reflects this commitment, as the RCD worked hard to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Pit River Tribe and to secure livestock grazing lease agreements with the McArthur Resource Management Association (i.e. livestock owner group). While this project is in its infancy, the processes and relationships have been established that ensures broad participation among partners to effectively manage natural resources to the benefit of the community.

The RCD has the financial and organizational capacity to add the Burney Gardens Planning Unit (BGPU) to their fee title portfolio. Although the site has limited income potential, enough revenue is available between grazing lease income and sustainable timber harvesting to cover the costs of such management. These two income sources, augmented with occasional grant funds for site improvements, forms the financial basis for management of the site. The RCD’s existing Board of Directors and staff has experience with agriculture and forest management, and they have proven their ability to work effectively with all project stakeholders in the region.

Organizational Information

Category: The Fall River Resource Conservation District is a Public entity.

Tax ID: 68-039005

Legal Name: Fall River Resource Conservation District
Common Name: Fall River RCD
Status Documentation: See Attachment #1

Rationale for Applying

This planning unit falls within the southern portion of the Fall River Conservation Districts boundary. The Fall River RCD has been working with numerous partners in the last seven years on this parcel through the Burney-Hat Creek Community Forest and Watershed Group. The RCD lead the development of a Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) with a goal to restore hydrologic function, improve aspen stands, decrease fire risk, and improve forest health on the planning unit and the surrounding area. The plan was submitted to Cal Fire and approved in 2012, and portions of the plan have been implemented.

While some of the restoration work has been realized, much of it remains to be completed. There is an estimated 1,194 acres of aspen, meadow, and wet area restoration (with 813 acres of that being located on the planning unit) left to be treated and the RCD has submitted three grant applications on different occasions to fund the project. Most of the remaining work is biomass removal, with chips going to local bioenergy facilities. On this note, the RCD is working with project partners to establish three new small-scale bioenergy facilities in the region, which would help land managers treat more forest health acres and provide numerous jobs.

Whether assisting local project partners, or securing parcels such as Burney Gardens, the Fall River RCD believes in managing natural resources utilizing best management practices, while providing for local community benefit. Our organizational mission (see below) meshes seamlessly with the Beneficial Public Values identified by the Stewardship Council for the site. The Burney Gardens Planning Unit has a history of responsible and productive use by the local community. Giving fee title to a local entity continues that tradition while ensuring the protection of cultural resources, utilizing natural resources in a sustainable manner, and continuing public access and benefit.

Organization Mission

The Mission of the Fall River RCD is to support private and public landowners in the use and management of natural resources that will ensure the sustained highest economic, social, and environmental benefits of these resources. This support is expressed through the coordination of public agency referrals and information, the implementation of natural resource programs, education, and the organization of land management services.

As a grassroots locally led organization, the Fall River RCD is committed to serving the needs of the community as well as the needs of the environment. This commitment is demonstrated by the following practices: (1) providing strong leadership in the identification, management, and restoration of natural resource concerns; and (2) providing natural resource education to the community.

The RCD mission is directly supportive of the BPV's identified for the Burney Gardens Planning Unit including: 1) preservation of habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants; 2) preservation of open space; 3) sustainable forestry; 4) agricultural uses; 5) and preservation of historic values. First and foremost, it supports responsible multi-use management of lands, while also improving degraded habitat conditions, creating local jobs and community benefits from ecosystem services, and ensuring sensitive resources are protected. Finding a balance between these values can be difficult, but the RCD is committed to ensuring the environment, economy, and social equity are considered and supported through collaboration and management of natural resources.

Geographic Focus

The Fall River RCD was established in 1957 by the Shasta County Board of Supervisors. The district includes acreage in four counties:

Northwestern Lassen County: 275,000 acres
Southwestern Modoc County: 35,000 acres
Eastern Shasta County: 644,000 acres
Southeastern Siskiyou County: 195,000 acres

Directors of the RCD are required to reside in the District. As representatives of their community, directors have the responsibility to assess local conservation needs and to develop programs to meet those needs. The RCD board has always been well rounded, with directors having experience in agricultural practices, forestry, land management, and knowledge of the local history and recreational opportunities in the district. The RCD often forms a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for individual projects. The TAC is made up of members of different interest groups and agencies that have a stake in the project; this ensures input from a range of interests.

Organizational Experience and Capacity

Within the last year, the RCD took fee title to the McArthur Swamp Planning Unit, which comprises 4,491 acres of wetland, grassland, and rangeland just north of McArthur, California. We have been working with the Pit River Tribe and a broad-based Technical Advisory Committee to ensure local, collaborative decisions are made in regards to the management of this property. Long-term goals for this property are to maintain open space for public benefit, continue sustainable locally-based agriculture, protect wildlife and natural habitat, to maintain outdoor recreational activities, and to protect cultural resources. Wetlands America Trust, Inc. is the holder of the conservation easement for this property. While the management of this property by our organization and partners has just begun, we have a number of plans in place to improve the property, including an aggressive plan to control noxious weeds in cooperation with PG&E, plans to survey the property more fully for cultural and biological resources, and immediate plans to hire a rangeland manager to oversee sustainable grazing and maintenance

of the property. The goals and values to protect and enhance on this property align very closely with those of the Burney Gardens planning unit.

The RCD is leading the region in the development of new bioenergy facilities through two existing grants. Their *Northeastern CA Bioenergy Cluster Project*, funded through the USDA Wood Innovation Grant Program, and the Hat Creek Bioenergy Project (previously named the Burney-Hat Creek Bioenergy Project) funded by the California Energy Commissions EPIC Grant Program, have secured over five million dollars in predevelopment and equipment funds for new facilities. The RCD has teamed with local entities (Hat Creek Construction and Materials, Inc.) and West Biofuels, Inc. (a gasification technology vendor and integrator) to advance these projects. These bioenergy projects are listed to demonstrate the RCDs ability to identify critical limitations of local infrastructure necessary to manage natural resources in a sustainable manner. The BGPU is largely forested, and is at high risk from wildfire, which would negatively affect cultural, agricultural, biological, and natural resources. This high fire risk, coupled with typical fire patterns in the area make restoration and thinning of this area a high priority in the Burney Basins Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

The RCD's organization capacity and experience managing land may best be demonstrated by the unique makeup of the RCDs Board of Directors and staff. Current BODs have personally owned and managed lands in the region during most of their adult lives; while this personal experience does not directly translate to the RCDs organizational capacity, it does help guide it. Specific expertise of the RCD BOD includes: Pat Oilar, agricultural business owner; Don Martin, rancher and business owner; Clay Jacobsen, agricultural supply company business manager; Jeff Oldson, forester for a private forestland management company; Bill Buckman, rancher; Todd Sloat, local wetland restoration specialist. This unique set of skills and experiences will be valuable for management and direction to the Burney Gardens Planning Unit.

Organizational Finances

The Fall River RCD would receive fee title; the RCD does not have multiple departments. The RCD is open to any funding from the Stewardship Council, but does not anticipate funding to be mandatory to accept title to the property. Revenue from the agricultural and forestry operations on the property would be used to improve and manage the property.

Key Staff & Personnel

The RCD's key personnel and staff leading this project include Jeff Oldson (BOD), Sharmie Stevenson (Business Manager), Todd Sloat (Project Manager-Watershed Coordinator, consultant), Garrett Costello (Recreation Coordinator, staff), and Sara Small (Noxious Weed Coordinator, staff).

The Business Manager manages the day to day operations of the District office, transacts all bookkeeping and payroll functions, prepares financial reports and annual budgets and provides office support for Natural Resource Conservation Service staff. Additionally, the Business Manager writes grants and represents the District at various community meetings.

The Watershed/Project Coordinator writes grants, manages, and coordinates projects that meet the RCD mission. The WPC supervises and administers each grant and corresponding project implementation. The WPC also assists with educational outreach and represents the District at community and inter-agency meetings.

The Recreation and Outreach Coordinator works to advance recreation in the area, while improving community outreach. This includes holding meetings with other partners in the region to explore opportunities and constraint for future recreation projects. Relative to the Burney Gardens area, the individual will lead recreation planning efforts and general outreach about the site to the community.

The Noxious Weed Coordinator conducts land inspections to determine the presence of noxious weeds, does the actual spraying of the weeds and files the required reports. The NWC provides educational outreach to the public on noxious weeds, writes grants and assists in the supervision of fire safe projects.

Jeff Oldson currently serves on the RCD Board of Directors. He works for a private forestland management company, and has extensive experience in reforestation, biomass utilization, and sustainable forest management. Jeff is a California Registered Professional Forester, licensed Pest Control Advisor, and Qualified Applicator. His experience in forestland management ensures expertise in the oversight of the forest resources on this planning unit. As with all the RCD Directors, Jeff's capacity with the RCD is as a volunteer.

Community Engagement and Collaboration

The RCD recently launched a website to connect the public to information regarding current project information, resource management, land management, and recreation resources. Current project photos and updates are uploaded regularly to promote public awareness.

The RCD website also features the agenda and minutes for monthly board meetings and project based public meetings. In addition to the website, the RCD maintains social media accounts to disseminate frequent updates that encourage community members to visit the website for more information.

The RCD has either led or been an integral part of several collaborative efforts in the region. In 2009, the RCD helped launch the Burney Hat Creek Community Forest and Watershed Group (Group) with the intent to improve multi-party land management planning. The Group, composed of multiple private and public partners, forms the basis of the *Basins Project*, one of three Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) Programs in California. This project, administered by USDA, is one of fifty in the U.S. and includes a 10-year planning and implementation effort for forest health, recreation, wetland enhancement and restoration, and community benefits. The Group was awarded the "All-Lands Award" in 2010 by Region 5 of the U.S. Forest Service in recognition of their collaborative efforts to plan projects across multiple ownerships. Their flagship project was the Burney Gardens Restoration Project.

Prior to the above effort, the RCD was one of three entities to lead the development of the Upper Pit River Watershed Management Strategy. This program was conducted over a three-year period and identified key resource topics in the region through community meetings, stakeholder outreach, and meetings with key individuals. Two years following the completion of this project, the RCD teamed with the same partners (i.e. adjacent RCD's) to modify the strategy and make it compliant with the State of California's Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Planning Program. The IRWM program allows for a more structured process and the identification of a Regional Water Management Group that identifies projects, ranks these projects relative to one another, and seeks to improve water efficiency and management in the region. To date, the program has infused critical funds through a competitive grant process whereby project partners in the Pit River region have secured over four million dollars to conduct a variety of water related projects. None of these projects would have been able to compete for these funds if the RCD did not lead the effort to comply with this program.

More recently, the RCD worked collaboratively with partners to apply for and receive fee title to the McArthur Swamp Planning Unit. This project began in 2008 and took eight years to complete. During this process, the RCD successfully engaged with the Pit River Tribe and community members to identify and develop the McArthur Swamp Management Team, which operates under a charter. This charter took over a year to develop and serves as the basis for planning and conducting meetings and identifying and advancing future projects.

In February 2018, the RCD lead the pre-proposal development and grant submittal to Cal Fire, requesting ten and a half million dollars in funds to improve forest health conditions in the Upper Pit River watershed. This proposal includes multiple partner, including both the Modoc and Lassen National Forests, local private land management companies, and two entities proposed to conduct research associated with the project. The proposal is under Cal Fire's California Climate Investments Forest Health Grant Program.

The above collaborative efforts demonstrate the RCDs ability to partner with a broad range of stakeholders, all working together to improve natural resource management in the region while benefiting the local communities. The RCDs model of partnering with private industry, local non-government organization, federal and state agencies, and utilizing part-time staff has been successfully working for over fifteen years. This model also keeps overhead low, while spending the majority of funds to complete "work on the ground."

Outreach Approach for Burney Gardens Planning Unit

The Fall River RCD recently submitted a LSP for the Fall River Mills Planning Unit. Prior to formal proceedings, the Fall River RCD met with individual owners of some of the adjacent properties to the Fall River Mills Planning Unit to solicit input on use of the property. Specifically, the Fall River Ranch managing partner, the Fall River Ranch manager and cattle lessee and Dennis Jacobsen.

Through the series of donee meetings and public outreach meetings sponsored by the Stewardship Council, The Fall River RCD met with potential donees and discussed common and individual interests and listened to public comments.

Fall River RCD board meetings are public, and updates on the process are reported at each meeting, with information available to the press. As a result of information gained from public comment at the meetings, the RCD conducted additional tours of the planning unit with members of Wild Trout Foundation, Fall River Conservancy, Spring Rivers Foundation and Directors of the RCD. Public input was instrumental in illustrating the environmentally sensitive areas and issues.

A similar approach to the Fall River Mills Planning Unit would be used for Burney Gardens. If successfully secured, the RCD would develop a Technical Advisory Committee to help guide future management of the site.

Legal Compliance and Best Practices

Fall River Resource Conservation District Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code defines the roles and responsibilities of RCD's as well as the directors selected to govern them. Division 9 also states that Resource Conservation Districts are legal subdivisions of the state and as such are not-for-profit entities. For the purpose of contracting with state agencies only, resource conservation districts shall be considered agencies of the state.

The Fall River Resource Conservation District follows all Federal and State rules pertaining to hiring, purchasing, awarding of contracts, accounting practices, environmental practices and agricultural practices.

Financial matters are a permanent agenda item for every monthly meeting. Each director is provided with a current income and expense statement, a current net worth statement, and a list of accounts payable at each monthly meeting. The districts Business Manager answers any financial questions. Accounts payable must be authorized by approval of the board of directors. This system ensures that each director is aware of the financial state of the district on a current basis. The Fall River RCD books are audited on an annual basis.

California Government Code sections 57451 C and 57457 (c) (1) describe the terms for dissolution of special districts. Should the Fall River RCD be dissolved, after payment of its obligations, all remaining real property would be distributed to Shasta County.

The Fall River Resource Conservation District is not in violation of any law(s).

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Fall River RCD has no knowledge of any conflict of interests in this matter.

Part Two—Land Stewardship Information

Land Interests Sought

We are seeking fee title to all the lands associated with the Burney Gardens planning unit. This includes 15 parcels (#272-286) and an approximate total of 1,612 acres of land.

No lot line adjustments are known to be required. However, lot line adjustments were mentioned during the Stewardship Council's initial public meetings. Many of the property lines are currently based on elevation and are therefore somewhat difficult to survey. Management of the property would be simplified if some of these lines were adjusted to more linear or easy to identify natural boundaries. The RCD is supportive of efforts to survey and adjust lines to streamline management--however, we do not feel that it is a necessity to take ownership of the property, and therefore, we have not included a budget for these items.

The Fall River RCD Board of Directors authorized the preparation and submittal of this Land Stewardship Proposal and assigned a specific director to oversee the process. The proposal is an agenda item for each board meeting and progress and content are discussed.

If the RCD is selected as the donee for fee title, the board of directors will assign a specific director to complete the transactions to the point of signing the documents. The Board will then vote on authorizing the President of the Board to sign the final documents.

Baseline and Enhanced Land Management

Baseline and Enhanced Management

Proper baseline and enhancement activities for the BGPU rely upon the development of a comprehensive Management Plan. Most of the biophysical processes and existing conditions are known for the site based on previous project enhancement developments (i.e. Burney Gardens Timber Harvesting Plan). However, some data is limited (i.e. traditional cultural use of the site), and collection of this data is one of the first steps to develop a Management Plan.

Based on existing information, some general proposed management activities and their frequency would include: 1) rotational grazing where areas are “flash grazed” for short durations (e.g. two weeks to one month); 2) resting pastures in wetland areas and only allowing grazing within them when soil conditions are firm (i.e. late fall); 3) a one-time restoration treatment to remove larger diameter lodgepole pine which are encroaching on the wetland zones; 4) periodically (once every seven years) cutting, or burning of encroaching lodgepole pine in the wetland zones; 5) periodically (once every 10- 20 years) harvesting of timber in upland areas; 6) periodically burning fuels within forested upland areas; 7) eliminating surface flow features and conducting stream restoration; and 8) management of existing noxious weeds using integrative pest management principles, and use of best management practices to avoid new infestations. These activities are anticipated to achieve baseline and enhanced management of the site.

Contribution to Management Objectives

The proposed management activities identified above directly support the Recommended Beneficial Public Values of: 1) Preservation of Habitat (Fish, Wildlife, and Plants); 2) Preservation of Open Space; 3) Sustainable Forestry; 4) Agricultural Uses; 5) and Preservation of Historic Values. Improved grazing management activities would decrease negative effects from livestock grazing on habitat, while enhancing wildlife and botanical resources. The proposed activities would also protect sensitive cultural resources and historic values. Forestry practices would improve wetland resources, while also contributing to improved agriculture benefits through the creation of more available forage for livestock and wildlife.

Improvement on Current Management

PG&E has conducted limited forest management and meadow restoration for the BGPU. They developed an aspen treatment project in 2008 to address lodgepole encroachment on (ca. 150 acres). In 2009, they requested assistance from the RCD to develop a meadow restoration project for degraded channel conditions within the open meadow. The RCD conducted surveys and developed a restoration plan for the open meadow, and this plan was later incorporated into the Timber Harvesting Plan that was expanded to the rest of the planning unit and also included adjacent landowners. While PG&E did implement a portion of their aspen enhancement work, it's likely that none of the meadow restoration work or expansion of the aspen enhancement to include the additional 813 acres would have been conducted. The RCD received several grants to design, develop, and implement portions of the projects.

Restoring wetlands and managing forest health is not a primary objective for PG&E. Rather, the company focuses on hydroelectric power production and distribution and transmission of electricity. Because of this, the company only occasionally develops and implements natural resource based projects. The lessee is often responsible for maintaining infrastructure, and because they do not own the property, the maintenance of this is generally minimal. The remoteness of the BGPU also affects how often the lessee accesses the site which contributes to minimal infrastructure maintenance. As an example, there are several areas of the BGPU than have no fences between PG&E and adjacent landowners, even though the lease identifies specific AUM's and grazing areas.

As noted earlier, the RCD would develop and implement regular management actions that would improve site conditions relative to those that occur now.

Impacts on Public Use

Public use was not a recommended Beneficial Public Value; however, the proposed actions would have an indirect public benefit by improving the conditions of the property. These improvements will improve wildlife habitat, wildlife viewing opportunities, aesthetics, hunting opportunities, water quality and water yield to the watershed, reduce fire risk and associated threat to beneficial values and public safety, as well as other benefits. None of the proposed management actions will have a negative impact on public use.

Timeline of Costs

Implementation of proposed management activities depends on several factors. These include markets for sawlogs and biomass, season (limited operating periods in wet areas), and readiness of environmental compliance documents (e.g. THP) and permits. The existing THP expires in 2018 and the land transfer documents are unlikely to be completed by then. Therefore, the RCD will need to prepare a new harvest document in order to implement the forest health and meadow management activities. This can likely be prepared within the first year, as the existing THP document can be used as a template, thereby reducing preparation time and costs.

Other management activities such as adding infrastructure (i.e. fencing and wildlife/livestock watering facilities) could be implemented immediately, provided access and funds are available.

Land Management Best Practices

All the proposed activities reflect the RCD's commitment to best management practices and serving as a model land manager to the local community.

Physical Enhancements/Capital Improvements

Potential capital improvements proposed for the BGPU include between 12-15 miles of new fence, three to four wildlife/livestock watering facilities, and a new corral system for loading and unloading livestock. No other capital improvement projects are proposed. The new fence is needed to protect cultural and historical sites and to better manage livestock to protect wetland and aquatic resources. The estimated cost for these improvements is \$225,000. Annual maintenance costs are expected to range between \$1,000-\$2,000/year.

Physical enhancements for the BGPU are primarily realized from implementing the forest health and meadow restoration treatments. This information is summarized in the current THP and includes the mechanical removal of lodgepole pine encroaching upon aspen, meadow, and wet areas, biomass thinning of small diameter trees throughout the upland forest areas to reduce fire hazard and improve forest health, and the commercial harvesting of the upland forest to reduce fire hazard and improve forest health.

Other smaller physical improvements for the site include eliminating linear surface flow paths from livestock trails and roads that are contributing to meadow erosion. These are not currently within the existing THP but would be added to the new harvesting document that will be developed. A survey for noxious weeds will also be undertaken, which will then be used to develop a noxious weed management plan. This plan will incorporate the principles of integrative pest management to control these weeds, including efforts to reduce or eliminate future infestations

As noted earlier, management activities associated with physical enhancements include: a) sawlog and biomass harvesting; and b) stream channel/wetland restoration and restoring natural hydrology (i.e. elimination of linear surface flow features). Costs associated with sawlog and biomass harvest include developing a non-industrial timber management plan (NTMP) and project implementation. The NTMP development is estimated to be \$40,000. There is no cost associated with harvesting merchantable timber as the sale of the logs covers the logging costs. Costs to remove biomass from the site to restore meadow conditions and promote aspen regeneration are estimated to be \$250/acre. The cost to hand cut small encroaching conifers within the meadow is estimate at \$65/acre every seven years. Should fire be an available tool to eliminate encroaching conifers, it could potentially be free under CalFire's Vegetation Management Program, with follow-up burning be needed every 7-10 years.

Enhancement of sustainable forest management is one of the Stewardship Council's primary objectives for this parcel. Should this parcel be donated to the Fall River RCD, we plan to make it a model parcel for sustainable forest management. While the timbered portion of the parcel is relatively small, we would like to prepare a non-industrial timber management plan (NTMP) for the area, which will have several benefits including a) assurance that timber harvesting is sustainable b) a long-term commitment to uneven-aged management, and c) a commitment to protecting other important values besides timber harvesting. To further demonstrate this commitment, we will pursue independent third-party certification of the mixed conifer forest on this planning unit. Due to the relatively small acreage of timberland on the unit, this certification will likely come in the form of the American Tree Farm System Certification, which is a national leader in sustainable forest management certification on small landowners.

In terms of actual forest management activities, the commitment to harvesting under an NTMP means that harvests will occur using uneven-aged management practices. This will primarily mean the use of single tree selection, but also some use of the group selection harvesting system (i.e. creating small group openings in the forest to provide enough light to regenerate shade intolerant species). Such harvests will be described in the NTMP and will likely occur every 15 to 20 years. The aspen, meadow, and wet area restoration of the parcel will be a one-time biomass removal, possibly with a small portion of saw log sized material being removed from the meadow areas as well, with maintenance every 7-10 years to keep the meadows free of encroaching conifers. All forest management activities will comply with the stringent California Forest Practice Rules, which are some of the most rigorous environmental protection measures in the nation.

Land Conservation Partners and Youth Opportunities

Humboldt State University was previously recommended to receive this property, but later declined the donation. Should the property be donated to the RCD, we will perform outreach to Humboldt State, the University of California, Shasta College, College of the Siskiyou, and Lassen College to determine their interest in utilizing the property for educational purposes. This could include field visits, hand restoration work, and perhaps even the preparation and implementation of much larger scale activities (i.e. channel restoration, or environmental

compliance document preparation) as part of a natural resources course. We will also reach out to the University of California Cooperative Extension to see if the property would be useful for teaching the Forestry Institute for Teacher program, the Forestry Challenge program, or for general public outreach and demonstration. Outreach will also be made to local high schools, including Burney High School, Fall River High School, and Big Valley High School to offer the use of the property to teach forestry and natural resources to high school students. Some of these high schools previously offered forestry courses through the Future Farmers of America program, and this property could be used to help rejuvenate this program, or could at the least be used to offer short field courses to high school students in natural resources through existing courses. The roles and responsibilities of these educational institutions would all be dependent on their interests, needs, and desire to contribute to management and utilization of this property.

Public Input

The RCD has received no formal public input regarding the development of this proposal. However, the RCD Board of Directors have discussed their interest in the property with adjacent landowners and managers (i.e. Sierra Pacific Industries, Fruit Growers Supply Company, and W.M. Beaty and Assoc.). These adjacent landowners have been very supportive and encouraged the RCD to pursue a Land Stewardship Proposal.

Budget and Funding Plan

The Fall River Resource Conservation District does not anticipate a dramatic increase in fixed costs associated with ownership and administration of the Burney Gardens Planning Unit. As we have already taken fee title to the McArthur Swamp, the necessary insurance is already in place, and additional insurance and administrative costs for adding another planning unit would be very minimal. We expect that grazing lease revenue would cover these extra insurance and administrative costs. Land improvements, including surveys, fencing, environmental document preparation, road maintenance, stock water improvements, and other activities would be funded through either the RCD's existing funds, through new grant proposals, or through timber harvesting revenues. We are confident that this planning unit will not be a financial burden to the RCD, and that we will secure the funding to undertake the necessary improvements to this area.

Part Three—Supporting Documentation

Attached Documents:

- 1) Letter from the President of the Board authorizing the submittal of this proposal.
- 2) FRRCD Balance Sheet as of March 23, 2018
- 3) FRRCD Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2017
- 4) FRRCD Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget Overview
- 5) FRRCD Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Financial Audit

Fall River Resource Conservation District

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Telephone/Fax: (530) 336-6591/336-5618

March 23, 2018

Stewardship Council
3300 Douglass Blvd, Ste 250
Roseville, CA 95661

RE: Submission of LSP for Burney Gardens.

On January 24, 2018, the Board of Directors voted 5 to 0 to move forward and submit an LSP to take fee title of the Burney Gardens Planning Unit.

Sincerely,

Michael J Millington
President of the Board
Fall River Resource Conservation District