

Permitting Nutrient Enhancement in the Chiwawa – Final Report  
2016-01 RI

Project Summary

CCFEG with help from local biologists and our contractor, Peter Burgoon, PACE have been working with USFS, USFWS and WADOE over the past several years to implement a five-year pilot nutrient enhancement project in the Chiwawa. This grant from the Tributary Committee was designed to get us through the planning and permitting phase and set us up to implement, which it appears we are! Kristen Kirkby, CCFEG, worked closely with Tracy and Jeremy on our final proposal to USFS and USFWS. Peter Burgoon, Kristen and I worked closely with WADOE on finalizing our Quality Assurance Project Plan and as a result have been given authorization in the form of an Administrative Order. It appears CCFEG will be receiving 45,000lbs of salmon carcass analogs for free this October 2018 for use during our first year of implementation.

Challenges

The current phase of the project typified all the challenges we've faced since we started pursuing a pilot project in the Chiwawa back in 2013. Technical challenges were not our greatest challenge, it was agency staff in influential positions that delayed this project for years and drove up project costs. Capacity and not having a clear understanding of how to work with USFS has, and will continue to be, our greatest challenge with all projects proposed on their land-base.

Suggestion to the Committee

Don't sweat the little stuff! Generally, project sponsors do their best estimating timelines and costs in their proposals. Often, we develop our grants with sub-contractors, experts in their respective fields. Don't view minor amendments as failures, but rather part of the typical "life cycle" of a grant. Therefore, I request the Committee give Becky greater authority to resolve "minor" amendments with sponsors. Also, if possible, it would be great if the Committee had the ability to process payments (and amendments) more frequently than once a month. And, since you asked..... If the Trib likes a SRFB project, and chooses to fund a matching portion, consider funding the entire amount as to spread the SRFB dollars farther, and to simplify and reduce project sponsor overhead.

Final Work Products

Proposal to USFS and QAPP (attached)

Photos

Hopefully we'll be sending pictures of the actual treatment in eight weeks!