**Project:**  Amador-Alpine-Calaveras-Tuolumne Natural and Working Land Collaborative

**Lead:** Amador RCD

**Summary:** ARCD received grant funding to build out the AACT Natural and Working Lands (NWL) Hub. This funding will provide support to each organization in the NWL Hub to meet the goals of the grant and develop a robust partnership and increase the implementation of climate resilient practices on natural and working lands while building relationships locally, regionally and statewide.

**Dates:** July 1st 2024 - January 1st 2027

The Amador-Alpine-Calaveras-Tuolumne Natural & Working Lands (AACT NWL) Collaborative will build capacity within the proposed region for the planning, development and implementation of projects that enhance the resiliency of the region’s NWL.

For the purposes of this project ARCD, CCRCD, and TCRCD will be providing the following in order to facilitate the completion of tasks;

ARCD is the project lead and fiscal sponsor for this program. ARCD is the grant awardee and fiscal sponsor with the Department of Conservation and will manage subcontracts with CCRCD, TCRCD through this partnership agreement. Agreements with other related entities will be detailed in other contracting documents.

Reporting and Invoicing requirements are detailed below.

Contracted funds cover work between July 1st 2024 - January 1st 2027.

**Office Space:** Each district will be providing office space which will include a desk and access to phone, computer, internet, and printer.

**Staffing:**

* Allowable staffing is identified in the attached project budget. Any changes to staffing and charge rates will need to be approved by ARCD (through the approval of the DOC grant manager)

**Vehicle:** vehicle’s will be provided by each RCD for their respective staff. Mileage and travel reimbursement requests will be submitted to ARCD for payment as part of the quarterly invoicing process.

**Project Management:** ARCD will provide project oversight, including project records and reporting, management of staffing, and accounting.

**Invoicing**

ARCD will be responsible for invoicing to the DOC for reimbursement. The ARCD will prepare quarterly invoices and project reporting.

TCRCD and CCRCD will provide a quarterly summary of work to ARCD by the 10th of the month after the end of a quarter. If the 10th falls on a Saturday the report is due by Friday and if it falls on a Sunday it is due by Monday.

**Indirect**

**Documents to be submitted:**

* Timesheets for all employees and hours billed to the DOC NWL grant
* Invoice/Reporting Template
  + *Reporting must identify the correct task # as references in the budget for each expense billed.*
* Quarterly Activities Narratives
* Match Reporting

*ARCD will provide a template in excel format for all reporting documents.*

**Communication**

ARCD will provide all pertinent information to each RCD by email.

ARCD, CCRCD, and TCRCD will meet monthly to discuss the project and review progress in grant deliverables. ARCD will provide a summary of the quarters accomplishments.

The tasks and budget for this project are detailed in Grant Agreement 3023-5000 between Amador RCD and the Department of Conservation. Project details are outlined in the Grant Agreement Scope of Work as well as summarized below.

Any amendments to the grant agreement or scope of work will be agreed upon in writing by all three districts and incorporated into this agreement.

**Project Budget:**

|  |  | **DOC Provided** | | **Match** | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | TAP (TCRCD) | TCRCD ED | TAP (TCRCD - RCPP/TA)) | Regional Coordinator |
|  | **Hourly Rate** | *$58.65* | *$42.00* | *$58.65* | *$60.00* |
|  | **Total Budget** | $365,976.00 | $63,294.00 | $121,000.00 | $194,400.00 |
| Task 1 | Administer grant |  | $2,310.00 |  |  |
| Task 2 | Build capacity for nature-based solutions project implementation | $15,249.00 | $17,766.00 |  | $194,400.00 |
| Task 3 | Engage in a regional resources and needs assessment | $15,249.00 | $15,246.00 |  |  |
| Task 4 | Provide technical assistance to increase nature-based solution implementation | $320,229.00 | $10,416.00 | $121,000.00 |  |
| Task 5 | Identify local pathways to meeting the state's GHG reduction targets via the priority practices laid out in the Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy | $15,249.00 | $17,556.00 |  |  |

|  |  | **Calaveras RCD ED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Hourly Rate** | *$75.53* |
|  | **Total Budget** | $54,144.84 |
| Task 1 | Administer grant | $3,422.10 |
| Task 2 | Build capacity for nature-based solutions project implementation | $10,328.52 |
| Task 3 | Engage in a regional resources and needs assessment | $8,959.68 |
| Task 4 | Provide technical assistance to increase nature-based solution implementation | $6,035.34 |
| Task 5 | Identify local pathways to meeting the state's GHG reduction targets via the priority practices laid out in the Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy | $25,385.76 |

**Deliverables to be Tracked:**

|  | **Task** | **Timeline** | **Deliverables** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Task 1** | **Administer grant** | | |
| Subtask A | Reporting | 2024-2027 | Complete quarterly reporting |
| Subtask B | Invoicing | 2024-2027 | Accurately complete all invoicing |
| Subtask C | Execute subaward agreements | Q2 2024 | Execute and manage all subaward agreements |
| **Task 2** | **Build capacity for nature-based solutions project implementation** | | |
| Subtask A | Build out Collaborative membership and refine Collaborative governance for meaningful stakeholder feedback and involvement. | Q1 2024 | Create a contact list of all potential Collaborative Members, stakeholders, agencies, and organizations in the region. Create an initial interest survey and invitation to Collaborative |
| Subtask B | Q1 2024 | Host initial kick off meeting with organization leads. |
| Subtask C | Q1 2024 | Create conflict resolution/decision making process and structure. |
| Subtask D | Host quarterly collaborative meetings to share resources, best practices, and build relationships within the community to inform the collaborative’s project selection and implementation processes | 2024-2027 | Host and facilitate at least 16 regional collaborative meetings, either virtual or in person. |
| 2024-2027 | Provide at least 32 monthly email digests of trainings and events in the region to Collaborative Members. |
| 2024-2027 | Provide financial assistance for Collaborative members to attend at least 25 trainings. |
| Subtask E | Carbon Sequestration Assessment for Natural & Working Lands and Implementation Plan Development, including a corresponding financial plan | Q2 2024 | Develop 1 'Carbon Sequestration Assessment for Natural & Working Lands and Implementation Plan' that covers the region. |
| Q1 2025 | Publish and share report with partners and stakeholders. Present Assessment at least 4 public meetings, 1 in each county. |
| Subtask F | Conduct GIS analysis of carbon sequestration potential | Q2 2024 | Develop 1 'Carbon Sequestration Potential Assessment Report' for the region. |
| Q1 2025 | Publish and share assessment with partners and stakeholders. Present Assessment at least 4 public meetings, 1 in each county. |
| Subtask G | Conduct assessment of barriers to scaling, including technical assistance, materials, labor, equipment, and other workforce and infrastructure requirements | Q1 2025 | Develop 1 'Barriers to Climate-Smart BMP Adoption Assessment Report' for the region. |
| Q1 2025 | Publish and share assessment with partners and stakeholders. Present Assessment at least 4 public meetings, 1 in each county. |
| Subtask H | Select scenarios for carbon farm implementation with targets, measures, and cost estimates to inform local climate initiatives | Q4 2024 | Create an Assessment Report detailing carbon farm implementation with targets, measures, and cost estimates. |
| Q1 2025 | Publish and share assessment with partners and stakeholders. Present Assessment at least 4 public meetings, 1 in each county. |
| Subtask I | Conduct Vegetation, Fuels, and Forestry Management Inventory to inform priorities for implementation. | Q4 2024 | Create Vegetation, Fuels, and Forestry Management Inventory |
| Q1 2025 | Publish and share assessment with partners and stakeholders. Present Assessment at least 4 public meeting, 1 in each county |
| Subtask J | Identify resources to fund an inventory process for fuel load, vegetation type and physical characteristics to build out a regional mapping and database tool for identifying potential or high priority resource management projects, such as fuels treatment and habitat restoration projects | 2024-2027 | Submit at least 2 grant applications to fund a regional mapping and database tool |
| Subtask K | Utilize RCD Project Tracker to increase access and transparency around RCD project implementation, funding and impacts by entering and storing summary-level project data about carbon sequestration, GHG emissions reductions and other ecological outcomes. | 2024-2027 | RCD Project Tracker links to RCD data |
| **Task 3** | **Engage in a regional resources and needs assessment** | | |
| Subtask A | Work with under-resourced communities to understand how their needs can be met through the implementation of this project | 2024-2027 | Host at least 4 community meetings to solicit feedback on Outreach and Engagement Plan |
| Q1 2024 | Develop Outreach and Engagement Plan that identifies best practices |
| Subtask B | Engage in collaborative-wide training on tribal outreach and engagement best practices | 2024 | Adopt Outreach and Engagement Plan |
| Subtask C | Build relationships with local tribes and formalize their participation in the collaborative | 2024-2027 | Develop at least 2 projects with local tribes and work with partners to apply for funding of these projects. |
| Q3 2024 | Provide at least 4 stipends for tribal representatives to participate in planning meetings. |
| 2024-2027 | Host at bi-annual meetings with tribal representatives. |
| Subtask D | Incorporate tribal feedback into collaborative outreach strategy to strengthen tribal community involvement | Q1 2024 | Develop a comprehensive list of tribal contacts in the region. |
| Q3 2024 | Create surveys for each assessment to solicit feedback on documents from tribes. |
| **Task 4** | **Provide technical assistance to increase nature-based solution implementation** | | |
| Subtask A | Provide technical assistance to land managers by providing educational opportunities, best management practices (BMPs), and grant application assistance to implement climate-smart land management | 2024-2027 | Provide technical assistance to at least 100 land managers |
| Q1 2025 | Hire 2 technical assistance providers to serve the region |
| 2024-2027 | Provide at least 4 training opportunities to staff technical assistance providers |
| 2024-2027 | Facilitate and/or host at least 15 workshops, trainings or meetings |
| Subtask B | Conduct outreach to land managers to increase adoption and awareness of climate-smart land management practices | 2024-2027 | Host at least 4 annual land manager meetings to solicit feedback |
| Subtask C | Invite land managers to participate in the collaborative by joining annual meetings specifically held to incorporate their feedback and build awareness of the collaborative | Q3 2024 | Create an inventory of implemented projects on public and private land |
| Subtask D | Inventory and showcase current practitioners of climate-smart practices to encourage increased adoption and by hosting demonstration workshops | 2024-2027 | Host at least 8 workshops showcasing projects that demonstrate Climate-Smart BMPs |
| 2024-2027 | Create at least 8 'Project Description' white papers that describe each demonstration project including budget, funding sources, goals, and challenges |
| Q2 2024 | Create an inventory of current community/peer to peer networks |
| Subtask E | Identify gaps and opportunities in community/peer to peer networks and work with community leaders to develop resources to meet unmet needs | Q2 2024 | Create and distribute survey to identify unmet needs |
| 2024-2027 | Submit at least 4 grant applications |
| Subtask F | Identify, coordinate, and apply to grant funding to implement climate-smart land management projects (i.e. CalFire Fire Prevention, DOC Climate Smart Land Management Program, etc) | Q2 2024 | Create a listserv and invite partners and stakeholders that typically apply for grant funding. This listserv will act to streamline communication about projects and assist with developing coordinated projects and garner letters of support. |
| 2024-2027 | Host quarterly calls/meetings in the region to discuss project development and grant writing plans to coordinate |
| 2024-2027 | Schedule meetings with at least 5 funding entities to discuss regional projects and how local projects and align with statewide goals |
| Subtask G | Collaborative members will coordinate with private and public funders to organize informational meetings about relevant funding programs based off of previously identified regional needs | 2024-2027 | Develop at least 2 regional grant proposals |
| Subtask H | Develop regional block grant proposals with collaborative members | 2024-2027 | Host at least 4 annual meetings to solicit feedback on project development |
| Subtask I | Host an annual workshop to generate community engagement in grant opportunities and solicit feedback on proposed projects | 2024-2027 | Consult with the 4 county government within the region through at least annual meetings with County Board of Supervisors and county staff in each county, total of at least 12 meetings. |
| **Task 5** | **Identify local pathways to meeting the state's GHG reduction targets via the priority practices laid out in the Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy** | | |
| Subtask A | Consult county governments on the development of appropriate climate action and resiliency planning initiatives, such as Climate Action Plans (CAP), Integrated Regional Water Management Plans, Forest Management Plans, that highlight nature-based solutions | 2024-2027 | Provide draft assessments to County staff in all 4 counties with a survey to solicit feedback. |
| 2024-2027 | Host/Facilitate at least 4 annual meetings that focus especially on county-wide and regional planning documents |
| Subtask B | Schedule collaborative-wide meetings to determine status of existing climate action and resiliency planning efforts within the region | Q2 2024 | Develop and distribute a survey to county government to gather information on current planning efforts and barriers to development or implementation |
| Subtask C | Identify appropriate climate action and resiliency planning initiatives and work with county governments to execute | 2024-2027 | Create a 'State of the Climate Planning' assessment for each County and update annually |
| Q1 2024 | Conduct research to compile examples of CAPs that successfully incorporate natural and working lands. Develop 1 Assessment that details successful Agriculture, Natural, and Working Lands CAP section examples |
| Subtask D | Create Natural & Working Lands section of the climate action planning initiatives that highlight nature-based solutions | Q3 2024 | Develop 1 template for a Natural and Working Lands Section of a CAP |
| 2024-2027 | Provide a template to the 4 counties and conduct at least 4 meeting (1 with each County) to present the opportunity of partnership with the Collaborative on the development of a Natural & Working Lands section in future climate action planning initiatives |
| 2024-2027 | Host/facilitate at least 12 meetings with statewide organizations |
| Subtask E | Convene bi-annual meetings with statewide organizations, such as CalCAN, CCI, CARCD, to provide regional insights into policy development | 2024-2027 | Create 4 Natural and Working Lands Collaborative Annual Reports. The reports will be forward facing documents to provide annual update on project goals, spotlight project successes, and outline upcoming projects and goals. |
| 2024-2027 | Participate in at least 8 regional or statewide processes to provide NWL input. |
| Subtask F | Participate in statewide, regional, and local funding and policy development to incorporate local stakeholder feedback and regional data. Such as roundtables, task forces, and information gathering workshops | Q4 2023 | Develop a comprehensive list of organizations that currently serve under-resourced communities |
| Subtask G | Incorporate the feedback received from under-resourced communities to ensure Natural & Working Lands policies center equity | Q4 2023 | Conduct a needs assessment by interviewing organizations serving under-resourced communities in regard to natural and working lands resources. |