

Truckee River Fund- Spring 2026

Community Foundation of Northern Nevada

Truckee River Fund Grant Priorities

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) recommends that the Truckee River Fund (TRF) Advisory Committee (the “Committee”) give preference to well-supported, clearly drafted grant requests that consider substantial benefits to TMWA customers for projects and programs that mitigate substantial threats to water quality and the watershed, particularly those threats upstream or nearby water treatment and hydroelectric plant intakes.

- **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):** Projects/Programs that support the prevention or control of aquatic invasive species in the mainstem Truckee River, Lake Tahoe, other tributaries and water bodies in the Truckee River system.
- **Watershed Improvements:** Projects that reduce erosion or sediment, suspended solids, or total dissolve solids (TDS) discharges, nutrients, industrial contaminants, or bacterial pollutants to the River. Projects or programs that are located within 303d (impaired waters) and total maximum daily load (TMDL) sections of the River should be considered, both in California and Nevada. Innovative techniques should be encouraged. The following link identifies impaired sections of the river and its tributaries: <https://mywaterway.epa.gov/>.
- **Local Stormwater Improvements:** Projects that demonstrably mitigate storm water runoff due to urbanization of the local watershed. Priority should be given to those improvement projects in close proximity to TMWA’s water supply intakes and canals and which will improve the reliability and protect the quality of the community’s municipal water supply.
- **Re-Forestation and Re-Vegetation Projects:** Projects to restore forest and upland areas damaged by fire and historical logging operations, and to improve watershed resiliency in drought situations. Projects/programs in this category should be given a high priority due to urbanization of the watershed and increased susceptibility of the urban and suburban watershed to wildfire.
- **Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses:** Projects to support water quality improvement in creeks and tributaries to the Truckee River.
- **Stewardship and Environmental Awareness:** Support to clean-up programs and the development and implementation of educational programs relative to water, water quality and watershed protection that do not fall clearly into the one of the above-mentioned categories.

Notes:

- For proposals related to weed control/eradication, contact Lauren Sgandurra at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada for additional criteria at laurens@nevadafund.org.
- For proposals in the Lake Tahoe Basin, the Truckee River Fund (TRF) typically only funds proposals related to Priority I and VI.

Grantee Requirements

GRANTEE REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for funding, grantees must adhere to the following requirements:

- Funds are to be used and/or disbursed exclusively for the charitable uses and purposes.
- The Fund shall be used exclusively for projects that protect and enhance water quality or water resources of the Truckee River, or its watershed.
- Grantees may include 501(c)(3) organizations and governmental entities. Any grants to governmental entities must be made exclusively for public benefit purposes.
- All grantees will be required to sign a grant agreement stipulating their agreement to all applicable terms, conditions, and reporting requirements.
- Organizations or entities sponsoring proposals are prohibited from ex parte communications with members of the Committee regarding such proposals while those proposals are pending before the Committee, and such communications may be grounds for rejecting a proposal.
- All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25 percent** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services.
 - For projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25% match requirement must be met using cash.

TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION

For each proposal submitted and recommended by the Committee the TMWA Board of Directors has absolute discretion to:

- Accept or reject any proposal;
- Accept a proposal on the condition that certain modifications be made;
- Assess proposals as they see fit, without in any way being obligated to select any proposal;
- Determine whether proposals satisfactorily meet the evaluation criteria set out in this RFP;

- Reject proposals with or without cause, whether based on the evaluation criteria set out above or otherwise.

PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES

To maintain eligibility to receive grant funds, each Charitable Beneficiary must comply at all times with the following requirements:

- Must be exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code;
- Shall use all Fund distributions toward projects that are appropriate and legal public expenditures;
- Must provide financial details and/or reports of their organizations upon request;
- Must submit quarterly reports.
- Must not use any Fund distributions for political contributions or political advocacy;
- Must either implement the projects, activities, and/or programs for which they received Fund distributions within six months of the date in which such distributions are received or by date(s) as agreed upon in the grant acceptance agreement, or must return all such distributions to the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada forthwith;
- Must provide the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada a report detailing the completion of their projects, activities, and/or programs; and
- Must sign an agreement regarding their compliance with the qualifications hereof.

Project Evaluation Criteria

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications are evaluated according to the following criteria and in order of priority. If the grant applicant does not meet the “Grantee Requirements”, the application will not be considered.

1. RELEVANCE OF PROPOSAL TO THE TRF PROGRAM

- Address TRF grant priorities – Does the project address at least one of the TRF grant priorities, as described at the beginning of the RFP?
- Meet multiple objectives – Does the project meet multiple grant priorities?
- Public benefit of the project – Does the project help TMWA protect its sources of drinking water?
- Benefit to TMWA customers – Is there a direct benefit to TMWA customers?

- Project location – Is the project located upstream of one of TMWA’s water treatment plants?

2. QUALITY OF PROJECT DESIGN

- Appropriateness of selected project methods – Do the proposed project strategies make sense to address the watershed and/or water quality concern(s) outlined by the applicant?
- Thoroughness of project design – Is the project design adequately detailed to ensure the desired outcome(s)?
- Sustainability of project – Will the benefits of the project continue after the grant funds are expended?
- Project longevity – If ongoing operation & maintenance (O&M) is required to maintain benefits, is it funded?
- Consideration of existing research – Does the project consider existing research, planning efforts, or assessments related to the Truckee River watershed?

3. MEASURABILITY OF PROJECT SUCCESS

- Identification of project benchmarks or milestones – Has the applicant described the steps necessary to complete the project?
- Demonstrated ability to measure the results of the project – Does the project have adequate measurable outcomes to evaluate project success?
- Benefits expected from a successful project – Are there clear goals that will be obtained on project completion?
- Readiness to begin project – Is the grant applicant ready to undertake and complete the project?

4. EFFECTIVENESS OF ORGANIZATION

- Qualifications of applicant for the proposed project – Does the applicant have adequate experience and credentials to perform the work described in the application?
- Collaborative efforts – Are there partner organizations supporting or benefiting from the project?
- Demonstrated ability of applicant to manage and complete the project – Has the applicant successfully completed projects similar to the one proposed? If previously funded by TRF, has the applicant met performance requirements and completed projects successfully?

5. ADEQUACY OF PROPOSED BUDGET

- Availability and status of matching funds – Does the project provide a minimum of 25 percent match in cash and/or in-kind services? If the project is downstream of the USGS Vista gage, is the 25 percent match requirement met using cash match?
- Total project cost relative to benefits – Is the project cost reasonable given the expected project outcome(s)?
- Appropriateness of budget – Are the costs presented in the budget adequately detailed and do they seem reasonable? Is the project under the 25 percent indirect/overhead expense limit?

Project Information

Project Title*

Name of Project.

Character Limit: 250

Amount Requested*

Character Limit: 20

Would you be able to implement your project if the full amount is not awarded?*

Choices

Yes

No

If you received a reduced award amount, please describe how your proposed project would be impacted.*

Character Limit: 2500

Minimum Amount Required to Complete the Project*

If partial funding is available.

Character Limit: 20

Project Start Date*

Character Limit: 10

Project End Date*

Character Limit: 10

This funding will be used to:*

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

Character Limit: 1000

This project is on:*

Check all that apply

Choices

Public land

Private land

Are government permits or decision documents needed for the project?***Choices**

Yes

No

If so, are those permits and decision documents already secured?

If permits and decision documents are needed but not yet secured, in #4 of the Narrative Requirements provide a list of permits and documents needed and a schedule for securing them.

Choices

Yes

No

Organization Information

Organization Name*

Character Limit: 250

Organization Type***Choices**

501(c)(3) Nonprofit

Governmental Entity

EIN

If the organization is a 501c3, please include the EIN#.

Character Limit: 250

Director of Organization*

Character Limit: 250

Project Contact Name*

Character Limit: 250

Project Contact Postion/Title*

Character Limit: 250

Project Contact Email**Character Limit: 254***Project Contact Phone Number****Character Limit: 25***Organization Mission****Character Limit: 2000****Previous Funding from Truckee River Fund*****Has your organization received other grants from the Truckee River Fund?*****Choices**

Yes

No

If yes, please include the following information for all previously funded projects:

- *Date awarded*
- *Project # and Title*
- *Amount of award*

*Please attach additional pages as needed to list ALL previously funded projects.**Character Limit: 5000***Previous Funding continued***File Size Limit: 2 MB****Narrative Requirements*****1.) Specific project goals and measurable outcomes and how you will measure and report them.****All projects are required to have measurable outcomes.**Character Limit: 5000***2.) Describe the project location.****Include site map and aerial photos if applicable/possible as an attachment.**Character Limit: 5000***Map/Photo attachments***Please include no more than 2 maps and no more than 4 photos.**File Size Limit: 5 MB*

3.) Project Description*

Character Limit: 5000 | File Size Limit: 5 MB

4.) Grant priorities*

Explain how the proposed project advances the TRF's specific grant priorities.

Character Limit: 5000

5.) Permitting*

Provide a permitting schedule for your project along with your plan for getting the required permits and decision documents. Be sure to include the cost of permitting/decision documents as a line item in your budget.

Character Limit: 5000 | File Size Limit: 5 MB

6.) Future Land Use*

List any known or foreseeable zoning, land use, or development plans that may affect your proposed project.

Character Limit: 5000

7.) If future phases of the project will be needed, identify anticipated sources of funding.*

Character Limit: 5000

8.) Identify the principals involved in leading or coordinating the project or activity.*

Character Limit: 5000

9.) Number of staff positions involved in project.*

Identify how many staff will be full-time and how many will be part-time.

“Fulltime” means 100% of their staff position will be dedicated to this project; “part-time” means only a portion of their staff position will be dedicated to this project.

Character Limit: 250

10.) Number of volunteers involved in project and an estimated number of volunteer hours.*

Character Limit: 250

11.) Timeline of Project*

List key dates and include project milestones. Note: Be realistic in your estimate of dates and milestones. List any factors that may cause a delay in implementing and/or completing the project.

***Note: Funding will not be provided for work performed prior to grant approval.*

Character Limit: 2500

12.) What factors will indicate a successful project?*

Character Limit: 5000

13.) Collaboration*

List partnerships or collaborations with other entities in relation to your proposal, if any. Grantees are encouraged to seek other funds prior to requesting money from the Truckee River Fund. Please explain what other funding opportunities were sought and if any other funds have been awarded.

Character Limit: 5000

Grant Match

All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25 percent** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services. If "Volunteer Labor" is used, it must be documented and valued at a maximum of \$35.00 per hour.

For larger grant requests, priority will be given to projects that significantly leverage the grant with funding from other sources.

For grant requests for projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25 percent match requirement must be met using **cash match**.

Total grant match to be provided.*

Total Match = Cash + In-Kind

Character Limit: 20

Cash

Character Limit: 20

For the cash portion, is the funding already being held by the applicant for this project?

Choices

Yes

No

In-Kind

***Note: Provide an itemized breakdown of volunteer match in your budget with rationale.*

Character Limit: 20

Description of matching funds/in- kind donations.**Character Limit: 2500***Attachments****Project Budget***

Provide detail on each line-item expenditures and show which funds are committed and which have been requested to be paid for by the Truckee River Fund grant, and which will be paid for with in-kind services. Other sources of funding should be provided. Explain status of other funding if not in hand. If project is to be implemented in phases, please separate budget into each phase.

You are required to use a TRF-approved budget template. Please contact Lauren Sgandurra at laurens@nevadafund.org for the budget template, or download one here.

****Notes:**

- Indirect/overhead expenses cannot exceed 25 percent; TRF may fund indirect/overhead up to 25% based on availability of funds.*
- Applicants should be prepared to provide reduced budgets during the review of applications by the TRF Advisory Committee when funds are limited.*
- Grants from the Truckee River Fund are paid on a reimbursable basis for actual expenditures only. Craft your budget in such a way that requests for reimbursement correspond to the original budget.*

*File Size Limit: 5 MB***Supplemental Attachments***Please attach any additional attachments here.**File Size Limit: 3 MB*