

July 2024

Request for Assistance: Colusa Basin Drainage District

The KSN Project Management Team on behalf of the Colusa Basin Drainage District, has requested technical assistance related to the exploration of potential habitat and flow benefits within the Colusa Subregion as related to Floodplains Reimagined. A project description is provided as attachment A.

1. Applicant Eligibility
 - a. Name: Colusa Basin Drainage District
 - b. Contact Information
Holly Dawley, KSN Inc –
hdawley@ksninc.com
 2. Landowner Segment
 - a. Private agricultural farms
 - b. Recreational
 - c. Tribes
 - d. NGO landowners
 - e. Public Agency landowners
 - f. Representatives of landowners
 - g. Other
 3. Geographic Scope
 - a. Property Location
 - i. Address: 1030 W. Wood St., Willows, CA 95988
 - ii. Coordinates:
Lat 39.524010° N
Long – 122.206460° W
 - iii. Map: See Attachment
 - iv. Subregional Basin: Colusa
 4. Planning Project Type
 - a. Project Concept
 - b. Proof of Concept
 - c. Preliminary Engineering Plans
 - d. Assessments to inform planning
 - e. Other
- a. Task 1, Colusa Subregion Characterization
 - b. Task 2, Baseline Technical Assessment and Development.
 - c. Task 3, Identification of Opportunities and Next Steps
6. Proposed Timeline: Fall 2024 – Summer 2025
 7. Cost Estimate: \$200,000
 8. Reporting : Memoranda will be completed by 10/1/2025.

5. Project Description and Tasks

The proposed project will allow for further developing the concept for feasibility and opportunity for increased salmonid rearing habitat and longer duration of floodplain activation. (See Attached)

Project Proponent: Colusa Basin Drainage District

Date: July 31, 2024

RE: Proposed Scope for Colusa Basin Drainage District
Technical Assistance

Background

Colusa Basin Drainage District has requested technical assistance through Floodplains Reimagined (FR) to investigate and better understand potential ways landowners and land managers may integrate existing operations with floodplain improvements for multi-benefits including supporting native fishery recoveries and climate change resilience. This Technical Assistance will leverage work and findings from the Floodplains Reimagined Phase 1 Program Development effort and explore stakeholder interests and priorities.

Proposed Tasks for Scope of Work

Task 1: Colusa Subregional Characterization

Task 1 will allow the project team to explore and document the history of restoration in the Colusa Basin (including securing the system to prevent fish from entering the system) to identify potential options for multi-benefit. This process will help to document a baseline for the region, existing practices, and landowner/manager priorities and concerns. This task will include up to 6 site visits and up to 3 stakeholder meetings, like with the wildlife refuges, water districts, and the Colusa Mutual Water Company.

Deliverables will include the following:

- A memorandum to document the history and successes of fishery restoration in the Colusa Subregion.
- A Colusa Subregion Interests Assessment documenting priorities and concerns of stakeholders including landowners, land managers, government agencies, and non-governmental agencies.

Lead: KSN

Task 2: Baseline Technical Assessment and Development

Task 2 will allow the Technical Team to refine baseline conditions for the Colusa subregion, prioritize regional scientific uncertainties, and develop recommendations for multi-benefit actions. The Technical Team will consider data needs to explore hydraulic characterization of the region, develop an approach for model and tool refinement, and assess potential for benefits and tradeoffs. This effort will coordinate with the Ducks Unlimited Decision Support Tool developed during Phase 1 of Floodplains Reimagined.

Deliverables will include

- A Colusa Baseline Conditions and Opportunities Technical Memorandum documenting operational and ecological baseline conditions and identified areas of technical concern or known areas of potential improvement.

Lead: cbec, inc

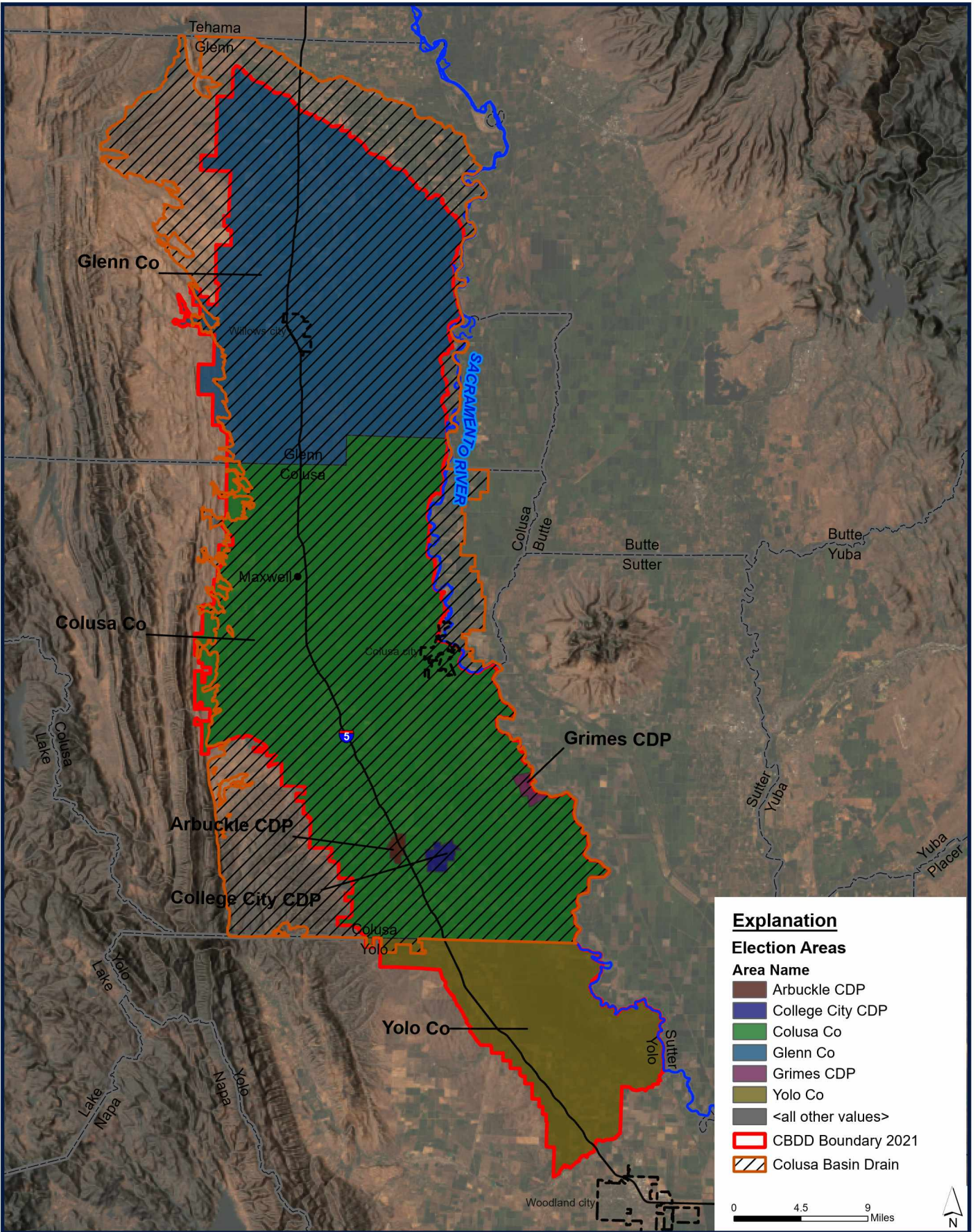
Task 3: Identification of Potential Opportunities and Next Steps

Task 3 will take the information gathered in Tasks 1 and 2 and identify potential opportunities and next steps. This task will result in a subregional workplan and identify scientific priorities.

Deliverables will include

- Colusa Subregion Opportunities and Recommendations Memorandum

Lead: cbec, inc and KSN



July 2024

Evaluation Criteria: Colusa Basin Drainage District

The purpose of this document is to provide evaluation criteria for the Floodplains Reimagined Steering Committee to evaluate the proposed projects for Floodplains Reimagined Technical Assistance.

The Steering Committee will evaluate the proposed project based on subjective evaluation of the criteria and give it one of the following grades:

1. Pass
2. Fail
3. Need more information

Highlighted in yellow below are the criteria met by Llano Seco Ranch's (Parrott Investment Company, Inc.) request.

Steering Committee Meeting: July 31, 2024

Steering Committee Grade: Pass, Fail, Need Info

Funded planning projects must meet the following criteria:

a. Eligibility

Landowners of lands within the Floodplains Reimagined geographic scope are eligible to request technical assistance.

Landowners are defined as those who own or manage land and water in the geographic scope and may include:

- a. Owners of private farms or ranches
- b. Recreational hunting clubs and preserves
- c. Tribes
- d. NGO landowners
- e. Public Agency landowners
- f. Authorized representatives of landowners

b. Planning projects only – such as:

- a. Development of project concepts
- b. Proof of concept plans
- c. Preliminary engineering plans
- d. Research studies and pilot studies to inform planning
- e. Development of agreements between landowners and sponsoring agencies

c. Project Type

There will be no implementation projects such as construction or restoration.

- a. Floodplain reactivation projects
- b. Fish food production
- c. Removal of invasive plants
- d. Coordinated operations plan

- e. Modifying diversion infrastructure and/or operations
 - f. Modifying river connection infrastructure and/or operations
 - g. Creating new river connections
- d. Geographic scope – the land on which the project is proposed must be within the geographic scope of Floodplains Reimagined.
- e. Objectives – The purpose of the proposed project must meet one or more of the Floodplains Reimagined objectives as follows:
- a. Improve floodplain connectivity during the winter and shoulder seasons including October – May.
 - b. Planning to:
 - i. Convey water from the Sacramento River to the floodplain or surrogate agricultural floodplain.
 - ii. Drain water back into the Sacramento River.
 - iii. Hold water on the floodplain or surrogate agricultural floodplain.
 - iv. Protect neighboring properties from risk of inundation.
 - v. Permanent restoration of floodplain habitat and connectivity in marginal or underutilized lands
- f. Replicability
- a. Plans must be either replicable or the outcomes and lessons learned applicable to the rest of one of the following subregions within the geographic scope:
 - i. Butte Basin
 - ii. Sutter Bypass
 - iii. Colusa Basin
- g. Outcomes
- a. The funding must cover:
 - i. planning project deliverables.
 - b. The funding could cover:
 - i. development of prototype agreement between the landowner and sponsoring agency for restoration and inundation activities
 - c. The funding is not required to cover:
 - i. further analysis of the project as it relates to replicability.