

justification for separate sets of equipment

Trout Unlimited (TU) and The Watershed Project (TWP) wish to conduct a fish passage assessment with TU responsible for assessing the upper watershed (above Alvarado Park) and TWP assessing the lower watershed. Each entity submitted grant applications which included the following equipment: laser level, levelling rod, densiometer and measuring tapes for total cost of \$1465.

The Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee asked if it was feasible to share this equipment. The following is our justification for requesting separate equipment for each entity.

The Watershed Project and John Muir Trout Unlimited have partnered in water monitoring on Wildcat Creek for the last two years. This has covered the entire watershed which is about 14 miles long and includes rugged upland terrain and urban areas. This required multiple sets of monitoring equipment and continual coordination. The proposed new project of passage assessment on Wildcat Creek will require a similar amount of equipment and coordination.

We will not only be documenting known barriers along the main stem, we will also be documenting tributaries and springs. We will determine if water is seasonal or perennial at each location, to help prioritize its restoration needs and value. Understanding all aspects of the creeks geomorphology will be key in assisting a challenged native trout population and ultimately providing access to anadromous fish.

Sharing the equipment would add additional burden to an already difficult scheduling situation. While these two environmental nonprofits share similar goals, their geographic distance apart and limited staff make sharing a specific piece of equipment implausible on a weekly basis. Adding equipment availability as an additional consideration in scheduling would be quite onerous for both organizations.

Having separate sets of equipment also provides greater flexibility in response to flow conditions. Fish passage can be flow dependent, and may require assessment over a range of flow conditions which in turn depends on storm events. So it may be necessary to be conducting the assessments in different areas at the same time.

Sharing equipment also adds to the financial and administrative burden of these two nonprofits, neither of which are compensated through this grant.

Steelhead and Salmon are both threatened and endangered. Moreover the latest electroshocking of upper Wildcat Creek by EBRPD fisheries staff have identified rainbow trout below Lake Anza for the first time in 6 years. These findings support our effort to restore Wildcat Creek and lend credence to the importance of this project.