

TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS PROGRAM  
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
GRANT APPLICATION  
FY 2005

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Hopland Band of Pomo Indians Reservation occupies a unique setting in rural northern California. The land is home to several tributary creeks in the upper reaches of the Russian River watershed. These creeks have been documented as historically supporting a vibrant salmonid population. But observations have shown that these salmonid populations have severely dwindled in the last several decades. The Tribal community has expressed concern for this disappointing trend, noting that the steelhead trout once found in Tribal streams were important for Tribal spirituality, nourishment, and cultural preservation. The members of the Hopland Tribe therefore wish to pursue actions to restore a healthy habitat to the creeks and fish on Tribal land, in concert with other restoration activities currently underway in the watershed under the Russian River Basin Plan.

Hopland Tribal EPA staff has spent a significant amount of time researching various restoration options to reach this goal. Contained in this application are remedies and work plans to restore three critical erosion sites that are known to be major sources of sedimentation and detrimental to local creek fish populations. In addition, the Tribe proposes to perform further assessments to identify other problems that may be addressed in the future, and will conduct community involvement activities. The Tribe has built strong relationships with the California Department of Fish and Game, Americorps, and California Conservation Corps to assist in achieving our common goals. By working closely with these partners, the Tribe looks forward to restoring habitat for endangered salmonid species in our creeks, as well as forging a strong community commitment to preserving the Tribal cultural heritage and land practices.

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Part I – Assessment of Needs

The Hopland Band of Pomo Indians, a federally recognized Tribe, is comprised of approximately 700 members. The location of the largest acreage of Hopland Reservation land base is approximately 26 miles south of Ukiah, in Mendocino County, California. The original Hopland Reservation was established by Interior Department order on June 18, 1907 and the acts of June 21, 1906 and April 30, 1908. The Reservation was terminated under the California Rancheria Act and deeds were issued to individuals.