



GRANT APPLICATION FORM

*NOTE: EVERY QUESTION MUST BE ANSWERED IN ORDER FOR THE APPLICATION TO BE CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING.
USE N/A WHERE APPLICABLE.

PROJECT

Project Name: Hitch Habitat Improvement Planning and Assessment for Tule Lake, Scotts Creek and Adobe Creek

Applicant: Lake County Watershed Protection District

If applicable, what is the Native American name of your project site? Xa-ba-tin (Meaning "Big Water" in Native Pomo)

Brief Project Summary (one paragraph):

This project contains four main components to save the state listed Clear Lake hitch (*Lavinia exilicauda chi*). The hitch are culturally significant to the six Native American Tribes that surround Clear Lake. The project includes the following five tasks:

- Task 1: Project Management

Lake County Watershed Protection District (District) will be the project manager for the project. The District has administered multiple large state and federal grants and has the expertise and resources to administer this grant.

- Task 2: Tule Lake and Scotts Creek Fish Passage Assessment

This task will characterize surface flow and hydrology relationships between Scotts Creek and the recently re-created Tule Lake, develop a prioritized list of stream flow enhancement actions, identify in-stream barriers, create 60% design for at least two of those barriers, and initiate CEQA and permitting to improve passage for the hitch on Scotts Creek.

- Task 3: Adobe Creek Conjunctive Use Assessment

This task will include updated planning and design for an implementation component for Adobe Creek Conjunctive Use Project that includes updated infrastructure and reoperation guidance for the Highland Spring Reservoir and Highland Dam on Adobe Creek. Adobe Creek and Highland Creek merge and flow together to Clear Lake. This task will quantify hydraulic and hydrologic conditions in Adobe and Highland Creeks, review water rights, design infrastructure to better manage Highland Springs Reservoir for recreation and to provide sustain downstream flows in Adobe Creek for the hitch during the critical spawning period, and initiate CEQA and environmental permitting for the project.

- Task 4: Bell Hill Road Culvert Replacement Project

Bell Hill Road is a low water crossing with culverts that are a barrier to hitch migration. This task will develop 60% designs for replacement of the current corrugated metal pipe culverts with a natural bottomed bridge, address sedimentation at the upstream side of



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the crossing and initiate CEQA and permitting to improve passage for the hitch on Adobe Creek.

- Task 5: Outreach and Education

This task will provide outreach to landowners and community members along Tule Lake, Scotts Creek, Highland Creek, and Adobe Creek to participate in planning reviews and provide education regarding stream environmental flows and Hitch reproductive life cycles. Part of this task will be to recruit a specialized marketing firm or consultant to develop a hitch awareness and education campaign, to provide education and gain buy-in from the entire Clear Lake Basin community.

The Hitch Habitat Improvement Planning and Assessment for Tule Lake, Scotts Creek and Adobe Creek project is designed so that we can apply for implementation funding in 2025-2026. Time is of critical importance for survival of the hitch, an endemic minnow, on the brink of extinction that has historically utilized Tule Lake, Scotts and Adobe Creeks as preferred spawning habitat.

Total cost (round up to nearest \$1,000): \$3,077,700

Amount requested from WCB (round up to nearest \$1,000): \$2,482,700

Start date: [Click or tap to enter a date](#). Winter 2024

End date: [Click or tap to enter a date](#). Spring 2026

Project type (select one):[Choose an item](#). Planning