

Nonpoint Source & Surface Water Protection Division Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Workplan

Programs:

Forest Activities Program

Nonpoint Source & 401 Certification Program

Dairy Program

Restoration Program

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1.0 Division Introduction

The Division's Forest Activities Program addresses nonpoint source (NPS) discharges associated with the land use activities of our forested landscapes. The Dairy Program is housed within the Southern Nonpoint Source and Forestry Unit. The Northern and Southern Nonpoint Source and 401 Certification Units issue permits for dredge, fill, and excavation activities that may impact "waters of the state". The Restoration Specialist is a senior-level staff who works directly with the division supervisor and whose focus is to support implementation of the Policy in Support of Restoration in the North Coast Region.

In addition to the primary programs named above, staff in this Division also dedicate time to office-wide initiatives, including the development and implementation of a Racial Equity Action Plan, development of climate change adaptation and resilience initiatives, and engagement committee initiatives.

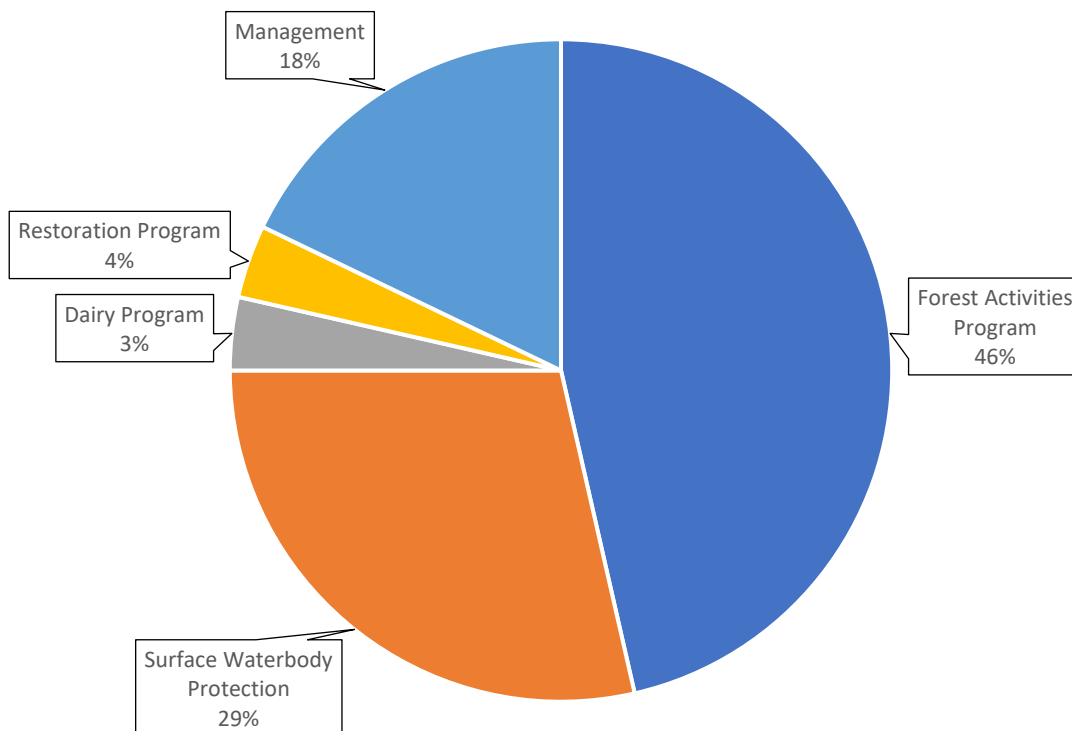
2.0 Division Resources

2.1 Staffing

The Division consists of four units and one specialist implementing four distinct programs. Staffing for the Division is comprised of 29 professionals within the following classifications: Environmental Scientist (ES), Water Resource Control Engineer (WRCE), Engineering Geologist (EGs), Scientific Aid, and specialist and supervisory levels within these classifications. Consistent with all divisions in the office, the Nonpoint Source & Surface Water Protection Division receives program support from staff in the Administration Unit.

The pie chart below depicts the distribution of staff resources by program, and the subsequent sections of this workplan describe the work staff perform in each program. The “Introduction on Office-Wide Initiatives” section preceding these workplans generally describes the work of supervisors and other elements of work that are common to staff throughout the organization.

**Nonpoint Source & Surface Water Protection
Staff Allocation**



3.0 Forest Activities Program

The North Coast Water Board’s Forest Activities Program addresses nonpoint source (NPS) discharges associated with the land use activities in forested landscapes. The Program has developed several permits (i.e., Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) or Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (Waivers)) for addressing NPS discharges associated with forest management activities on both private and federal lands.

Our forested watersheds are of significant economic and ecological importance, providing a source of water supply, timber, fisheries, and recreational use, while supporting a diverse array of both terrestrial and aquatic species, including several threatened and endangered salmonid species. Potential impacts from land disturbing activities in North Coast forests include sediment discharges from felling trees; yarding and hauling of logs; road construction and reconstruction; watercourse crossing construction, reconstruction, or removal; livestock grazing; herbicide applications; and road use and maintenance. Impacts to stream temperature can result from removal of vegetation that provides shade to streams.

Some forest management activities have the potential to positively affect the beneficial uses of our surface waters. Timber harvesting and fuels reduction operations provide an opportunity to decommission, replace or reconstruct legacy roads which are frequent sources of chronic and episodic sediment inputs to surface waters, and certain vegetation management activities adjacent to watercourses may promote attainment of late seral conditions in riparian zones. Fuels reduction projects can assist in reducing wildfire severity and thus can reduce post-fire sediment discharges. Mitigation and restoration work can provide opportunities for addressing legacy erosion sites and removal of fish migration barriers.

3.1 Activities and Projects by Priority

The primary responsibilities of program staff are categorized based on priority listed in Table 3.1. Most are described in detail in Section 3.2.

Table 3.1 – FY 23/24 Program Activities and Projects by Priority

Priority Level	Activity/Project	Target Completion Date
1	a. Regulate commercial forestry-related land management on private and federal lands	Ongoing
1	b. Develop new Federal Lands Permit and corresponding CEQA analysis	Apr-24
1	c. Governor’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force	Ongoing

Priority Level	Activity/Project	Target Completion Date
1	d. Review projects permitted under the State Water Board's Vegetation Treatment General Order	Ongoing
1	e. Implement AB 1492 – Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program requirements	Ongoing
1	f. Review and participate in Board of Forestry meetings and rule-making activities	Ongoing
1	g. Conduct SB 901-related activities	Ongoing
1	h. Engage in CalOES/CalRecycle Disaster Debris and Hazard Tree Removal Program	Ongoing
1	i. Consider consolidating general timber harvest permit structure (Categorical Waiver and General WDR)	Jun-24
1	j. Engage in Effectiveness Monitoring Committee	Ongoing
1	k. 5-County Roads Program	Ongoing
1	l. Develop Rural Roads General Order	Oct-23
1	m. Gualala TMDL Program of Implementation Development	Jun-24
2	n. Evaluate need for a Working Forest Management Plan permit	Jun-24

3.2 Activity and Project Descriptions

Activities and projects are listed below and identified by the priority (1, 2, 3) and the letter (a, b, c, etc.) listed in Table 3.1 above.

1.a - Regulate forestry-related land management activities on private and federal lands

Summary: The North Coast Water Board's Forest Activities Program implements several general and watershed wide WDRs and Waivers for timber harvest and related activities. In addition, staff coordinate with CAL FIRE in the review of timber harvest projects including Timber Harvest Plans, Nonindustrial Timber Management Plans, Working Forest Management Plans, Exemptions and Emergency Notices submitted to CAL FIRE for evaluation and review on non-federal lands. Staff also review and comment on nonpoint source projects proposed by federal agencies for enrollment under the Federal Waiver. Detailed review and field inspections by staff are reserved for those projects that appear to pose the greatest threat to water quality. This effort constitutes a proactive approach to prevent timber harvest-related impacts on water

quality and assists in educating the timber industry of the need to implement additional management measures (beyond those required by the Board of Forestry’s Forest Practice Rules or federal agency Best Management Practices) where necessary to comply with Porter-Cologne, our Basin Plan objectives, and Total Daily Maximum Load requirements.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 8.9

1.b - Develop new Federal Lands Permit and corresponding CEQA analysis

Summary: Forest Activities Program staff oversee various land management activities on federal lands such as timber harvesting, livestock grazing, vegetation management, road-related work, fire suppression and recovery, restoration, and recreation. On October 8, 2015, the North Coast Water Board adopted the *Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges Related to Certain Federal Land Management Activities on National Forest System Lands in the North Coast Region*, Order No. R1-2015-0021 (Federal Waiver). The North Coast Water Board approved a short-term renewal of the Federal Waiver in August 2020. North Coast Water Board staff are developing a new Waste Discharge Requirements permit for certain land management activities on federal lands (Federal Lands Permit) and an accompanying Environmental Impact Report to address lessons learned from implementing the Federal Waiver; changes to the environment; the increasing annual fire regime; new state and federal policies; and other factors that affect how the North Coast Water Board should regulate federal lands.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 1.0

Milestones	Target Date
Circulate draft Federal Lands Permit for 60-day public review and comment	September 2023
Circulate draft Environmental Impact Report for 60-day public review and comment	September 2023
Public workshop on draft Federal Lands Permit	October 2023
Adoption hearing for proposed Federal Lands Permit	April 2024

1.c - Governor’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force

Summary: Staff participate in the Governor’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force. The Task Force – previously named the Governor’s Forest Management Task Force - was formed in 2018 to implement the Governor’s Executive Order on Forests and the recommendations of the California Forest Carbon Plan.

In January 2021, the Governor’s Task Force issued the [Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan](https://wildfiretaskforce.org/wp-action-plan) (<https://wildfiretaskforce.org/wp->

content/uploads/2022/04/californiawildfireandforestresilienceactionplan.pdf) – *A Comprehensive Strategy of the Governor’s Forest Management Task Force*. The Action Plan includes more than 100 recommendations which are intended to implement the following goals: (1) increase the pace and scale of forest health projects, (2) strengthen protection of communities, (3) manage forests to achieve the State’s economic and environmental goals, and (4) drive innovation and measure progress. North Coast Water Board staff are participating in the implementation of portions of the Action Plan and will continue to coordinate with other state regulatory agencies to support the implementation of the described recommendations which have a relationship to water quality.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.1

1.d - Review projects permitted under the State Water Board’s Vegetation Treatment General Order.

Summary: In 2020, the Board of Forestry and CAL FIRE developed and approved the *California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP)* and its associated *Programmatic Environmental Impact Report* to support non-commercial fuels management activities conducted without a timber harvest plan. In 2020-2021 North Coast Water Board staff coordinated with the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) and other regional water quality control board forest activities programs during development of a new statewide Vegetation Treatment General Order. The State Water Board adopted *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Vegetation Treatment Activities Conducted in Conformance with the California Vegetation Treatment Program*, Order WQ 2021-0026-DWQ (Vegetation Treatment General Order) in July 2021. The Vegetation Treatment General Order relies on the *California Vegetation Treatment Program’s* associated *Programmatic Environmental Impact Report* for CEQA coverage and provides water quality permitting for projects conducted within the state responsibility area (SRA). North Coast Water Board staff will aid the State Water Board staff during review and inspection of priority vegetation treatment projects authorized by the CalVTP and Vegetation Treatment General Order.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.1

1.e - Implement AB 1492 – Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program requirements.

Summary: North Coast Water Board Forest Activities Program staff are members of the AB 1492 – Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration (TRFR) Program leadership team and various working groups. TRFRP provides statewide guidance to a variety of timber harvest related activities, including regulation, interagency coordination, restoration, grants, monitoring, improving efficiencies, training, etc.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.1

1.f - Review and participate in Board of Forestry meetings and rule-making activities.

Summary: North Coast Water Board staff participate and provide input during Board of Forestry committee and regular meetings where proposed rule changes relating to water quality protection are drafted and then considered for adoption.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.2

1.g - Conduct SB 901 – related activities

Summary: Senate Bill 901 tasks include oversight of fuels reduction projects conducted through CAL FIRE timber exemptions, assisting State Water Board staff with development of the new Electric Utility General Order, and oversight of utility corridor activities in collaboration with Nonpoint Source and 401 Certification Units staff.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 2.0

1.h - Engage in CalOES/CalRecycle Disaster Debris and Hazard Tree Removal Program

Summary: Division staff are engaged in the oversight and authorizations for the Disaster Debris and Hazard Tree Removal program which CalOES and CalRecycle have been mission tasked to implement. This program is conducted on lands that have been impacted by wildfire and that require cleanup of burned structures, removal of hazard trees, and other post-fire remediation actions. The Program is governed by an approved Environmental Protection Plan that document how the removal work will be managed to comply with applicable environmental laws and regulations by implementation of Post Fire Statewide Best Management Practices (BMPs) developed by each agency.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: Variable due to unknown wildfire-triggered actions.

1.i - Consider consolidating general timber harvest permit structure (Categorical Waiver and General WDR)

Summary: Division staff are considering opportunities for consolidating existing general timber harvesting permits into a new structure. Most commercial timber operations are permitted through the North Coast Water Board's existing Timber General Waste Discharge Requirements Order and a Categorical Waiver. Working Forest Management Plans are a category of long-term timber harvest projects on large land ownerships; currently, North Coast Water Board staff do not have a specific permit to cover these projects. Staff are contemplating whether to renew, revise, or consolidate the *Categorical Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges Related to Timber Harvest Activities on Non-Federal Lands in the North Coast Region*, Order No. R1-2014-0011 (extended via a short-term renewal by Order No. R1-2019-0008) as well as integrate Working Forest Management Plans into a new general timber permit.

Key Issues and Considerations: Determine whether activities covered under the Categorical Waiver are implemented in a manner that are protective of water quality. Consider revising regulatory requirements based on ongoing review of CAL FIRE exemptions (EX) and emergency (EM) notices. Continue to work with CAL FIRE and the Board of Forestry staff to conduct monitoring and reporting of EX/EM projects as required by Senate Bill 901. The target dates for the milestones below are tentative but serve as a guide.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.1

Milestones	Target Date
Staff decision whether to consolidate general timber harvest permits	August 2023
Develop new consolidated general permit or revise and update Categorical Waiver	June 2024

1.j - Engage in Effectiveness Monitoring Committee

Summary: Forest Activities Program staff participate on the Board of Forestry’s Effectiveness Monitoring Committee, which was formed in 2014. The Board of Forestry sought to create an independent committee to assess the efficacy of the Forest Practice Rules and other related laws and regulations. As an advisory body to the Board of Forestry, the committee helps implement an effectiveness monitoring program that provides an active feedback loop to policymakers, managers, agencies, and the public by soliciting robust scientific research that addresses the effectiveness of these laws at meeting resource objectives and ecological performance measures related to AB 1492. The Effectiveness Monitoring Committee includes representatives from academia, industry, state agencies, consulting firms, and non-profit agencies. This diverse membership reflects representatives from a wide range of California’s natural resources, including water quality, geology, wildlife, and forestry. North Coast Water Board has one staff officially assigned to the committee as a voting member, which requires review of proposed projects, participation on quarterly meetings, and literature and research review.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.1

1.k - 5-County Roads Program

Summary: Staff oversees the implementation of the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program (5C Program) via Order No. R1-2018-0011. The 5C Program provides an efficient and organized structure for preventing and mitigating water quality impacts from county and rural road maintenance activities and implements important fish passage and restoration projects in much of the North Coast Region. The most

recent iteration of the 5C Program Waiver is scheduled to be presented to the North Coast Water Board for consideration of adoption during the June 2023 board meeting.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.25 PY

1.I - Develop Rural Roads General Order

Summary: Develop new Rural Roads General Order. Staff are developing a Rural Roads General Order to include programmatic waste discharge requirements and Clean Water Act Section 401 general water quality certification. The primary goal of the Rural Roads General Order will be to improve the North Coast Water Board’s permitting tools for road-related construction/reconstruction activities, expand regulatory engagement, increase administrative efficiencies, and improve water quality protections. North Coast Water Board staff intends to develop the Rural Roads General Order to more effectively address existing erosion and sediment discharge problems associated with road construction/reconstruction and watercourse crossings, and to expedite permitting of new road and watercourse crossing construction activities. Through the development of the Rural Roads General Order, which is anticipated to include strict adherence to established Best Management Practices, the North Coast Water Board staff anticipates improved regulatory efficiencies for permitting routine watercourse crossing replacement and remediation activities as well as ensuring that the highest level of water quality protection practices are applied to construction of new roads and watercourse crossings, which will lead to greater erosion controls and reduced sediment discharges to watercourses.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.2

Milestones	Target Date
Proposed Order adoption hearing	October 2023

1.m – Gualala TMDL Program of Implementation

Summary: The Nonpoint Source and Surface Water Protection Division and Planning and Watershed Stewardship Division must closely coordinate to ensure compliance with the Stipulated Settlement Agreement that initiated this project to incorporate the Gualala TMDL into the Basin Plan, and to develop a program of implementation.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: Variable

2.n - Evaluate need for a Working Forest Management Plan Permit

Summary: Permit new Working Forest Management Plans (WFMP) on a case-by-case basis.

Key Issues and Considerations: It is not clear whether we will receive many WFMP project submittals within the North Coast Region. Currently, we do not have a general

WDR or waiver of WDR that is specifically focused on WFMPs. This Priority Level 2 project is to evaluate need for a future dedication of resources to develop a WFMP-specific permit, depending upon number of projects and other project-specific considerations, and whether this activity is set to be covered by a consolidated permit as described in 1.j.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.05

3.3 Performance Targets

3.3.1 Performance Targets Reported to State Board

The Performance Target for the Forest Activities Program that is reported to the State Water Board is based on the number of inspections conducted on private land timber harvesting projects and federal agency nonpoint source activities. Senate Bill 901 did not specify specific targets for total number of inspections, so the Workplan provides a cumulative summary of all timber inspections.

Table 3.3 – Performance Targets proposed for FY 23/24

Fiscal Year	Target Inspections
2023-24	175

4.0 Nonpoint Source & 401 Certification Program

The Northern and Southern Nonpoint Source and 401 Certification Units issue permits for dredge, fill, and excavation activities, and assist the public in understanding the rules and regulations regarding proposed projects that may impact "waters of the state", which are defined as any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state. Examples of waters of the state that are regulated under this unit include isolated wetlands, coastal wetlands, streams, rivers and lakes.

If a project is located within or adjacent to waters of the state, and the proposed project may directly or indirectly impact those waters, the applicant is required to apply for a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements. The rules and regulations apply to all waters of the state, including isolated wetlands and stream channels that may be dry during much of the year, have been modified in the past, look like a depression or drainage ditch, have no riparian corridor, or are on private land. 401 Program staff review the applications, visit project sites, and write the permits that are issued by the Executive Officer.

Anyone proposing to conduct a project that requires a federal permit and involves dredge or fill activities that may result in a discharge to U.S. surface waters and waters of the state, are required to obtain a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the North Coast Water Board. If a proposed project does not require a federal permit but does involve dredge or fill activities that may result in a discharge to waters of the state, the North Coast Water Board has the option to regulate the project under its state authority (Porter-Cologne) in the form of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) or Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements.

As a result of SB-901 Wildfires (Dodd), the Nonpoint Source and 401 Certification Units were provided additional staff to oversee utility corridor management projects. The State Water Board began development of a new statewide Electric Utility General Order in mid-2020 and set a goal for its adoption in December 2022. North Coast Water Board staff are collaborating with the State Board and other regional water quality control boards as the new Electric Utility General Order is being developed.

4.1 Activities and Projects by Priority

The primary responsibilities of program staff are categorized based on priority listed in Table 1. Most are described in detail in Section 4.2.

Table 4.1 – FY 23/24 Program Activities and Projects by Priority

Priority Level	Activity/Project	Target Completion Date
1	a. Review/Permit Dredge and Fill projects	Ongoing

Priority Level	Activity/Project	Target Completion Date
1	b. Respond to complaints and implement progressive enforcement as necessary	Ongoing
1	c. Coordinate with State Board on program policies and new general orders	Ongoing
1	d. Caltrans Liaison	Ongoing
1	e. Electric Utility General Order	Ongoing
1	f. Participate in activities associated with the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan	Ongoing
1	g. Engage in CalOES/CalRecycle Private Property Debris Removal Program	Ongoing
1	h. Watershed Aerial Surveillance Program	Ongoing

4.2 Activity and Project Descriptions

Activities and projects are listed below and identified by the priority (1, 2, 3) and the letter (a, b, c, etc.) listed in Table 4.1 above.

1.a - Review/Permit Dredge and Fill projects

Summary: Review and issue Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification dredge and fill permits for impacts to waters of the state. Combined, the Northern and Southern 401 Units have two supervisors and seven technical staff reviewing and processing applications. While not in the 401 Units, the Restoration Specialist also reviews and processes applications. On average, these 10 staff that issue 401s are each reviewing approximately 15 new dredge and fill project applications and manage a caseload of up to 80 active individual projects annually. Staff conduct pre-permit and active project inspections when necessary and appropriate.

Staff from the Nonpoint Source and 401 Certification Unit provide technical assistance to the Cannabis Program, watershed stewardship activities, and some enforcement activities conducted by external agencies. Additionally, 401 Unit staff, management, and the Restoration Specialist are engaged in the oversight role we have for the Lower Klamath Project dam decommissioning and restoration projects.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 6.2

1.b - Respond to complaints and conduct progressive enforcement as necessary

Summary: The North Coast Water Board receives regular complaints regarding dredge and fill and other activities. In response, staff respond to complaints and conduct progressive enforcement, if necessary, both for projects permitted through the 401 Program and through public-generated complaints for non-permitted projects.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.7

1.c - Coordinate with State Board on program policies and new general orders

Summary: Includes participation in the implementation of new Wetland Procedures adopted in 2019, and U.S. EPA 401 Certification Rule issued in 2020. Support State Board in renewals of the Pre-Certified Nationwide Permit General Certification. Participate in AB 1282 transportation permit streamlining working groups with Caltrans and agency representatives as time allows. Support development of General Certification for wildfire activities covered under an Army Corps Regional General Permit.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.3

1.d - Caltrans Liaison

Summary: The Caltrans Liaison works with the California Department of Transportation to ensure that highway improvement projects are protective of water quality.

Key Issues and Considerations: Caltrans requested a second 401 liaison position due to high workload and additional work tasks that AB1282 liaison staff will be required to conduct. The North Coast Regional Board has transitioned our current liaison position into the Statewide contract and will continue to pursue options for an additional position to meet this request.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 1.0

1.e – Electric Utility General Order

Summary: Engage with State Board staff during their development of the new Electric Utility General Order that is required to be developed as part of Senate Bill 901 and is expected to be considered for adoption in 2023. Review and inspect utility corridor maintenance activities as required by final Electric Utility General Order. Coordinate with SB 901 Forest Activities Program staff during review and permitting of utility corridor projects.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 1.0

1.f - Participate in activities associated with the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan

Summary: In coordination with Forest Activities Program staff participate in the activities recommended through the Governor’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan. These activities include supporting the development and implementation of several key actions that are identified in the Action Plan, including but not limited to overseeing implementation of post-fire remediation and treatment actions, supporting permit streamlining objectives to facilitate key forest resilience activities, and documenting and reporting inspections.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.3

1.g - Engage in CalOES/CalRecycle Private Property Debris Removal Program

Summary: Nonpoint Source and 401 Program staff coordinate with Forest Activities Program staff to engage with CalOES/CalRecycle as they implement the Disaster Debris and Hazard Tree Removal Program to ensure consistent implementation of the Environmental Protection Plan and Secretarial Waivers to support water quality protection associated with wildfire cleanup activities. Support Environmental Protection Plan revisions as necessary.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: Variable due to unknown wildfire-triggered activities

1.h – Watershed Aerial Surveillance Program

Summary: Several staff from the Division oversee the new Watershed Aerial Surveillance Program which began in late 2022. This program includes a new 3-year contract with funding allocated through Senate Bill 901 and the North Coast Water Board’s operational budget, as well as temporary funding from the Cannabis Program for FY 22/23. This program is designed to augment other methods of monitoring and assessment by conducting aerial surveillance to assess watershed conditions. Staff engagement in the program includes, but is not limited to contract management, flight planning, equipment management, surveillance, and coordination across different office programs.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.2

4.3 Performance Targets

4.3.1 Performance Targets Reported to State Board

The 401 program is not yet required to have official performance targets. However, data from permits are entered into CIWQS and performance metrics are included on the Water Boards’ Annual Performance Report.

5.0 Dairy Program

The North Coast Water Board’s Dairy Program regulates waste discharge from dairies under Order No. R1-2019-0001, General Waste Discharge Requirements (GWDR) for Dairies in The North Coast Region. The Dairy Program regulates operations in the North Coast Region that include cow, goat, sheep and water buffalo dairies. Other Dairy Program activities include compliance inspections, review of annual reports and water quality data, education meetings annually for dairy operators, and meetings with dischargers and dairy representatives regarding regulation, project funding, enforcement, and general compliance.

5.1 Activities and Projects by Priority

The primary responsibilities of program staff are categorized based on priority listed in Table 1. Most are described in detail in Section 5.2.

Table 5.1 – FY 23/24 Program Activities and Projects by Priority

Priority Level	Activity/Project	Target Completion Date
1	a. Dairy enrollments/un-enrollments	Ongoing
1	b. Dairy inspections (enrollment, compliance, complaint, enforcement, etc.)	Ongoing
1	c. Monitoring Program: maintenance and data analysis	Ongoing
1	d. Nutrient Management Plan and Riparian Management Plan Review	Ongoing
1	e. Implement and maintain contract funding for UCCE study on North Coast Nutrient Management Planning Budget Analysis	Ongoing
2	f. Assess dairy ponds for flood inundation vulnerabilities	Ongoing
2	g. Education and Outreach Workshops	Ongoing

5.2 Activity and Project Descriptions

Activities and projects are listed below and identified by the priority (1, 2, 3) and the letter (a, b, c, etc.) listed in Table 5.1 above.

1.a - Dairy enrollments/un-enrollments

Summary: Enroll and un-enroll dairies into the General Waste Discharge Requirements.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.1

1.b - Dairy inspections (enrollment, compliance, complaint, enforcement, etc.)

Summary: Conduct inspections for enrollments, permit compliance, complaints, and enforcement in order to protect waters of the state, avoid/minimize impacts, and mitigate for unavoidable impacts.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.3

1.c - Monitoring Program: maintenance and data analysis

Summary: Implement existing Monitoring and Reporting Program requirements.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.1

1.d - Nutrient Management Plan and Riparian Management Plan Review

Summary: Review Nutrient Management Plan information in Water Quality Plans and during onsite inspections. Continue to review Riparian Management Plans to ensure plans are in place and being followed to protect riparian areas as per the requirements of the order.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.3

1.e - Implement contract funding for UCCE study on North Coast Nutrient Management Planning Budget Analysis

Summary: Manage discretionary contract with U.C. Cooperative Extension to conduct Dairy Nutrient Management Planning. The project will determine nutrient variability in Northern California dairies related to pasture and grasslands in response to grazing and/or manure applications.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.05

2.f - Assess dairy ponds for flood inundation vulnerabilities.

Summary: Continue to work with State Water Board, North Coast Water Board GIS, and/or Natural Resource Conservation Service technical staff to evaluate flood inundation risk associated with retention ponds.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.05

2.g - Education and Outreach Workshops

Summary: Maintain an education and outreach program for dairy program.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.1

5.3 Performance Targets

5.3.1 Performance Targets Reported to State Board

The Performance Target for the Dairy Program that is reported to the State Water Board is based on the number of dairy inspections conducted.

Table 5.3 – Performance Targets proposed for FY 23/24

Fiscal Year	Target Inspections
2023-24	31

6.0 Restoration Program

The Division includes a dedicated Senior Environmental Scientist assigned as the office’s Restoration Specialist. The Restoration Specialist provides support across the office to implement the North Coast Water Board’s Policy in Support of Restoration in the North Coast Region - Resolution No. R1-2015-0001 (Restoration Policy). The Restoration Policy is primarily a narrative expressing support for restoration and similar type projects. The Policy describes in detail: (1) the importance of restoration projects for the protection, enhancement and recovery of beneficial uses, (2) the obstacles that slow or preclude restoration actions, (3) the legal and procedural requirements for permitting restoration projects, (4) the ongoing North Coast Water Board staff effort to provide support towards the implementation of restoration projects, and (5) direction to staff to continue to support restoration in the future.

The Restoration Specialist is actively engaged in supporting the development, design, permitting, and/or funding of beneficial restoration projects throughout the region, including but not limited to the following watersheds of the North Coast: Klamath River, Prairie Creek, Trinity River, Scott River, Ten Mile River, Garcia River, Salmon River, Elk Creek (Del Norte), Elk River, Shasta River, Mattole River, Smith River, and Eel River.

6.1 Activities and Projects by Priority

The primary responsibilities of program staff are categorized based on priority listed in Table 6.1. Most are described in detail in Section 6.2.

Table 6.1 – FY 23/24 Program Activities and Projects by Priority

Priority Level	Activity/Project	Target Completion Date
1	a. Implement Policy in Support of Restoration	Ongoing
1	b. Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program	Ongoing
1	c. Wood for Salmon Working Group	Ongoing
1	d. Work with Agencies and Stakeholders to Address Roadblocks to Restoration	Ongoing
1	e. Statewide Restoration General Order	Ongoing
1	f. Participate in USFWS Klamath Basin Integrated Fish Restoration and Monitoring Plan	Ongoing
1	g. Engagement in Caltrans TMDL Compliance Projects	Ongoing

6.2 Activity and Project Descriptions

Activities and projects are listed below and identified by the priority (1, 2, 3) and the letter (a, b, c, etc.) listed in Table 6.1 above.

1.a - Implement Policy in Support of Restoration

Summary: The primary duty of the Restoration Specialist, with support from the Division Chief, is to implement the Policy in Support of Restoration in the North Coast Region by supporting the development, design, permitting, and/or funding of beneficial restoration projects throughout the region.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.7

1.b - Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program

Summary: Oversee the ongoing implementation of the Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program Order No. R1-2019-0004.

Key Issues and Considerations: Additional public funding assistance is needed to support further implementation of conservation and restoration projects through the Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.1

1.c - Wood for Salmon Working Group

Summary: Continue to coordinate and co-lead the Wood for Salmon Working Group in order to focus on opportunities to increase the pace and scale of aquatic habitat restoration projects.

Key Issues and Considerations: Develop incentives and remove barriers that inhibit the implementation of large wood restoration projects.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.1

1.d - Work with Agencies and Stakeholders to Address Roadblocks to Restoration

Summary: Participate in multi-agency and stakeholder coordination efforts to address barriers to restoration, including the Resource Agency's "Cutting the Green Tape" initiative, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife's "Stronger, Faster, Better" efforts, as well as providing inter-Regional Board training on the utility of the various regulatory tools for restoration projects.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.1

1.e. - Statewide Restoration General Order

Summary: Regional Board staff are supporting the use of the new Statewide Restoration General Order and are assisting in the development of new guidance documents and processes to facilitate its use. The purpose of the Statewide Restoration General Order is to provide programmatic permitting and associated CEQA coverage for a suite of restoration actions that exceed the size limitations and eligibility requirements of the existing Small Habitat Restoration General Order.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: Variable

1.f. - Participate in USFWS Klamath Basin Integrated Fish Restoration and Monitoring Plan

Summary: The [Klamath Basin Integrated Fish Restoration and Monitoring Plan](https://ifrmp.net/#:~:text=The%20IFRMP%20(or%20Plan)%20will,native%20Klamath%20Basin%20fish%20populations) ([https://ifrmp.net/#:~:text=The%20IFRMP%20\(or%20Plan\)%20will,native%20Klamath%20Basin%20fish%20populations](https://ifrmp.net/#:~:text=The%20IFRMP%20(or%20Plan)%20will,native%20Klamath%20Basin%20fish%20populations)) (IFRMP) is a US Fish and Wildlife Service led initiative to develop and implement a science-based restoration plan for the Klamath Basin. The primary goal is restoration of several native fish populations, but the foundation of the plan is based on improving water quality and quantity. The plan also includes a significant focus on fish habitat which also contributes to the restoration and protection of water quality. The Lower Klamath Project areas, where reservoir impoundments will soon be eliminated, will necessitate remediation and restoration activities following dam decommissioning.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: Variable

1.g - Engagement in Caltrans TMDL Compliance Projects

Summary: Identify the highest priority restoration projects to be considered for Caltrans TMDL Compliance Projects. Work with project partners to develop sufficient information to enter projects into the Water Quality Improvement Project Catalog and, if selected, develop Scopes of Work for Caltrans' needs. Monitor project status and inspect project implementation upon completion to assess contribution towards TMDL recovery.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: Variable