

Sierra Nevada Conservancy-Progress Report

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2008 (Proposition 84)**

Grantee Name: Amador Fire Safe Council
Project title: Pioneer/Volcano Community Conservation Wildfire
Protection Plan

SNC Reference Number: SNC 070052 **Submittal Date:** 3/31/12 _____

Report Preparer: Cathy Koos Breazeal **Phone #:** 209-295-6200 _

Check one:

6-Month Progress Report
 Final Report

6-Month Progress Reports should reflect the previous six months. Final Reports should reflect the entire grant period.

A. Progress Report Summary: (Please provide a general description of work completed during this reporting period.)

The CCWPP was submitted several times to the Amador County Board of Supervisors between June 2011 and March 27, 2012 for signature. The Supervisors objections were regarding the conservation elements of the plan. Their consultant requested numerous changes, most of which were not agreed to by the other plan Signators. Ultimately, several minor changes were agreed to by the other Signators, the plan was reprinted and resubmitted to the Supervisors in late January, and signed on March 27, 2012. The final product is now on our website at www.amadorfiresafe.org.

As a result of our many stakeholder meetings with Pioneer and Volcano residents, we now have two large subdivisions ready for Firewise Communities certification with several more on their way. Two large fuel reduction projects identified in the plan have already been encumbered by Calfire and the US Forest Service and are scheduled to commence later this spring.

Public education and outreach activities continue, with emphasis placed on evacuation plans for both humans and animals. We worked in conjunction with Red Cross, Calfire, and Animal Control and developed a sheltering plan and created a corps of trained disaster service worker volunteers for the same. This group will become a CERT team. We have begun a youth education and outreach component, as well. Neighborhood Risk Analyses were presented to a number of homeowner groups and were well received, resulting in Firewise ready communities.

B. Deliverables or Outcomes completed during this Reporting Period or Milestones Achieved: (Include specific information, such as public meetings held, agency participation, partnerships developed, or acres mapped, treated or restored.) Twenty-two stakeholder meetings or events were held, including the Amador County Fair. Partnerships were developed with the American Red Cross, Amador Animal Control, Butte County's NVADG, Eldorado county's SCLAR; Blue Mountain CCC; Amador Animal Disaster & Evacuation Group; Amador County 4H; UC Cooperative Extension; the Northern California Prescriptive Fire Council; Amador Calaveras Consensus Group; Calfire; BLM, USFS; Lockwood Fire Protection District; Battalion 10; and approximately 11 homeowner/landowner associations. Risk assessments were conducted and mapped on nearly every drivable, ungated road or lane in the unit. Projects were identified and two are already encumbered for treatment (Sherwood Forest Safe Evacuation and Tiger Creek Road Edge Fuel Reduction). Additionally, another project is up for consideration with the SNC – senior/disabled defensible space, community chipper, and ingress egress. The entire unit has been mapped for fire history, risk, assets at risk, watersheds and those maps are on our website also.

C. Challenges or Opportunities Encountered: (Please describe what has worked and what hasn't; include any solutions you initiated to resolve problems. If your project is not on schedule, please explain why here.) As stated in "A" above, we had significant issues and time delays with our County Board of Supervisors accepting the conservation element of the fire plan. None of the partnering fire agencies had any issues and were fully supportive of our efforts.

D. Unanticipated Successes Achieved: (Please describe any additional successes beyond completing scheduled tasks or meeting scheduled milestones.) We are so very pleased with the positive homeowner response and acceptance of the plan. They have taken the message to heart and two subdivisions have already completed work towards their Firewise Community certification.

E. Compare Actual Costs to Budgeted Costs: (Please refer to your grant agreement to list your deliverables/budget categories and budgeted costs compared to actual costs incurred during this reporting period in the table below.)

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	Budgeted SNC Dollars	Actual Dollars
See request for payment		
GRAND TOTAL		

Explanation: (if needed)

F. Do you have information to report on the project-specific Performance Measures for your project? (If so, please list the Performance Measures below and describe your progress.)

G. Were there any other relevant materials produced under the terms of this Agreement that are not a part of the budgeted deliverables? If so, please attach copies. (Include digital photos, maps, media coverage of project, or other work products.) All products are available on our website and a hard copy of the entire plan and maps has been delivered.

H. Next Steps: (Work anticipated in the next 6 months, including location and timing of any scheduled events related to the project.) Even though the project is completed, we plan to continue public outreach and work towards the projects identified in the plan.

Please Complete this Section for FINAL Report ONLY

Capacity-Building Results and Collaboration and Cooperation with Stakeholders:

(What partnerships did you initiate or strengthen as a result of this project? How did they affect the project outcome? If applicable, how did this grant increase your organization's capacity? What is your plan to sustain this increase?)

- Twenty-two stakeholder meetings or events were held, including the Amador County Fair. Partnerships were developed with the American Red Cross, Amador Animal Control, Butte County's NVADG, Eldorado county's SCLAR; Blue Mountain CCC; Amador Animal Disaster & Evacuation Group; Amador County 4H; UC Cooperative Extension; the Northern California Prescriptive Fire Council; Amador Calaveras Consensus Group; Calfire; BLM, USFS; Lockwood Fire Protection District; Battalion 10; and approximately 11 homeowner/landowner associations. Risk assessments were conducted and mapped on nearly every drivable, ungated road or lane in the unit. Projects were identified and two are already encumbered for treatment (Sherwood Forest Safe Evacuation and Tiger Creek Road Edge Fuel Reduction). Additionally, another project is up for consideration with the SNC – senior/disabled defensible space, community chipper, and ingress egress. The entire unit has been mapped for fire history, risk, assets at risk, watersheds and those maps are on our website also.
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Description of Project Accomplishments:

1. Most Significant Accomplishment

Describe in one concise, well-written paragraph, the most significant accomplishment that resulted from this grant.

All the communities in the project area enthusiastically participated in developing the plan, creating an end product that is truly a community driven plan.

2. WOW Factor

If applicable, please describe anything that happened as a result of the project or during the project that is particularly impressive.

Based on 3 stakeholder meetings, two subdivisions immediately set to work improving access, clearing brush, installing road signs and working together. Those two communities are now ready for the Firewise Community Certification.

3. Design and Implementation

When considering the design and implementation of this project, what lessons did you learn that might help other grantees implement similar work? As requested by our original SNC grant manager, we used the CCWPP template developed by Sierra Forest Legacy. We made some adaptations and additions and feel we came away with an excellent product.

4. Indirect Impact

Please describe any indirect benefits of the project such as information that has been developed as a result of the project is being used by several other organizations to improve decision-making, or a conservation easement funded by this grant that encouraged other landowners in the area to have conservation easements on their property.

We have given homeowners an excellent tool for not only remediating fire risk in their neighborhoods, but tools to prepare themselves and their families for evacuation, should the need arise.

5. Collaboration and Conflict Resolution

If you worked in collaboration or cooperation with other organizations or institutions, describe those arrangements and their importance to the project. Also, describe if you encountered conflict in the project and how you dealt with it, or if there was conflict avoided as a result of the project.

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We developed a steering committee and a smaller work group. The smaller work group developed the plan and the steering committee advised. Collaboration with AFSC, Calfire, BLM, and the local fire departments was key to developing this plan. As our grant manager is aware, significant conflicts did arise with the Amador County Board of Supervisors, creating significant delays of 9 months, numerous rewrites, reprints and additional costs. Through the efforts of our agency partners, we did resolve those conflicts and achieved the BOS acceptance of the plan.

6. Capacity-Building

SNC is interested in both the capacity of your organization, as well as local and regional capacity. Please describe the overall health of your organization including areas in need of assistance. SNC is interested in the strength and involvement of your board, significant changes to your staff, size and involvement of membership. In addition, describe how your project improved capabilities of partners, or the larger community. We believe that AFSC has a strong, credible presence in Amador County and we have put significant effort into involvement with other counties in our mission of wildland fire reduction and public education. As federal grants diminish, our most critical need is continued funding.

7. Challenges

Did the project face internal or external challenges? How were they addressed? Describe each challenge and any actions that you took to address it. Was there something that SNC did or could have done to assist you? Did you have to change any of your key objectives in response to conditions “on the ground”?

Please see previous comments above.

8. Photographs

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Grantees are strongly encouraged to submit photos, slides or digital images whenever possible. These images will be used for SNC publications such as annual reports or on the website. Please make sure you clearly identify location, activity, and your project with each submitted image. Images will be credited to the submitting organization, unless specified otherwise.

All photos are available on our web site; please credit AFSC for any used.

9. Post Grant Plans

What are the post-grant plans for the project if it does not conclude with the grant? Include a description of the following (if applicable): (1) Changes in operations or scope; (2) Replication or use of findings; (3) Names of other organizations you expect to involve; (4) Plans to support the project financially, and; (5) Communication plans?

We are continuing to move forward with the Greater Pine Grove CCWPP and intend to use the Pioneer Volcano CCWPP as our guiding document. We also have funding requests in to the SNC for CCWPPs for the High Country and Fiddletown units, our next two highest risk units in the county. Now that projects have been identified and prioritized on the plans, we continue to seek funding to achieve those goals.

10. Post Grant Contact

Who can be contacted a few years from now to follow up on the project? Please provide name and contact information.

Amador Fire Safe Council, PO Box 1055, Pine Grove, CA 95665

SNC-approved Performance Measures: (Please list each Performance Measure for your Project, as identified in your Grant Agreement, and the results/outcomes.)

Completed CCWPP, including identified projects, priorities, community mapping; done.

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Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program Project Reporting Guidelines

Progress Reports are required periodically throughout the term of the Grant Agreement (Refer to Exhibit B of the Grant Agreement). These reports will allow you and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) to see the degree to which the project is on track and achieving your projected outcomes. Your Progress Reports will further provide the SNC with information that will help us to explain your work to the Board Members and various other audiences. Timing of Progress Reports is specified in the Project Schedule included in Exhibit A of the Grant Agreement, but generally every 6 months until completion of the project.

A Progress Reporting Form is provided to Grantees on the SNC Website. **Six-month Progress Reports** should reflect the previous 6-month period; **Final Reports** should address each question for the entire grant period – looking at the project as a whole.

The form specifies the items you will need to report on. For the Six-Month Interim Report these include, but are not limited to: *A Progress Report Summary of work completed, Deliverables or Outcomes Completed, Challenges or Opportunities Encountered, Unanticipated Successes Achieved, Actual Costs compared to Budgeted Costs, Any Additional Relevant Materials Produced, and Next Steps.*

The Final Report will include additional information, such as: *Resources Leveraged, Capacity-Building Results and Collaboration and Cooperation with Stakeholders, a Description of Project Accomplishments, and SNC Approved Performance Measures.*

Please make sure that you submit complete reports by the dates requested in your Grant Agreement.