



TULE RIVER TRIBAL COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT
FAX COVER

PLEASE FORWARD TO:
BOBBY KAMANSKI

Date: 4-3-12
To: BOBBY KAMANSKI
Fax No.: 209/742-7160
cc:
From: KERRI VERA
Re: 6 MO REPORT – TULE RIVER TRIBE

HI BOBBY, I DO NOT HAVE EMAIL... SO I HOPE THIS IS THE CORRECT FAX ADDRESS FOR YOU- OR THAT IT CAN BE FORWARDED TO YOU. FROM YOUR EMAIL, I GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU HAD NOT RECEIVED OUR 6 MONTH REPORT, SO I AM SENDING IT NOW. I WILL GET YOU THE FINAL REPORT BY THE END OF THE WEEK TOO.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE. I WILL EMAIL THIS TO YOU AS WELL, AS SOON AS I HAVE INTERNET ACCESS AGAIN.

TOTAL PAGES INCLUDING COVER = 6

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: TULE RIVER TRIBE
Project title: TULE RIVER WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT

SNC Reference Number: SNC 070291 Submittal Date: 01/27/12
Report Preparer: KERRI VERA Phone #: 559/783-8892

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.)

PROPOSED TASKS

TASK: Organize and develop work schedules for required staff and volunteers

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS & CHALLENGES

We worked collaboratively in project planning and organizing, with various Tribal Departments including:
Environmental
Forestry
Natural Resources
Fire
Public Safety
Tule River Tribal Council

We coordinated efforts and solicited assistance from Non-Tribal Agencies including:
High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew
US Forest Service Law Enforcement
Tulare County Sheriff's Department

TASK: With the assistance of Tulare County Sheriff's Office(aka TCSO), aerial surveillance, with the use of helicopters will conduct reconnaissance and site assessment activities as weather permits.

We worked cooperatively with the Tulare County Sheriff's Department for site location and reconnaissance. Also for security and prioritization.

Aerial reconnaissance was conducted to assist in prioritizing and targeting 8 sites for reclamation.

PROPOSED TASKS**(continued)**

TASK: With assistance from tribal security and police, cleanup and restoration activities will be initiated as snow levels and groundwater permit site access

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS & CHALLENGES**(continued)**

Starting January 12, 2012 we began a 4-day effort to clean and restore (8) eradicated grow sites. Countless bags of trash was removed from each site, as well as the following:

~4 miles of agricultural line
 1 Miracle Grow Garden Soil (32qts)
 4 Miracle Grow Quick Start liquid (48oz ea.)
 5 Miracle Grow Potting Soil (64qts ea.)
 1 Miracle Grow water soluble fertilizer (10lb)
 1 Bayer Complete Insect Killer liquid (32oz)
 1 Ortho Insect Killer for Lawns granular (1lb)
 1 Romeo Soluble Fertilizer 14-14-14 (50lb)
 1 Vigoro Fertilizer 16-16-16 (20lb)
 2 Hyponex Fertilizer 15-15-15 (50lb ea.)
 1 Scotts Osmocote 14-14-14 (50lb)
 8 pkgs D-Con (3oz ea.)
 1 Gopher Gettter (1lb)
 1 Bonnie Plant Food (32oz)
 1 bx Superthrive
 1 Lilly Miller 21-0-0 (20lb)
 1 Turf Magic 8-8-8 (40lb)
 8 bgs Simplot Agropall 15-15-15 with sulfur (50lb ea.)
 45 bgs YaraMila - 15-15-15 (50lb ea.)

TASK: Removal of all non-native plant species and vegetation of wetland area will be completed

Non-native plants were removed by law enforcement officials with the Tulare County Sheriff's Department S.T.E.P. team.

TASK: Follow up with on-going water quality assessment.

On-going plant surveys to assess successful plant growths

Water quality samples were taken from the associated watersheds. A total of 4 watersheds were sampled and analyzed for chemical content. Results are pending.

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.)

The watershed restoration project has continued to be a collaborative effort with various local groups and agencies. We have worked closely with the Tulare County Sheriff's Department to access location information for eradicated gardens. The Tul. Co. Sheriff's Dept. also assisted in prioritizing locations, safety preparedness (timing) and logistics of site cleanup.

We have received technical assistance and cooperation with local US Forest Service Law Enforcement divisions to assist in cleanup planning, data access and safety preparedness.

Site restoration planning and reconnaissance was a collaborative effort between the Tribal Environmental Department, the Tul. Co. Sheriff's Department and the High Sierra Volunteer Trail

Crew (HSVTC). We have developed a strong working relationship with the HSVTC in most aspects of the project including site prioritization, air support, waste collection, proper disposal and recycling, site assessment and summary and cleanup labor. The HSVTC teamed up with Tribal staff in the restoration field work, and served an important role in logistical tactical support as well as training.

Overall, we calculated the removal of waste and hazardous was from approximately 17-20 acres, from 8 eradicated gardens within the South Fork Tule River watershed (see "Proposed Tasks" above for specific waste removed).

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.)

Below is a description of actions that have worked as planned, and those that have not. An accompanying "solution" is also listed, for consideration in future activities.

CHALLENGES

PROBLEM:

GPS coordinates (provided by the Tulare County Sheriff's Department) did not always match with sites "on the ground".

OPPORTUNITIES

SOLUTIONS:

Aerial reconnaissance was helpful in locating sites on the ground that may have been a drainage further from originally anticipated.

Ground reconnaissance was also necessary to located sites ahead of time. Tribal knowledge of the land was extremely helpful in map interpretation and 'on the ground' navigation. This helped with planning access to and from the site by foot, vehicle and helicopter as necessary.

PROBLEM:

Land sites for helicopter transport was sometimes difficult, due to dense vegetation at sites.

SOLUTIONS:

Slight vegetation removal was necessary to create safe landing sites, which will be used for future activities requiring helicopter assistance (ex. wildland firefighters, crop eradication or medical aid support)

D. Unanticipated Successes Achieved: (Please describe any additional successes beyond completing scheduled tasks or meeting scheduled milestones.)

See "F" below for an explanation of relevant materials produced, that were not anticipated or planed for in the budget.

In addition, we were able to collaborate with various agencies in a manner that will assist in future clean up executions. The coordination and network connections that were made during the planning and execution of this project have set the foundation for future training, collaboration and execution for watershed restoration of this nature. These relationships also helped to supplement costs that were anticipated to be absorbed by the

Tribe. These costs were equipment and supply costs, including but not limited to: field tools, protective gear, trash bags and heli-nets.

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.)

Explanation: (if needed)

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	Estimated	Actual this quarter
SUPPLIES		
field tools (see 'contractual' below)	4,000	
protective gear	1,500	
trash bags/heli-nets	5,000	
GPS units	2,000	
Other	3,000	
EQUIPMENT		
ATV & trailer	10,000	
heavy equipment	5,000	
CONTRACTUAL		
helicopter services	20,000	17,525
skilled crew	10,000	19,865
<i>HSVTC members</i>		4,320
<i>(+water quality analysis costs)</i>		
field crew	10,000	831.39
<i>Tribal crew</i>		2,616
<i>HSVTC members</i>		1,554
<i>travel expenses</i>		1,380
<i>tools/supplies</i>		360.00
public safety crew	5,000	104.96
fire crew	10,000	
GRAND TOTAL	\$85,500	\$48,556.35

F. 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.)

Photos: These were not budgeted for in this project, but serve as a necessary tool for project documentation, reporting and presentation.

Inventory of "findings" and Summary Report from High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew. Although payment was made for contractual services from this group, a "summary report" was not budgeted for as part of the project scope. This was a relevant part of the clean-up project, and will be a useful tool in future planning and documentation of activities executed.

G. Next Steps: (Work anticipated in the next 6 months, including location and timing of any scheduled events related to the project.)

If weather permits, we will attempt launch another cleanup before the end of February. We will report any progress made, or not made by February 29th, and invoice any outstanding costs at that time.

Please Complete this Section for FINAL Report ONLY

Resources Leveraged: (What kind and amount of resources – funding or in-kind – outside of the SNC were you able to leverage, and how?)

TRIBAL

Forestry- site location & reconnaissance; vehicles/fuel
Environmental- mapping; site location & reconnaissance; vehicles/fuel
Natural Resource- site location; vehicles/fuel;
Tribal Council- meals;

USFS

Law Enforcement- technical assistance in site location and cleanup strategy

TULARE COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Site location and descriptive data (ex. number of plants, number of camps, garden size, proximity to creeks)

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?)

What partnerships did you initiate or strengthen as a result of this project?

Tulare County Sherriff's Department- initiate/strengthen
US Forest Service LEO's- initiate
High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew- initiate/strengthen

How did they affect the project outcome?

Tulare County Sherriff's Department

Without the cooperation of the TulCo Sherriffs Department, this project may not have been possible. The current Lt. and Sgt.'s willingness to be forthcoming with site location data was instrumental in coordinating clean up efforts. The applicable Lt. and Sgt. took the time to meet and correspond with Tribal staff and officials in various ways (email, phone and face to face meetings), which was pivotal in the planning process.

US Forest Service LEO's

Several Law Enforcement officers for the US Forest Service provided technical assistance in planning and coordinating clean up efforts. They shared their experiences and strategies for implementing location and clean up within the Southern Sierra Mountain range (ie. US Forest Service land). This knowledge was valuable and assisted greatly in our planning efforts. Now that this partnership has been initiated, there is a strong potential continuing and building upon cooperative efforts and providing assistance to each other in future clean up projects.

High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew

The support and expertise that the HSVTC provided during planning and implementation was invaluable. The HSVTC provided expertise in clean up planning and execution. Specifically, they provided valuable knowledge of site assessment and aviation coordination. The HSVTC, provided technical assistance gained from years of 'on-the-ground' experience executing eradicated garden environmental cleanups. Their knowledge and expertise ranges from site assessment and 'typing' to staff training, aviation coordination, safety practices and proper waste disposal and recycling.

Description of Project Accomplishments:

1. How did the Project succeed in accomplishing its intent?

Planning

This was the first effort, under Tribal management, to perform restoration efforts to abandoned illegal gardens on Tribal lands. Therefore, planning was eminent for the success of the project. Much of the budget estimation was determined during the project scoping process and the ultimate development of the grant proposal.

After receiving confirmation of funding, networking, partnerships and information sharing became the next most important steps. We developed partnerships with agencies that had previously embarked on similar restoration efforts and who manage lands in the close proximity to Reservation lands. We shared a variety of information and data from past and present garden sites and types, as well as staff knowledge of executing restoration projects. We shared tactics for locating, entering and 'typing' sites and methods for clean up and proper waste disposal. We developed a working relationship with the water analysis laboratory with a focus on our monitoring needs specifically for the assessment of potential contamination from the illegal gardens.

During the execution of the restoration project, Tribal knowledge and staff labor proved most valuable. Tribal members and staff have intimate knowledge of the land and a passion for the safekeeping of it. This knowledge proved to be a key part of site location, reconnaissance and ultimate restoration. Tribal staff are comfortable and adapted to conducting on-the-ground project work in the remote and rough terrain of the Reservation, which increased safety and efficiency during project initiation.

The partnership and positive working relationship that we were able to develop with the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew was crucial in our concerted efforts to implement the many months of planning, expert knowledge and project team participation for the purposes of this restoration effort. The brought a knowledge and experience that not only provided for the initiation of the project, but served as a form of 'instruction' for future efforts. This partnership will prove to increase Tribal knowledge of clean up operations and implementation.

2. Describe any follow-on or indirect benefits resulting from the Project.

The most noteworthy 'indirect' benefit from this effort, is the increased awareness that has developed as a result of pictures, reports and first-hand witness by Tribal members and staff of this continuing impact to our lands.

The increased awareness will likely influence continued support to enhanced staff training, development of a Tribal cleanup team, and executing of future cleanup efforts.

3. Describe any significant experiences, unanticipated results or noteworthy events that create a “wow” factor.

The team of individuals who were involved in reconnaissance and actual clean-up continue to be amazed at the intensity and longevity of the trespass on our lands as well as the major impact associated with these illegal activities. Hearing about this activity did little to no justice to the feeling of actually walking in to one of these sites and witnessing the diverted creeks, man-made reservoirs, irrigation networks, poached wildlife, destroyed vegetation and polluted landscapes first-hand.

4. Describe any Lessons Learned.

1. There is a need to work out the ‘kinks’ to the GPS location points and the actual “on-the-ground” locations. Often times, the GPS locations do not represent the garden location on-the-ground, and aerial location is needed for confirmation of site location.

2. There is a need to plan and strategize differently for water quality sampling and re-vegetation when needed. Due to the cost associated with site access, water quality sampling supplies, re-vegetation supply/equipment and laboratory requirements, these efforts will need to be prioritized and planned on occasions separate from restoration efforts, if applicable and necessary. A likely plan would be to initiate a separate ‘water sampling’ crew and ‘revegetation’ crew (for high priority sites) that would perform the associated tasks on a different date or time from the restoration/clean-up effort.

3. There is a need to incorporate increased Tribal staff participation (including training ‘prior’ to the cleanup), in order to perpetuate enhanced awareness and capacity for cleanup execution.

5. How do you intend to share the results of your work on this project?

1. A slideshow was designed for reporting to the Tule River Tribal Council, but can also be edited and presented to a variety of audiences. The slideshow depicts the entire project process including:

Statement of Need
Project Scoping and development
Grant proposal
Clean-up planning
Networking and outreach
Project execution & design
Findings, Challenges & recommendations

2. Verbal reporting to various Tribes and Agencies during network meetings and workshops

3. Verbal and visual reporting to Tribal Natural Resource Core Team (comprised of Tribal Natural Resource, Forestry, Fire Department Directors)

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

a. Establish photo-points at project site and take pre-restoration photos

Each site was documented with photographs both before and after clean up. Photographs also document total waste collected and removed from the (8) sites.

b. Recruit and hire staff, purchase supplies, rent equipment, conduct site assessments

Recruit/hire staff: There was a total of (6) Tribal staff involved in the planning and clean up efforts. Three of the positions were compensated by the grant. The other two were 'in-kind'. In addition, a representative from the Tribal government accompanied the clean-up crew on the final day of restoration activities. This was also an 'in-kind' salary.

Purchase supplies: supplies were purchased months before the 4-day clean up, and include items such as trash bags, first aid kits, t-shirts, pruners, wire cutters, duct tape, gps units, etc. Some supplies that were budgeted for but not purchased, were provided by the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew. Some of these items included, heli-nets, food/water, shovels, etc.

Rent equipment: equipment rental, such as aircraft, was executed under the work agreement with the High Sierra Volunteer Trail crew. It was not necessary to rent any addition off-road vehicles, as anticipated. In addition, waste collection bins were also contracted out an provided for by the HSVTC, instead of arranging collection and transport by a third party.

Conduct site assessments: site assessment was conducted throughout the span of the project period by Tribal staff of the Natural Resource, Environmental and Forestry Departments. Site assessment was also done partly through GPS locations combined with aerial reconnaissance, but the HSVTC. As much as possible, the sites were located and assessed prior to entering them for cleanup.

c. Clean-up waste materials, remove illegal campsites and access trails, install temporary fencing along highly sensitive areas

All waste materials were removed, sorted and properly disposed of from (8) sites within four drainages of the South Fork Tule River watershed. Campsites were disassembled, destroyed and cleaned. Waste items included herbicides and pesticides, household trash, fertilizer, propane tanks, batteries, bedding, irrigation hoses, plastic, etc. Fencing was not necessary.

d. Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC

Progress report was submitted in January 2012, to include all work completed since submittal of the last invoice (before the budget freeze). The January 2012 progress report and invoice included most of the costs incurred for the clean-up effort. The outstanding costs were invoiced in March 2012, and included water sample analysis and staff salary expenses not previously included in the previous invoice. This report serves as the final written progress report for the project.

e. Revegetate riparian areas and wetland meadow areas

There were no meadow areas encountered. The sites were nestled within the riparian areas, but we did not execute revegetation activities. This was partly due to the remote access to the sites. Six of the eight sites could only be accessed by helicopter, some strictly by 'short-haul' (ie. two people at a time, by rope and harness). Aerial access is costly and time consuming so we prioritized our efforts to waste removal and site decommissioning. In addition, the sites had been abandoned for several years, and some herbaceous and grassy materials were naturally regenerating. If revegetation does not continue to occur naturally, however, there may be a need to plan an effort strictly for this purpose. Through the accurate documentation and recording of these sites through mapping and photography, relocating these sites can be easily achieved.

f. Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC

There was little to no activity to report at the 12-month progress period. All progress that was made, was strictly planning and networking, paid by 'in-kind' sources (ie. Tribal staff and other agency salaries).

g. Complete water quality assessments and revegetate

We worked with the laboratory in selecting the best analysis to run for the purposes of detecting potential chemical content in the SFTR watershed. We concluded that a comprehensive chemical analysis would be best for detecting any possible herbicide, pesticide or fertilizer. If any of these chemicals were detected, we could then tailor our sampling efforts to routine monitoring of any chemical of concern.

Water quality samples were collected at five locations within the SFTR, all downstream from the sites cleaned. One sample was collected at the inlet to the Drinking Water Treatment Plant, directly from the source of the SFTR. No chemicals were detected from any of the 5 samples analyzed (lab reports attached).

While it is a positive outcome, to have no detection on chemicals in the SFTR surface water, we plan to continue sampling efforts within these areas in order to monitor the water quality. Using other funding sources available for water pollution control and watershed restoration, we plan to develop a more intensive and focused monitoring effort within the impacted tributaries in order to document water quality trends.

h. Take post restoration photographs for inclusion in the final report

Restoration and clean up photographs were taken throughout the project duration They are included on the enclosed CD.

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.