

**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:** Feather River College

**Project title:** Education and Tourism

**SNC Reference Number:** SNC 070298 **Submittal Date:** 1/19/09

**Report Preparer:** Zachary Parks **Phone #:** 530 283 0202 x224

**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.)

In this First six months of the project we have managed to offer one after school class which was very successful. Although we did not have near as many participants as we had hoped it was still very rewarding for our project members and the students. We had a total of 6 individuals participate in the project fish fishing class. The youngest was 7 years old and the oldest was 19. We had originally hoped for 30 individuals, conflicts with fall sports and other community programs proved difficult to overcome, the potential participants did not know which to choose. The evening class was scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays from four until six pm and Saturdays from eight a.m. until noon however; the Saturday classes inevitably ran over because everyone was having a great time and catching fish. The afterschool portion of the class was spent on campus learning various things such as how to read the water, which is determining where the “good spots are”, knot tying, some safety, and ethics.

We have managed get some designs for t shirts and hats that we would like to use as advertisement items for the hatchery, the designs will be attached. I think they will be a great and unique addition to our efforts of awareness.

There are several goals that we did not reach. They include design of new signage for the hatchery, and the educational display. These items had to take a back seat to the hatchery site improvement project also funded by your organization, developing the signs after that project is closer to completion will be better suited to getting the message across.

**\*\*UPDATE\*\***

**Since the beginning of this project we have encountered problems getting area youth involved in the fishing portion of the project due to many other activities taking place. We have had a varied age range of participants from as young as 7 and as**

mature as 55. This is due in part by the way the college offers courses which is making classes open to anyone. This has been a very beneficial aspect to the project however because the older participants make great mentors for the younger ones. The weather has been the biggest hindrance to our fishing trips and the lack of adequate clothing for the participants. We did however make due with the suitable days and had some great times. We have had a total of 230 participants over the last four years.

The trout in the class room portion of the project has been a great successful partnership with the Feather River chapter of Trout Unlimited. The participating classes have risen from 25 to 46 over the past couple of years. We have every sixth grade class in Plumas County, a couple of second grades, and the entire k-12 at Downieville in Sierra County, granted there are only 83 students there in total. Over all our number of students that we have reached over the last four years has been 967 which great.

The hatchery signage and educational displays is another great portion of the project, we have some great looking and informative signs at the hatchery. We also have a weather proof bulletin board that we put up informational posters such as the life cycle of pacific salmon, and events that have to do with the outdoors. The signs include species profiles that you will find in our outdoor production ponds, rainbow, and brown trout, and white sturgeon. We also have signs with common definitions associated with aquaculture and some history about the hatchery here at Feather River College.

**B. Deliverables or Outcomes completed during this Reporting Period or Milestones Achieved:**

The outcomes from for this reporting period are we completed the inaugural run of the project fish class, We have had and increase of visitors, most notably the Feather River A's a car group. This group has an annual get together of west coast of Model A owners where they tour the local attractions. The group visited the hatchery for a morning on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September. They were treated to the grand tour of the facility and our many residents, including the sturgeon. The group enjoyed their visit so much they want to make in a semi annual even to keep up with the progress that we are making here at the hatchery.

**\*\*UPDATE\*\***

**Over the course of the grant we have been able to deliver upon all of our agreed upon goals. We have expanded and improved upon the trout in the class room project with the partnership with Trout unlimited we now have 46 class rooms county wide that participate.**

**The youth fishing program has been the most difficult aspect of the project, lack of participation has plagued Project Fish due to competing activities, and inability of prospective participants to get to our location.**

**The hatchery educational displays and signs are a great success, with many visitors stopping and taking the time to explore. Since the projects start in 2008 we have**

had 12,456 counted visitors to the hatchery. I am sure there are hundreds more that visit on weekends or other times that hatchery staff is not here to count and interact with them.

**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.) The biggest challenge for this project is the time conflicts that the potential participants have. There are many athletic activities that the youth can partake in, football, soccer etc. This program is directed to all youth but my goals are to reach some more of the youth that are not involved in those other programs. It is unclear as to just how to reach more of those individuals and impact them by introducing them to sport fishing.

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

There were no unanticipated successes during this time.

**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.)

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>Budgeted SNC Dollars</b>	<b>Actual Dollars</b>
Project fish	\$15000	<b>\$15956.19</b>
<b>Hatchery signs/promotional items</b>	\$5000.00	<b>\$5134.72</b>
<b>Trout in the class room</b>	\$5000.00	<b>\$5784.09</b>
<b>Direct admin</b>	1875.00	<b>0</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>26875.00</b>	<b>26875.00</b>

**Explanation:** (if needed)

**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.)

None at this time.

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

In the next six months providing that the funding suspension is reversed we hope to offer the project fish class again as a second nine weeks course, and then again in the summer. We will hopefully have the design for the new signs, finished, and install them. We will also complete the other educational display and fill it with interesting and up to date. Pictures will be attached.

**\*\*Update\*\***

**In the next six months we will be running the Project Fish youth fishing course again targeting foster youth in Plumas County rather than youth as a whole. The local Foster youth coordinator is interested in seeing if the youth can take some of the experiences in the out of doors that they have and build upon them.**

**In Late February the trout in the class room participants will once again receive their eggs for their hatching project. Four new classrooms were involved this year making the total 46 in Plumas and Sierra Counties. The Feather River Chapter of Trout unlimited has secured a Trout in the Class Room coordinator who is an excellent proponent of the program.**

## **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?)

**This project has been very attractive to other funding sources. We have been fortunate enough to receive funding from many local organizations such as the Feather River 2009-2010 Chapter of Trout Unlimited (\$2000), 2009 the Plumas County Fish and Game Commission (\$2000), 2008-2009 LASSEN-PLUMAS-SIERRA COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY (\$2500) and 2012 the Outdoor Foundation (\$2500). We have also had many on campus student organizations**

**participate in Project fish including SEA (Student Environmental Association) and SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise). These students have stepped up to mentor younger children with fishing skills and environmental ethics. These mentors have showed the children that it is “cool” to go fishing and get outdoors.**

**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?)

**Capacity building has been very tough in these economic conditions; many of the potential funding sources for this project have reduced their investing ventures. The Project Fish program had hoped to secure an annual budget of approximately \$25,000 however reality is more like \$5000. The likely hood that the program will reach its initial vision of operation is dismal to say the least. However with the continued support of local organizations and volunteers we will be able to maintain the program at level that serves fewer youth for some time to come.**

**The Trout in the class room portion of the project has been one major shining success; we now serve every sixth grade class in Plumas County, and two classes in Sierra County; in addition there are several teachers in other grades that have become involved. The Feather River College hatchery has taken a less involved role in recent years as trout unlimited members have desired to oversee the project. This Hatchery provides technical support and eggs, while Trout Unlimited has taken on the responsibility of day to day teacher contact and funding. The hatchery gets involved with teacher training and providing a year end tour to many of the students to demonstrate a whole life cycle with them.**

#### **Description of Project Accomplishments:**

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

**I believe the Project succeeded in accomplishing its intent in several ways. First we were able to create an after school and weekend program that gets youth outside, we have many students that are repeat participants. These youth have come to value the camaraderie and enjoyment of angling. Secondly the Trout in the class room reaches about 230 youth each year, culminating with the release of the trout fry that they have hatched and reared. The part of the project alone**

has increased youth awareness to fisheries, and driven some of them to pursue education and careers in the field.

The hatchery signage is a wonderful addition to our facility; it provides a short educational message to visitors. The signs depict the fish species that we raise and also provide them with life history information. We have hundreds of visitors each year who stop and read the sign and often ask for additional information when one of the hatchery employees is present.

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

The biggest indirect benefit from the project has been the number of college students who have participated in the project as mentors, trout in the classroom assistants and volunteered at the hatchery. The courses that the college offers pertaining to aquaculture have seen an increase in students because of the project fish activities.

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

The biggest “wow” factor and unanticipated result from this is the interest from college students, two student (S.E.A. and S.I.F.E) groups had volunteer mentors that participated in the youth fishing activities. The students proved to be great mentors, not only helping the much younger participants with fishing skills, and understanding ethics but by listening and becoming friends with the children. Several of the students have gone on to become foster youth mentors in Plumas County where they have started taking foster youth fishing on their own time. They are also helping some of the older participants to decide if higher education is the right path, several of the project fish participants have now entered Feather River College as dual enrollees while in middle school.

**4. Describe any Lessons Learned.**

The biggest lesson learned is that when the economy takes a down turn education appears to be one of the first areas to suffer. Budgets at community college and k-12 systems, and grant opportunities for youth education are reduced. This is quite disheartening when even required subject matter is cut.

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

**This project has been shared at many of the different conferences that the hatchery director Zachary Parks has attended. These conferences have included the Northwest Fish Culture meetings in Redding California, and in Victoria British Columbia Canada, the Community College North Far North Consortium**

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

**Number of youth reached through programs.**

We were not as successful as we had initially hoped when it comes to reaching the areas youth, the number of youth activities is astounding in the area, there are youth sports teams of every category, there are dance teams, shooting teams, etc.. Needless to say we were competing with many others for the same few participants. We did however manage to have a few participants each time that were youth, seems as though the older generations wanted to get out and go fishing as well. We had a total of 210 youth and 20 participants that were youth at heart.

In the trout in the class room we have increased our class room participation from 25 to 46 and a total number of students that have participated is 967 and growing. These numbers may drop in the next year due to a reduction in size of our local school district. Several schools may be closed and consolidation may take place.

As for visitors to the hatchery we have done quite well we have had 12456 non school related visitors, and an additional 17250 students form around the region visit. In some cases we have had repeat visitors due to the students enjoying their visit and bringing family back at another time. The hatchery is a community attraction we have many of the local county workers as well as others visit for lunch every day because they enjoy the setting and the fish jumping. We have had several State automobile enthusiasts clubs visit us with the most notable being the State gathering of the Model A club hosted by the Feather River A's. This had an impact on myself due to the large group of very

interested people. We had 119 model A's parked around the hatchery all filled with at least two people. We had a total of 245 people in that one group. We have many other visitors because of the wild life that we attract. Water fowl frequent our production ponds so the local Audubon Society bring its members out to have a look, where they see ducks, geese, grebes and birds of prey like osprey and bald eagles.

**6. Number of new groups/people reached through programs.**

This is by far the hardest of our performance measures to account for, because we get so many repeat visitors from differing classes, and grades each year. For instance I know of one young student who visited us when she was in second grade and each school year after that she is now in seventh grade and should return this year with her biology class. We have reached out to differing schools and groups out of our area with great success, in total I would say that we have reached 65 groups including the auto groups, schools, preschools, and groups like Audubon and Trout Unlimited. We have also worked with several other youth serving groups to provide fishing opportunities which have been great but we do not have numbers of participants for those events.

## 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.