

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: High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.

Project title: Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break Environmental Compliance

SNC Reference Number: SNC G0834001.1 **Submittal Date:** 10-11-2012

REVISED

Report Preparer: William Bennett, President

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Check one:

6-Month Progress Report

Final Report

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

A. Progress Report Summary:

High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council partnered with Tehama County Resource Conservation District to complete the California Quality Act (CEQA) documents including the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the Butte County Resource Conservation District for the Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break Project.

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

- Completion of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration Report
- Public Hearing on January 18, 2012 at the Butte County Farm Bureau
- Adoption of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration Report
- Partnerships include:
 - Tom McCubbins, CEQA Project Manager, TCRC
 - Amy Hubberland, Asst Coordinator NE Center of the CA Historical Resource Information System, California State University at Chico
 - David DeMar, Archeologist, Western Shasta Resource Conservation District
 - Martha Burke, Forester Applied Forest Management
 - Lorna Dobrovlny, Environmental Scientist, Botanist, CA Department Fish & Game
 - Richard Lis, Ph.D. Staff Environmental Scientist, CA Department Fish & Game

C. Challenges or Opportunities Encountered:

Project has been completed and current report has been approved by Butte County.

An unexpected challenge was encountered when Butte County Resource Conservation District presented High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council with an invoice for their services for \$2,450.

Unfortunately, there was no contract with BCRC and HSRC&DC was in contract with TCRC for the entire project amount of \$20,000.

D. Unanticipated Successes Achieved:

Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break Project has been awarded funds to complete Phase 3 and Phase 5. Butte County Fire Safe Council is in project coordinator for the additional project phases.

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
Advertising & Hiring Consultant to complete CEQA/NEPA Document	\$20,000	\$20,000
Grant Administration	\$2,000	\$2,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$22,000	\$22,000

F. Do you have information to report on the project-specific Performance Measures for your project?

☐ Number and Diversity of People Reached: General Public, Sierra Nevada Residents and Landowners of Forbestown will benefit from wildlands fuel reduction for fire safety, six Resource Professionals were hired to complete the study.

☐ Number and Types of Jobs Created: Phases 3 & 5 will be relying on this report for fuels reduction in Forbestown. Three to Five local contractors will be hired to complete the project. Butte County Fire Safe Council has two full time employees and is the project lead for the fuels work. Forbestown Ridge FSC, Yuba Watershed and Protection Council, USFS, BLM will also contribute resources to the project.

☐ Number and Value of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities: Estimated Acreage to be treated for Phases 3 & 5 from various grantors: 190 acres.

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.

Maps & Photographs are included in the Study

H. Next Steps:

Forbestown has received funds to complete Phases 3 and 5 of the project. The Study is being used to assist with the fuels reduction project phases.

Please Complete this Section for FINAL Report ONLY

Capacity-Building Results and Collaboration and Cooperation with Stakeholders:

HSRC&DC has successfully completed the Forbestown Environmental Compliance Report Project. The Community of Forbestown is receiving the benefit of additional fuels reduction grant awards to complete this valuable project.

Description of Project Accomplishments:

1. Most Significant Accomplishment

Completion of the CEQA documents for the Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break Project

2. WOW Factor

Forbestown received additional funding to completed Phases 3 and 5 for the project.

3. Design and Implementation

Partnering with an agency who specializes in completing the necessary CEQA/NEPA reports.

4. Indirect Impact

The community of Forbestown will benefit from the economic boost to their community, especially local contractors working on the new phases of the fuels reduction projects.

5. Collaboration and Conflict Resolution

High Sierra RC&DC collaborated with Tehama County RCD to complete the environmental compliance reports. An unexpected challenge was encountered when Butte County Resource Conservation District presented High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council with an invoice for their services for \$2,450. Unfortunately, there was no contract with BCRCDC and HSRC&DC was in contract with TCRCDC for the entire project.

6. Capacity-Building

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has provided support in the way of project coordinators, offices and equipment for the nationwide Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) program for many decades. Unfortunately, the last minute negotiation, passage and signing of the recent 2010-2011 Federal budget on April 15, 2011 removed all federal support for RC&D's, and

because it is the current year's budget, the NRCS, without warning, immediately stopped all activities on RC&Ds.

High Sierra RC&D continues as a non-profit organization and the Executive Committee has been hard at work to adjust expenditures and realign staffing to cover the loss of the federal support. We have hired Dan Macon, Project Coordinator to assume the additional duties as program coordinator as we continue to administer several grant projects.

7. Challenges

See above

8. Photographs

Photographs and maps are included in the final report.

9. Post Grant Plans

N/A

10. Post Grant Contact

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SNC-approved Performance Measures:

See Section F for SNC approved performance measures.