

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 Land Trust

Project title: Pearce Family Ranch Conservation Easement Acquisition

SNC Reference Number: SNC #169 **Submittal Date:** 12/18/2014

Report Preparer: Karen Kleven/Susan Payne/Paul Hardy Phone #: (530) 283-5758

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

For grant SNC #169, the project was completed as anticipated, with the easement closing on 12/27/2010. This 318 acre conservation easement has helped a six generation working ranch continue its operation while providing the long term public benefit of protecting the agricultural, ecological, scenic, and cultural values associated with the property.

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.)

For grant "SNC 169", the following tasks were completed during the grant period. During this period, great progress was made on this project, giving us an expected closing in calendar year 2010. Completed work included:

- ✓ Field visits and detailed discussions with the landowner
- ✓ Development of a conservation easement compatible with the working landscape typical of the Pearce Ranch.
- ✓ Finalizing and signature of the option agreement, which included the conservation easement and associated maps.
- ✓ Completion of a detailed legal description and map for the easement area.
- ✓ Exercise of the option contract
- ✓ Completion of a baseline report.
- ✓ Current on all documents requested for review by NSP and SNC to date; additional documents will be sent as needed.
- ✓ Preparation of all Escrow documents requested to by First American Title.

- ✓ Closing and recording of the conservation easement.
- ✓ Transfer of all funds
- ✓ Preparation of a draft form 8283 for the landowner.
- ✓ All legal and administrative work required to support and complete the above tasks.
- ✓ Dedication of the property Spring, 2011.

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.) NA

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

General communications throughout the project with the landowner have been excellent, effective, and positive, with the landowner delivering information and photos.. The landowner is very supportive of the project and fully engaged in helping FRLT move it to completion. Working on this project has raised local interest from other ranch owners in setting up conservation easements on their property. The success of this project has brought requests from other Indian Valley ranchers to conserve their ranches through conservation easements.

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
Conservation Easement	\$300,000	\$300,000

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.)

1. Resources Leveraged in the Sierra Nevada: \$ 300,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, \$251,979 from the Northern Sierra Partnership (private donations) and \$17,000 from local donors.

2. Number and Diversity of People Reached: Notification of project completion was posted on the Feather River Land Trusts Facebook page (900 people), publicized in FRLT's 2010-2011 annual report (sent out to 1000 people), published in local newspaper in February 2011 with a distribution of over 5000.

3. Number and Type of Jobs Created: Completion of the project has helped contribute to the continued existence of approximately two full time ranching jobs, along with the indirect economic benefits these jobs create locally.

4. Number and Value of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities: The value of economic production for the ranch is considered confidential business information of the landowner, but FRLT estimates that gross direct agricultural production of the ranch may exceed \$ 100,000 per year including leasing grazing land and cattle production. In addition, the landowner is allowing FRLT to conduct guided tours on the property, which may generate additional revenue to local restaurants, hotels, gas stations, and other businesses by those attending our tours. Conserving the property also maintains the rural view shed which attracts visitors who enjoy walking and biking adjacent to the property and spending money at the local stores.

5. Acres of Land Conserved: This project protected 318 acres.

6. Linear Feet of Stream bank Protected or Restored: Within the conservation easement, it includes approximately 1.5 miles of Indian Creek and 1.5 miles of remnant creek channel, both of which contain extensive riparian habitat interspersed with sloughs and emergent wetlands.

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.) The 2010-2011 annual report included an article about the Pearce Ranch conservation. A copy of the article is attached.

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

- ✓ Finalization of form 8283
- ✓ Filing of project documents
- ✓ On-going annual monitoring
- ✓ Dedication event Spring 2011
- ✓ Major donor event on the property Summer 2011
- ✓ Educational field trip with 4th grade on the Pearce Ranch in Fall, 2011.