

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: Truckee River Watershed Council

Project title: Coldstream Canyon – Creek and Floodplain Restoration

SNC Reference Number: SNC 070108 **Submittal Date:** 1/23/12

Report Preparer: Beth Christman **Phone #:** (530)550-8760 x 1

Check one:

 6-Month Progress Report

 X **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.)

During the course of the grant period we completed pre-project monitoring, project design, CEQA analysis, and prepared environmental permits. Pre-project monitoring included establishing monumented cross-sections and long profile stations to track changes in channel geometry due to project implementation. We established photo-points to document pre- and post-project conditions. We continued to monitor water quality – turbidity and benthic macroinvertebrates. Riparian vegetation was mapped throughout the project reach so that changes in riparian habitat can be quantitatively assessed.

Project design included on-site detailed topographic surveys, analysis of streambank material, hydraulic modeling of existing and post-project conditions, and development of construction drawings including a grading plan. The plan set will be used to develop a bid package in the next phase of the project.

We prepared and filed a Mitigated Negative Declaration for CEQA compliance. We prepared an environmental permit package including 401 Water Quality Certification, NPDES permit application, Section 404 permit application, and Fish and Game Code 1600 notification.

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.)

Project deliverables included pre-project monitoring, restoration design plans, and preparing environmental permits (described in A). Design plans were submitted with our previous progress report. We are submitting a monitoring report containing pre-project data, a copy of the MND and Notice of Completion, and a copy of the environmental permit package with this grant report.

In addition to the grant deliverables we held a public meeting on the project design, one well-attended site tour, and featured the project on our website and in a print newsletter.

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.)

Challenges encountered during the course of the grant period are described in the answer to Question 7 (below). We did not encounter any additional challenges this quarter.

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

We were very successful in obtaining funding for project implementation. We applied to three different funding sources and were successful with all three: California State Water Resources Board – 319h grant, California Natural Resources Agency – River Parkways grant, and the Truckee River Fund of the Community Foundation of Western Nevada. We have the majority of implementation funding in place.

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
Data collection, mapping and monitoring	\$19,000	\$19,000.00
Final Design and Plans	\$38,000	\$38,000.00
CEQA Preparation and permitting	\$22,500	\$22,430.24
Technical review and administration	\$12,000	\$12,050.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$91,500.00	\$91,480.24

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.)

Please see final page of the report for explanation.

- 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.)

Digital photos will be sent separately.

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

Our SNC grant is completed with this report; however we are continuing to move forward on project implementation. We will file environmental permits, complete additional pre-project monitoring, develop a construction bid package, and obtain bids for construction within the next 6 months. We anticipate that construction will begin in August 2012.

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?)

Collaboration. We worked closely with our partner, California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) throughout the project. Previously, we partnered with CDPR to complete an assessment of this watershed and two small restoration projects. Our partnership was strengthened by jointly managing a project of this size and complexity.

We also worked closely with the downstream property owner – Stonebridge Properties. Stonebridge has incorporated a continuation of our floodplain restoration project into their development design. This will allow for the full restoration of lower Cold Creek.

Capacity-Building. We were able to use the accomplishments from this this grant to obtain three additional grants for project implementation (Truckee River Fund, River Parkways, 319h). The implementation will fund a significant portion of one position in our office, Director of Restoration Programs, for the next two years. Our technical expertise has also been increased in developing a project of this size and complexity.

Description of Project Accomplishments:

1. Most Significant Accomplishment

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

We completed design plans, pre-project monitoring, and environmental documentation for the Coldstream Canyon Floodplain Restoration Project. Once completed, the project will increase floodplain area and riparian habitat by 1.7 acres, restore 1,200 feet of stream bank, and reduce fine sediment discharge by 200 tons annually. From the accomplishments of this planning grant, we have been successful in obtaining \$650,000 in additional grant funding to implement the project. Implementation begins in summer 2012.

2. WOW Factor

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

As noted above, we completed this project by working closely with a public agency - CDPR and a private landowner- Stonebridge Properties. The general public is extremely interested in this project, it has been widely recognized that the project will lead to significant water quality benefits, and will help to offset some flood risk.

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?

The lesson learned is that robust hydrologic analysis is a critical success factor in accurate restoration design. The design requirements from the analysis yielded a construction plan that will be more costly than we had forecast. However it will ensure protection of downstream reaches and adjacent land. Because of the high energy stream flows of Cold Creek through the project reach, restoration design needed to include more substantial slope toe protection with larger structures. We considered alternative restoration concepts, but each of the alternatives also carried significant risk. The floodplain creation alternative (which we are moving forward with) provided the highest likelihood of success because the project is designed to work with natural hydrologic and geomorphic processes occurring through the project reach.

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.

The Coldstream Floodplain restoration project has gained traction in the Truckee community for several reasons. One is direct outreach by TRWC by means of site tours, newsletter articles, and presentations. However, because the downstream private landowner intends to extend the project, the project has come before Truckee Town Council and the Truckee Planning Commission for review. The elected and appointed officials on Town Council and the Planning Commission are extremely interested in the project and appreciate the benefits that it will provide Town.

The project will lead to TMDL load reductions of sediment in the Truckee River, which will help Town meet their water quality targets, and flood risk from Coldstream Canyon will be reduced.

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.

We worked closely with both our partner, CDPR, and with the adjoining landowner, Stonebridge Properties during the design phase of the project. We had worked with CDPR on previous projects, but we strengthened our working relationship with them during this phase of the project. Stonebridge continues to be an involved partner and will assist with aspects of implementation – such as receiving excavated material and allowing staging and stockpiling on their property. Without this support, the project construction cost would be much higher.

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.

TRWC has experienced significant growth over the grant period. We increased the size of our staff from 2.25 FTE positions to 3.5 FTE positions, and increased our annual budget from approximately \$325,000 to \$550,000 during this period. We have increased our capacity to tackle large and complex projects. Our board of directors continues to be very actively involved. We continue to have excellent

participation by volunteers in community work days, monitoring, and attendance at meetings.

We are forecasting a radical decrease in state and federal funding for restoration projects post-2013 and are starting to prepare for funding shortfalls. We are increasing our donation-based fundraising and pursuing non-tradition funding sources such as CALTRANS mitigation funds.

We were able to help fund one position at California State Parks with the Coldstream Canyon project.

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”?

The state bond freeze in 2008 was a significant challenge. We were able to successfully re-launch the project after the bond funds were available again, but we did experience delays and inefficiencies such as re-negotiating contracts with our engineers and partners.

The initial implementation budget prepared by the engineers was higher than we had initially anticipated. Partially this was due to higher fuel costs, but the project also gained in complexity. We incorporated more toe protection and increased excavation. These project modifications resulted from hydraulic modeling findings, the risk of pond capture, and the need to protect downstream reaches and adjacent land. As a result, we applied for additional grant funding to complete the project.

8. Photographs

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.

Photographs will be submitted digitally to our Grant Manager, Linda Hansen.

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 have secured funding from the State Water Resources Control Board (319h grant), the Truckee River Fund at the Community Foundation of Western Nevada, and the California Resources Agency (River Parkways grant) to implement the project. We will continue with additional pre-project monitoring in early summer 2012. We will begin construction on the project in August 2012. We have funding through 2013 for monitoring and adaptive management. CDPR has committed to the long-term maintenance of the project.

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.

- Truckee River Watershed Council – Beth Christman or Lisa Wallace, 530-550-8760
- California Department of Parks and Recreation – Cyndie Walck or Nathan Shasha, 530-581-0925

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

Our grant agreement did not specify any performance measures. Although we did not track any performance measures during the course of the grant, we can generally address some performance measures included in typical grant agreements.

Resources leveraged for the Sierra Nevada – We have secured \$656,260 in implementation grants as a result of our SNC planning grant.

We also obtained in-kind donations of volunteer labor for water quality monitoring and for participation in project planning by Stonebridge staff.

Number of people reached – We have reached over 1,000 people directly through site tours, presentations, and newsletter articles. The Coldstream floodplain project is a featured Restoration Project on our website.

Number and types of jobs created – We partially funded one state parks employee and two TRWC staff members. We also provided work to an engineering firm.

Number of collaboratively developed plans and assessments – We developed a restoration plan in collaboration with State Parks.



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE of PLANNING AND RESEARCH
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT



KEN ALEX
DIRECTOR

December 20, 2011

Cyndie Walck
California Department of Parks and Recreation
PO Box 16
Tahoe City, CA 96145

Subject: Coldstream Floodplain Enhancement Project
SCH# 2011112044

Dear Cyndie Walck:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Mitigated Negative Declaration to selected state agencies for review. The review period closed on December 19, 2011, and no state agencies submitted comments by that date. This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process. If you have a question about the above-named project, please refer to the ten-digit State Clearinghouse number when contacting this office.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan
Director, State Clearinghouse

**Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

SCH# 2011112044
Project Title Coldstream Floodplain Enhancement Project
Lead Agency Parks and Recreation, Department of

Type MND Mitigated Negative Declaration
Description State Parks is proposing a project to restore the reach of Cold Creek within Donner Memorial State Park to address its contributions of fine sediment to the Truckee River. The proposed project would increase floodplain area and riparian habitat as well as improve water quality through reducing sediment by creating an inset floodplain, laying back banks to lower angles, and providing bank toe protection along the lower reach of Cold creek.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Cyndie Walck
Agency California Department of Parks and Recreation
Phone 530 581 0925 **Fax**
email
Address PO Box 16
City Tahoe City **State** CA **Zip** 96145

Project Location

County Nevada, Placer
City Truckee
Region
Lat / Long 39° 19' 10" N / 120° 13' 45" W
Cross Streets Donner Pass Rd and Coldstream Rd
Parcel No. 18-560-09
Township 17N **Range** 16E **Section** 17 **Base**

Proximity to:

Highways Hwy 89
Airports
Railways Southern Pacific Trans Co.
Waterways Cold Creek
Schools Truckee ES
Land Use Public Lands/Donner Memorial State Park General Plan

Project Issues Aesthetic/Visual; Agricultural Land; Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Flood Plain/Flooding; Geologic/Seismic; Minerals; Noise; Population/Housing Balance; Public Services; Recreation/Parks; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Toxic/Hazardous; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Water Quality; Water Supply; Wetland/Riparian; Wildlife; Landuse; Cumulative Effects

Reviewing Agencies Resources Agency; Department of Fish and Game, Region 2; Department of Parks and Recreation; Central Valley Flood Protection Board; Department of Water Resources; California Highway Patrol; Caltrans, District 3; State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights; Regional Water Quality Control Bd., Region 6 (So Lake Tahoe); Native American Heritage Commission; Public Utilities Commission; State Lands Commission; Other Agency(ies)

Date Received 11/17/2011 **Start of Review** 11/18/2011 **End of Review** 12/19/2011

Note: Blanks in data fields result from insufficient information provided by lead agency.

NOTICE

Notice of Availability and Intent to Adopt an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Proposed Floodplain Enhancement Project in Donner Memorial State Park, Truckee, CA.

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has directed the preparation of and intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the proposed project, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. DPR is the lead agency for the proposed project under CEQA.

State Parks is proposing a project to restore the lower reach of Cold Creek within Donner Memorial State Park to address its contributions of fine sediment to the Truckee River and increase streamside habitat. The proposed project would increase floodplain area and riparian habitat as well as improve water quality through reducing erosion by creating an inset floodplain, laying back banks to lower angles, and providing bank toe protection along the lower reach of Cold creek.

Public Review Period: The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 30 days, through December 30, 2011. Written comments should be submitted no later than December 30 2011 to the following address:

Cyndie Walck
California State Parks and Recreation,
Sierra District
P.O. Box 16
Tahoe City CA 96145
cwalck@parks.ca.gov

Document Location: Copies of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration may be reviewed at the following location during normal business hours:

Donner Memorial State Park,
Truckee CA-front desk

A summary of the document is also on display at the Nevada county library at: 10031 Levon Avenue, Truckee

It is also available on the California State Parks Internet Website:
www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=981

Your views and comments on potential impacts of the project on the environment are welcomed.

Pub: December 2, 2011 Ad#7296716

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