

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: Yosemite National Park

Project title: Long Range Interpretive Plan

SNC Reference Number: SNC 070137 Submittal Date: 3-26-12

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Check one:

6-Month Progress Report
XX 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.)

The Long Range Interpretive Plan was designed and printed, in both traditional print format as well as digital format. The plan is the first of it's kind in the National Park Service to be available as an eBook for iPad and Kindle.

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.)

500 Copies printed, digitally published in two formats for iPad and Kindle

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.)

Due to family emergency for graphic designer, final print was delayed then rushed to meet SNC deadlines.

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

In the moments of finalizing the print order through the Government Printing Office, the Project Manager inquired about digital publishing. While GPO does not yet publish non-print media, there are numerous private vendors providing this service. It was discovered that digital publishing is a fraction of the cost, and provides an infinitely updateable document, that can also contain enhanced content such as videos, links to webpages, etc. The new ePlan has a link to the SNC website on the credits page. We're VERY excited to be publishing the first ever ePlan in the National Park Service.

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
Planner/Facilitator Salary	\$4,400	\$4,400
Planner/Facilitator Travel	\$3,600	\$3,600
Printing	\$13,750	\$17,450
Administrative Costs	\$1,500	\$1,500
GRAND TOTAL		

Explanation: (if needed)

Cost of design/print grew from the date the grant was made (2008) to the date the product went to actual design/print (2012). The NPS is covering the nearly \$4,000 overage. Receipts attached reflect only a small portion of this additional expense.

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.)

Project complete.

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 eBook was added to the printing process at minimal cost (\$720).

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?)

The Long Range Interpretive Plan was a collaborative effort from the outset. Gateway community partners, tribal partners, and in-park NGOs were involved in the planning process from beginning to end.

This collaborative plan presents a road map for all providers of interpretive and educational partners in Yosemite, and is particularly relevant in the interpretation of our two wild and scenic rivers, the Tuolumne River and Merced River. This is the first time Park Significance, Interpretive Themes, and Management Goals are codified in one document and made available to all to use in developing interpretive and educational materials and experiences for the public.

The document clarifies the roles of primary park partners and provides guidance on what niche each organization holds in delivery of visitor services.

Description of Project Accomplishments:

1. Most Significant Accomplishment

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

This is the first Long Range Interpretive Plan in Yosemite National Park history. From this plan NPS and partners will be able to develop and tell park stories from the same “sheet of music.” Critical issues are identified and recommendations are made to address these issues and move Yosemite into the next decade of education and visitor services. The Tuolumne and Merced Wild and Scenic Rivers form the backbone of Yosemite National Park and their compelling stories are critical to the success of ongoing planning efforts on their behalf. Formal park partners as well as private outside entities will be able to use the Goals, Significance Statements, Themes, and other information in this document to better serve Californians as well as the myriad of Sierra Nevada visitors from other locales around the world.

2. WOW Factor

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

This is the first ePlan in the National Park Service. The plan is available as an eBook for tablets including iPad and Kindle, and is filled with enhanced content including weblinks to videos and partner websites including a link to SNC. The ePlan creates an opportunity to go paperless in the future and provides a digital document that is infinitely updateable.

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?

Creating a traditional printed plan in a dynamic and complex environment like Yosemite is very challenging. During the four year planning process Yosemite went through three Superintendents, embarked on a Strategic Vision process, and was involved in several nationwide National Park Service initiatives. Each of these events caused portions of the plan to be amended or re-written. There is a danger of being out-of-date immediately upon publication. This is why the move to digital publication is so exciting, in addition to its affordability.

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.

NA

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.

This plan had a host of partners and constituents involved from start to finish. It was a collaborative planning process that yielded little to no conflict. Tribal consultation was involved, planning workshops with dozens of interested citizens and partners, and an ongoing review by all primary park partners. The completed document has been embraced by all participants.

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.

As federal budgets face increasing challenges, the National Park Service budget faces challenges as well. We are looking at several years of budget cuts and being forced to reduce staffing levels and facilities, while seeing an increasing visitor base. The Long Range Interpretive Plan will help us prioritize funding as these challenges increase.

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 only true challenge was addressed above in #3. The dynamic nature of Yosemite created a constant challenge to completing a relevant document.

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.

Copy of the LRIP print edition is attached.

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 are now heavily marketing this plan to internal NPS audiences and have found an eager audience related to digital publishing of plans.

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.

Tom Medema, tom_medema@nps.gov, (209) 372-0291

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

1. Resources Leveraged

The Yosemite Conservancy provided funding necessary to cover design/print coverage in the amount of \$3700.

2. Impact on collaboration and cooperation among Stakeholders

As noted in #5 above, this plan was developed in collaboration with dozens of stakeholder groups from federal, state, local, tribal, and private groups and individuals. The planning workshops for this project included 35 NPS staff and 37 non-NPS stakeholders from around the region. It is from these workshops that the themes, goals, and recommendations for this plan were developed. Beyond these workshops, the Core Planning Team, identified in the appendix of the document, was a diverse set of staff and stakeholders from a variety of organizations.

3. Capacity Building Within the Region

See #6 above.

4. Project Accomplishments

See above.

5. **Number and geographic diversity of individuals and organizations receiving technical assistance, workshop training, and/or “after care” from project team.**

The LRIP will be distributed to stakeholders and partners in Gateway Communities to enable them to work collaboratively in interpretive and educational work. This distribution will included individuals and organizations in Lee Vining, Mammoth Lakes, Oakhurst, Mariposa, Coulterville, Groveland, Bass Lake, North Fork, and more.

6. **Number of informational resources in the CIP media database.**

The current number of documents assembled for the database is 25 and includes park and servicewide planning documents, policies and Director’s Orders. This information is currently only available via the parks website and intranet site, but may be made available on DVD if needed.