

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 Donner Land Trust

Project title: Webber Lake and Lacey Meadows Acquisition

SNC Reference Number: 325

Submittal Date: December 7, 2012

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Phone #: 530-582-4711

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.)

From 6 month report: The Wildlife Conservation Board made a \$5 million grant at their November meeting. We are also actively fundraising from the private sector. A proposal for \$500,000 has also been submitted to Natural Resource's Agency River Parkways Program and a property tour is scheduled for August.

Final: We have secured all funding, closed escrow and are in the process of preparing for next summer's opening.

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.)

From 6 month report: Thanks to a grant from the Truckee River Fund, an assessment of Lacey Meadows is underway. This assessment will help shape future management plans ensuring the meadow's extensive resources are maintained and enhanced.

Final Report: We have word that the assessment is complete and will begin reviewing it and mapping restoration plans. We plan to vet our land management plan with the U.S. Forest Service and the Sierra County Fire Safe and Watershed Council. We also have continued the lease agreement with the ranch operators for the fishing camp, renewed annually. We have also begun to develop forest management plans.

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.)

From 6 month report: Planning for future management is a sizable chore, but thankfully for the continued lease to the current managers of the campground, we have time to plan, raise the needed funds and begin implementation of management over the next four years.

Final Report: We have secured adequate funding for stewardship of the land and are developing a "game plan" for managing the campground after 2016, when it will open to the public. Short term goals are managing the public through signage, trails, and trail heads, without over-signing or developing the property. Everything is on schedule.

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

From 6 month report: Lacey Meadows will be featured in a soon to be produced documentary prepared by the Packard Foundation.

Final report: We anticipated broad-based support for our acquisition of the property, but the support has been even more broad than we anticipated.

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
Funds for acquisition of Webber/Lacey	1 million	1 million
GRAND TOTAL		1 million

Explanation: (if needed)

From 6 month report: All SNC funding will be applied to the purchase price of the property. No SNC funds have been expended.

Final report: All of the SNC funding was put into escrow and was paid to the seller.

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.)

We were successful in acquiring the property as per the performance measures.

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.)

From 6 month report: Not applicable.

Final report: As the property is now inaccessible for the winter, we will install, as per SNC protocols, a funder recognition sign in the spring.

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

From 6 month report:

Secure Funding from WCB.

Finish private fund raising campaign.

Secure Funding from The Natural Resource's Agency River Parkway Program

Complete lease with caretakers.

Complete public access/recreation plan

Final Report:

-Finalize trail and public access plan.

-Install funder recognition signs at property entrance

-Develop two trail heads on the North and South ends of Lacey Valley Road

-Install numerous directional and information signs advising the public as to where they can go on the property.

-Install roughly 200 feet of split-rail fencing on Lacey Valley Road.

-Have property dedication in June

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?)

We were able to strengthen numerous partnerships as a result of this acquisition. We strengthened the partnership and cooperation within the partner organizations of the Northern Sierra Partnership, CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Sierra County, Sierra County Fire Safe and Watershed Council and the local community. We also developed a strong partnership with our local chapter of Trout Unlimited and a loosely-organized group of off-road and motorized travel enthusiasts.

Description of Project Accomplishments:

1. Most Significant Accomplishment

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

Protection of nearly 3000 acres of high quality sub-alpine and meadow habitat.

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 mentioned above the protection of the property is a “wow factor” in and of itself. From strictly a natural resource protection value perspective, Webber Lake/Lacey Meadow is the most significant project that the Truckee Donner Land Trust has completed. There is intact habitat for numerous species of special concern, important meadows for the headwaters of the Little Truckee River, and it is beautiful!

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?

Leave a nice big cushion in the timelines for any “oh by the ways” that might come up.

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.

Neighboring property owners have approached us to discuss potential acquisitions of their property, some of which are identified as target acquisitions for our organization, and for the State, as identified in their CAPP.

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 did not have any conflicts on this project, but could have based on conflicts at other area projects. We believe the key to managing/mitigating conflict is direct outreach. As a matter of fact, this outreach may end up helping our plans to work against the introduction of aquatic invasive species to area lakes.

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.

This project helped build staff capacity and experience, first and foremost. As mentioned above it also strengthened our partnerships and communication regionally.

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 property did not face a lot of challenges aside from some title issues that needed to be worked out, and of course, the raising of 8 million dollars.

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.

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?

The Land Trust will manage the property for at least the foreseeable future. Plans include a major makeover of the campground before we open it to the public, an AIS-prevention plan, restoration of the old Webber Hotel with the hopes that we will make it into an interpretive museum (this will be by partnering with the local historical societies), and managing the property (hopefully with the help and input of Sierra County). We will have staff onsite through the summer seasons.

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.

Perry Norris, Executive Director, Truckee Donner Land Trust.

perry@tdlandtrust.org

530-582-4711

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

We were successful in acquiring the property.

We will install signage as per SNC requirements in the spring, and will completed all grant reporting as dictated in the agreement.

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.