

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: Resources for Humanity

Project title: Filippini Ranch Riparian Restoration

SNC Reference Number: SNC 070167 **Submittal Date:** 12/29/09

Report Preparer: Duke Foster **Phone #:** 209-296-5657

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.)

One mile of stream (Head waters of the Feather River) was fenced on both sides with a 100 foot set back from the streams edge. A few willows were planted at key locations and approximately 138 trees and shrubs were purchased for planting in the spring of 2010. Planting holes were bored for trees and shrubs and ten planting plots were staked at approximately 1,000-foot intervals on both sides of the stream. Solar panels and a submersible pump were installed for watering of vegetation during summer months. Several thousand feet of PVC and flexible plastic piping was secured for drip system utilization. A cattle access/crossing was rocked and fenced near the furthest down stream point of the project.

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.)

Approximately 24 acres have been set aside from open grazing for riparian and fisheries restoration. In one growing season we have witnessed improvements to grasses and migration of new shrubs into the now protected area. Further bank erosion from cattle has ceased. The Sierra County Resource Conservation District held a workshop during December 2008 and approximately 75 people attended. Mike Filippini gave a presentation about the riparian project, which was well received by those in

attendance, and encouraging discussions followed the workshop. During October 2008, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy came to the site and produced a video for their annual report. In April 2009, a presentation was made by Mike Filippini to the Loyalton High School Agriculture Program to promote student participation with the project. Everyone expressed high interest and involvement with the project. Future use of students will include planting, monitoring and site repair. The project coordinator gave periodic updates to Resource for Humanities Board of Directors.

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.)

Actually, all elements proposed for the project have worked well. We initially had concerns about fence construction during inclement weather and the related impacts to the soil due to excessive water and the potential for surface erosion. The contractor (Hanford ARC) took precautionary measures while building the fence to avoid damage to the soils. Upon completion of the fence, the contractor spent time in repairing ruts and excessive compaction throughout the project.

One major problem we encountered dealt with finance. This was a \$92,000 grant, which paid for numerous materials required for the project. Unfortunately, the various vendors supplying materials required full payment upon delivery. The 10% withheld until project completion was paid for by a line item in the budget that was not slated for materials. The non-profit organization did not have additional funds to cover the required costs.

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

As the project progressed and discussions with local ranchers occurred, there is now quite a bit of interest in continuing the riparian restoration across the Sierra Valley. The Genasci Family, in particular, hopes to duplicate what is being done on the Filippini Ranch. Also, the project coordinator approached the NF&WLS and they have agreed to an end of the year grant of \$17,000. With this addition of funds, we will complete the purchase and installation of all plants, place some much needed rip-rap at severely eroded areas and hopefully, purchase materials to retrofit a trailer to transport the solar panels and electrical components along the stream corridor for activation of the submersible pump

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
Fence construction & materials	33,000	57,340
Layout & design, project coordination	22,539	22,539
Irrigation system supplies & tools	18,581	11,198
Plants & planting supplies	17,880	914
GRAND TOTAL	92,000	91,991

Explanation: (if needed)

The fence construction went over the budgeted amount due to the fact that we felt is necessary to make it sturdier by using more materials and by using the Nevada State Nursery; we experienced a cost savings in purchasing plants. With the additional grant from the NF&WLS, we will complete the entire project scope during the spring of 2010.

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.)

NA

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.)

At this point in time, we have a few digital photos but much more will become available as the project begins the restoration process.

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

We will complete site excavation and plant the remaining trees and shrubs within the next six months. We also hope to bring in large riprap rock for placement along stream banks of critical concern. The irrigation lines will be re-installed during the summer and the solar pump will be activated to keep the plants alive during the severe summer heat. The first photo monitoring will occur once all plants are in the ground and measurements will be taken of the plants within the 10 planting plots. Each plot will contain approximately 20 to 30 tree's and shrubs plus willows will be planted intermittently between and alongside of the plots.

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 partnerships include the Loyalton High School Students; the Sierra County RCD could possibly come aboard now that they can see the site improvements as well as the Wildlife Conservation Board. The neighboring ranchers have shown interest in this project and we hope to enhance their interests once the plantings have been completed. Our new partner is the NF&WLS, which will now become a partner for other projects such as this across the valley.

Resources for Humanity (the non-profit applicant) will share this project with other non-profits and with State Senator Dave Cox. We will also greatly recognize and pass on the news that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is the one agency that recognized the importance of this project and allowed us to proceed by granting funds to complete this project which will benefit water quality, fisheries, wildlife and restore vegetation along the head waters of the Feather River. To sustain and increase our efforts for environmental enhancement, we will actively seek projects that will improve the vitality of California's natural resources.

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 have stopped the degradation of a major California water source and have taken measures that will greatly enhance wildlife, fisheries and water quality in the region by extensive riparian restoration.

2. WOW Factor

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

We have seen an almost immediate re-vegetation of the enclosed project site and the re-entry of various plant species.

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?

More off-site watering for the cattle and select plant species that are somewhat indigenous to the region. The 100-foot fence setback from the stream corridor appears most effective. Due to severe damage to the stream banks, riprap should have been included in our proposal. We anticipate purchasing and placing rock at strategic locations with the NF&WLS grant.

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.

Since the Sierra Valley Region is mainly occupied with extensive cattle grazing, we feel this project will be a pioneer in educating others that cattle ranching and riparian restoration can be compatible. The neighbor to the west of this project is very anxious to proceed with a similar project to protect the stream banks, which have been eroded by the cattle.

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.

The Nevada State Nursery provided cost savings in purchasing plants at their facility and we selected plants that should survive this harsh climate. With the additional grant from the NF&WLS, we will complete the entire project scope during the spring of 2010. The cooperation between the project coordinator of Resources for Humanity and the Filippini Family was excellent.

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.

Resources for Humanity is comprised of 5 board members, which seek to improve human and natural resources throughout the world. The overall health of our organization is good. We would like to do approximately two projects each year and would greatly benefit from a website describing our mission. With the agreement between SNC and R4H we hope to be 'on the map' so to speak, as a non-profit that can get the job done.

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"?

It was a little difficult at first in trying to get a federal or state agency involved. Now that the project is almost complete, we feel other organizations will review what has been accomplished and become stakeholders for similar projects in the years to come. The 10% hold back was a challenge during these tough economic times and we hope there might be a way to avoid this hardship in the future. We would enjoy discussing this further with you. Our key objectives did not vary.

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.

Please see 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?

There will be no change in operation or scope. We will encourage others to utilize methods employed on this project and will gladly disseminate details of the project to others. Future organizations we hope to involve are: USDA, WCB, Audubon, State Parks, DWR, NF&WLS, RCD, and numerous fisheries foundations. The long-term maintenance provided by the Filippini Family will be critical to the long-term success of this project. To this they are committed. On-going reports will be made reflecting mortality and vigor of the plant species. The local 4-H will play an important role in broadcasting the good news of this project, as will the RCD and local USDA. Discussions with the Audubon Society have been positive in that the local chapter is willing to begin monitoring aviary activities at the site once plantings have been completed.

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.

Mike & Pam Filippini
POBOX 447
Loyalton, CA 96118

Tele# 530-993-4706
Email: pamfilippini@yahoo.com

AND

Duke Foster
19221 Red Hill Mine Road
Pine Grove, CA 95665

Tele# 209-296-5657
Email: duke@volcano.net

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

ITEM	RESULTS
Fence construction and materials	Completed approximately two miles of fence, one mile on each side of stream, six gates & cattle crossing
Layout & design, project coordination	Completed SNC portion now continuing grant coordination with USF&WL
Irrigation system supplies & tools	Completed 2,000 feet of hard line, 500 feet of drip tubing and ancillary materials, solar panel installation and activation, centrifugal pump installation and activation plus ancillary materials
Plants & planting supplies	Purchased plants and stored until spring 2010. Additional plants and materials are being supplied by a grant from the NF&WLS

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.

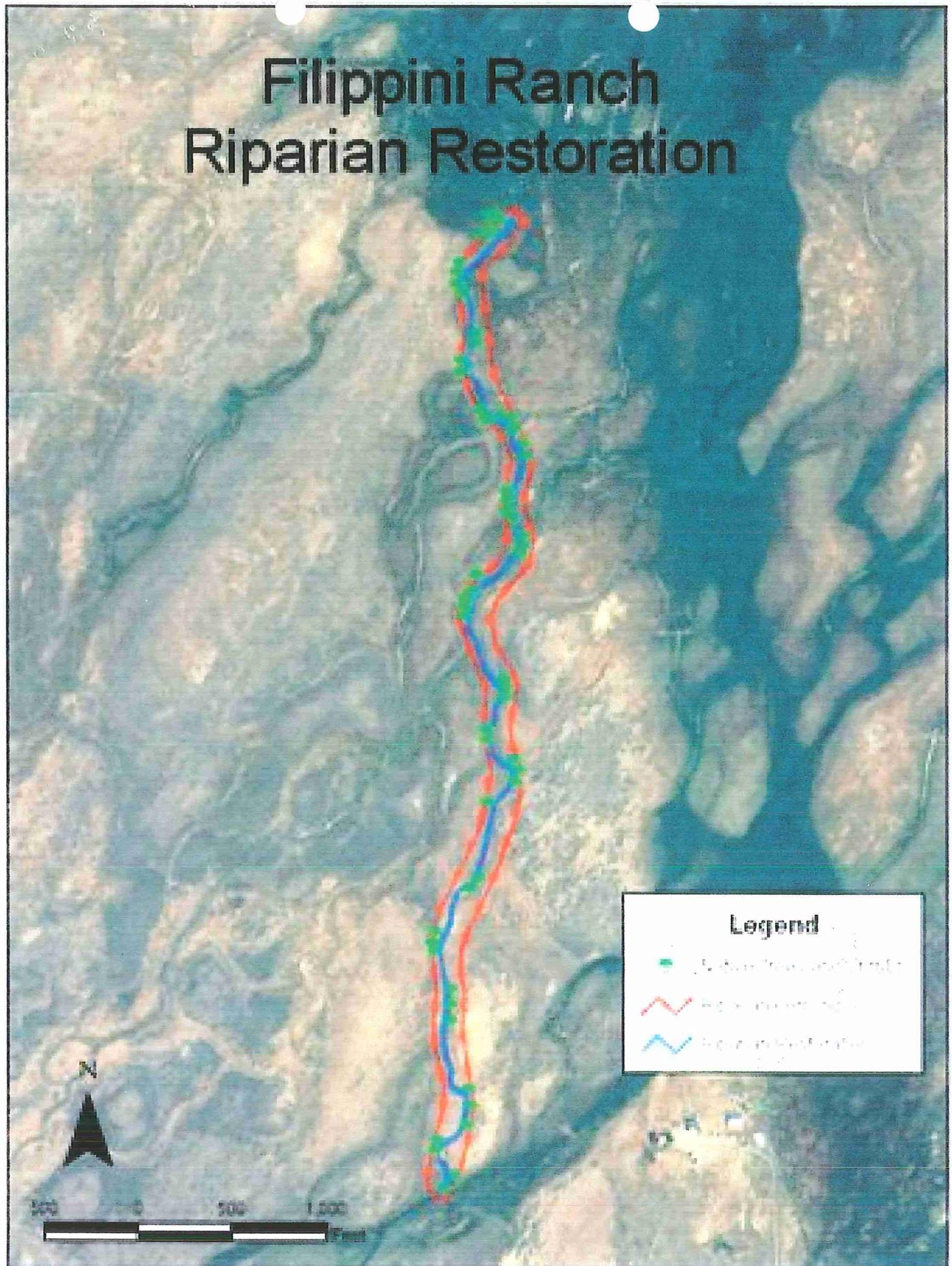
A Progress Reporting Form is provided to Grantees on the SNC Website. **Six-month Progress Reports** should reflect the previous 6-month period; **Final Reports** should address each question for the entire grant period – looking at the project as a whole.

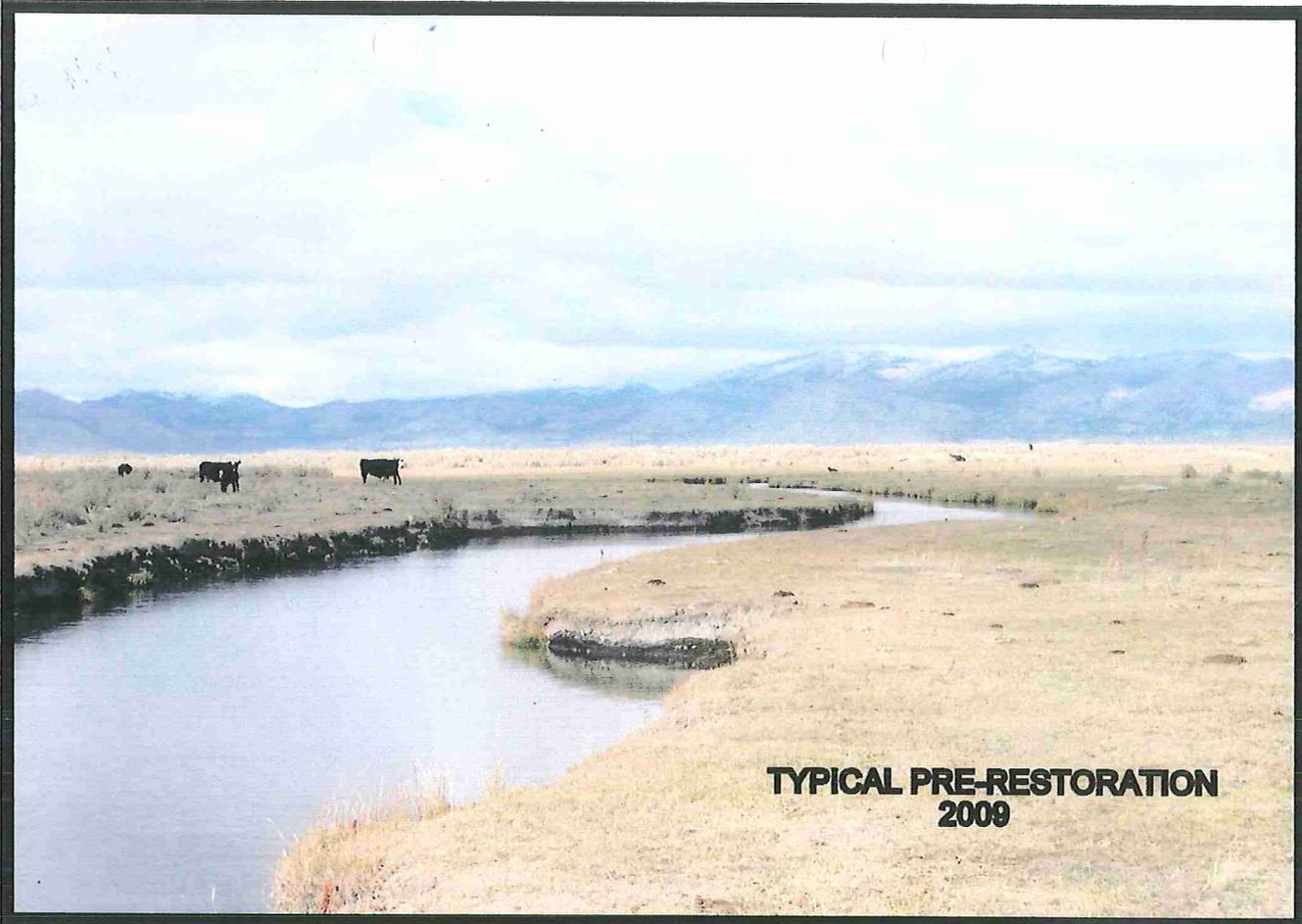
The form specifies the items you will need to report on. For the Six-Month Interim Report these include, but are not limited to: *A Progress Report Summary of work completed, Deliverables or Outcomes Completed, Challenges or Opportunities Encountered, Unanticipated Successes Achieved, Actual Costs compared 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.*

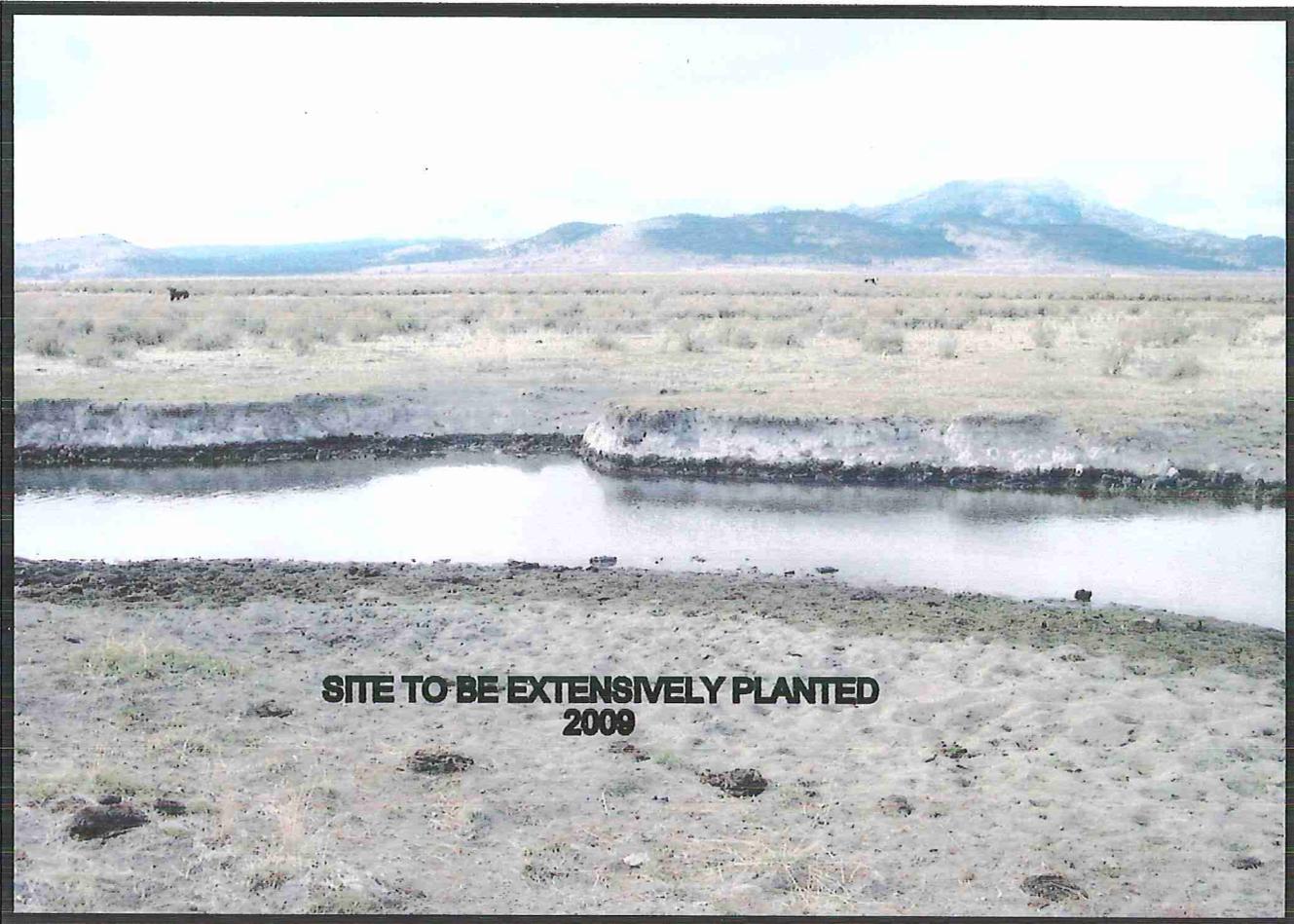
Please make sure that you submit complete reports by the dates requested in your Grant Agreement.

Filippini Ranch Riparian Restoration





**TYPICAL PRE-RESTORATION
2009**



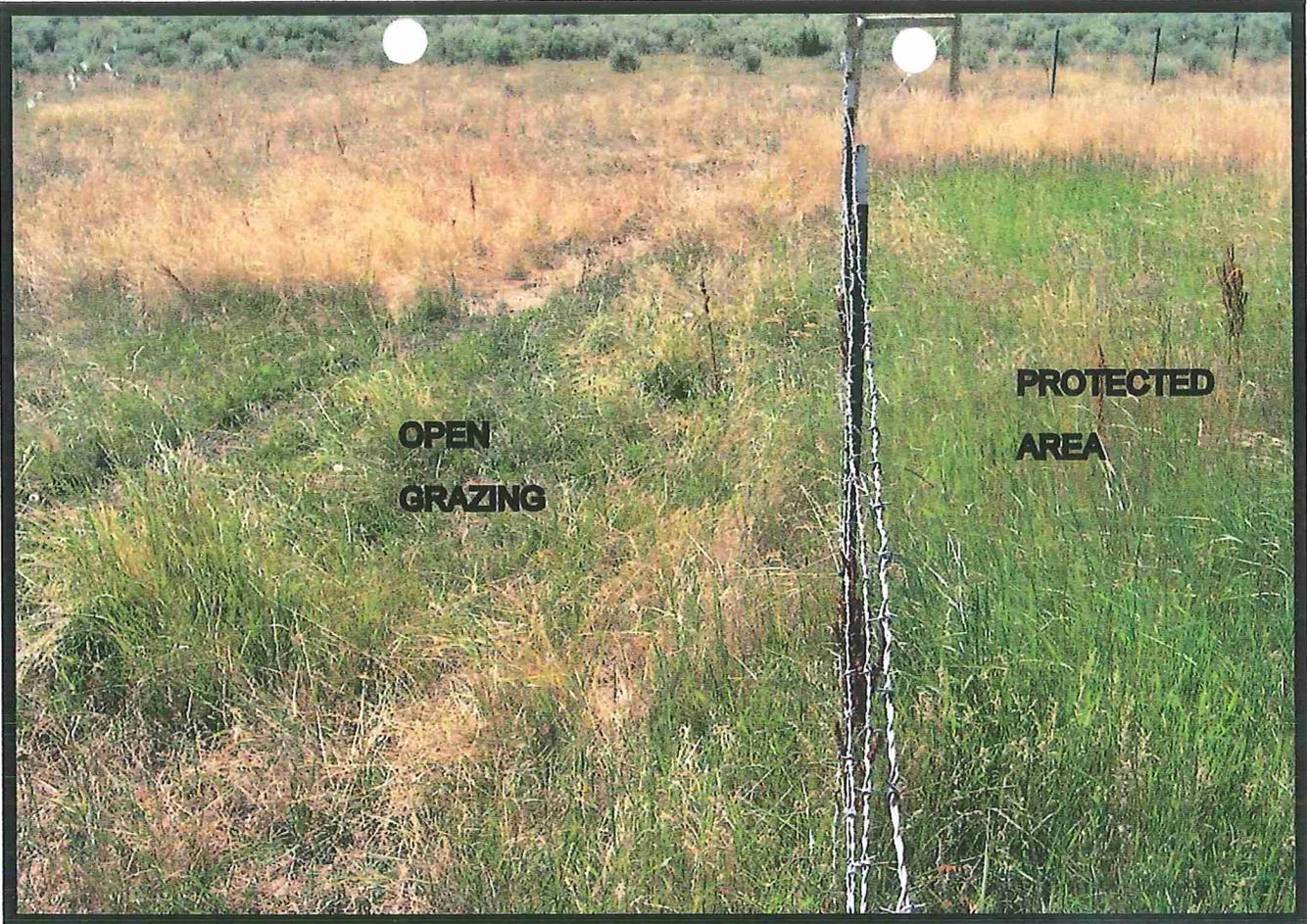
**SITE TO BE EXTENSIVELY PLANTED
2009**



FENCE CONSTRUCTION
IN PROGRESS



FENCE CREW

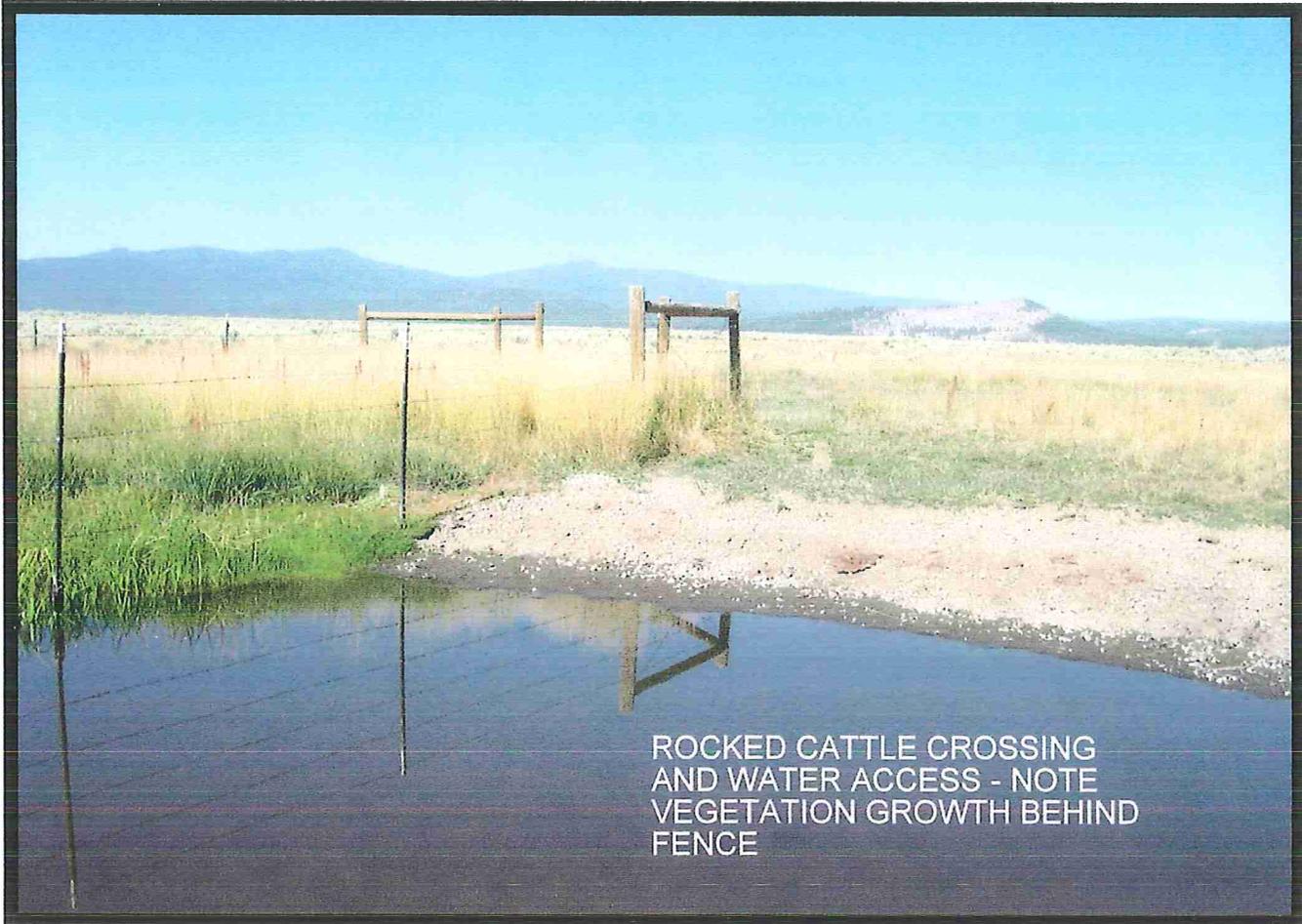
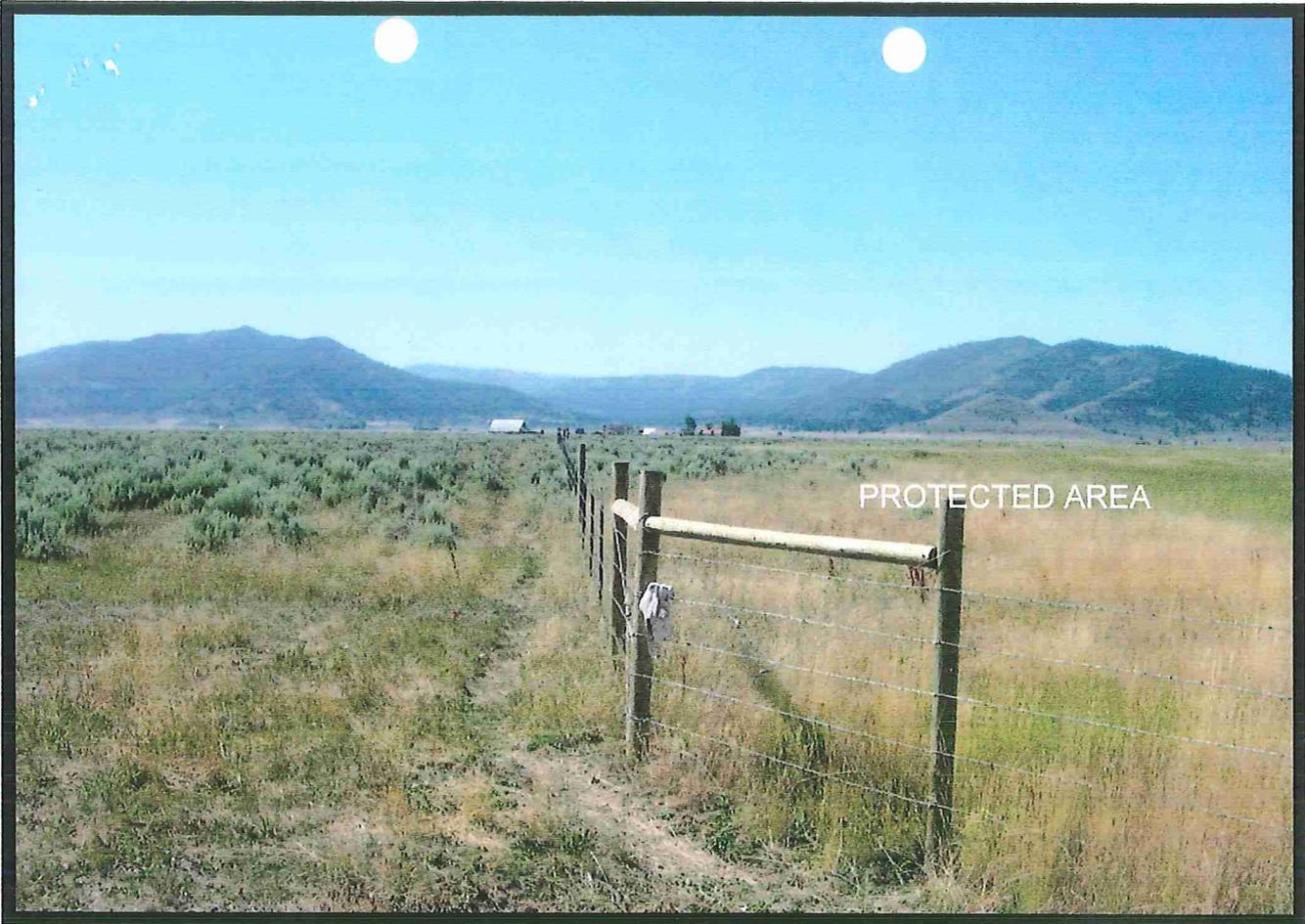


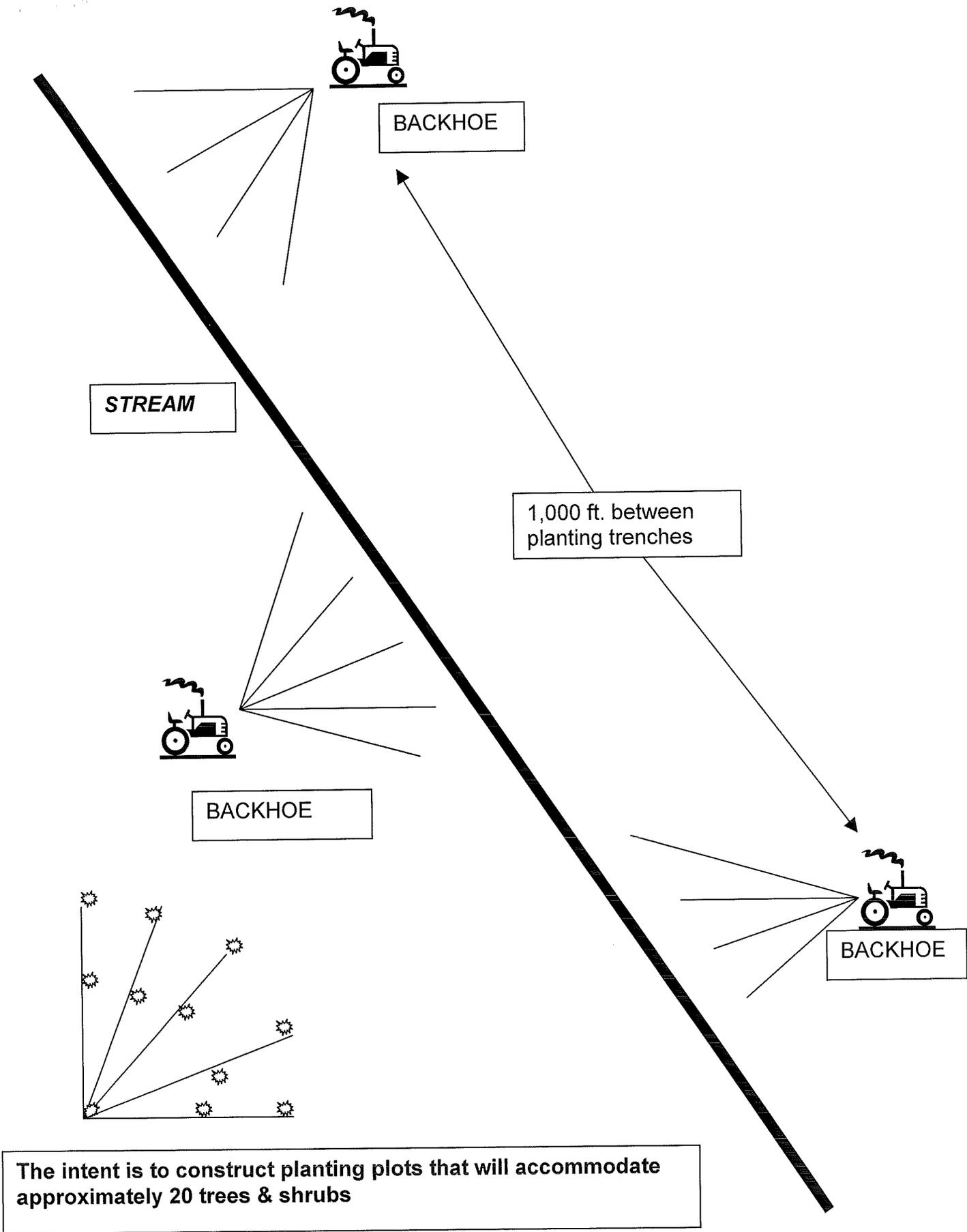
**OPEN
GRAZING**

**PROTECTED
AREA**



TYPICAL ERODED BANK
WHERE PLANTS WILL
BE PLANTED





The intent is to construct planting plots that will accommodate approximately 20 trees & shrubs