

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: Calaveras Foothills Fire Safe Council

Project title: Defensible Space Inspection Program

SNC Reference Number: SNC 070050 **Submittal Date:** __08-11-2010__

Report Preparer: Bill Fullerton **Phone #:** 209-728-8785

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.)

The Calaveras Foothills Fire Safe Council hired seasonal Cal-Fire employees to perform 4291 Lot Clearance Inspections.

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.)

Our program was split between the four Cal-Fire Battalions in our County. Each battalion was given the task of completing as many inspections as possible under the funding perimeters. Out of this the four battalions the following is there 4291 completions:

Battalion 1

801 Inspections

45 Failures

320 Hours

Battalion 2

1036 Inspections

65 Failures

320 Hours

Battalion 3

1214 Inspections

72 Failures

480 Hours

Battalion 4

1235 Inspections

68 Failures

480 Hours

Total

4386 Inspections

250 Failures

1600 Hours

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.)

Our project was very successful. The only real snag was getting 1099 tax forms from the inspectors but we have a solution if funded in future years.

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

No real surprises

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
Contractual	\$18,400.00	\$18,400.00
Supplies	\$750.00	\$940.00
Match	\$0.00	\$13,544.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$19,150.00	\$33,634.00

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.)

Resources Leveraged to complete project: Cal-Fire came through in a big way in regards to match on this project. Cal-Fire provided vehicles, fuel, mileage, workers comp and uniforms to our contract inspectors (Who were also seasonal Cal-Fire employees whom were laid off). Without the contribution of \$13,544.00 of in-kind match we would not have been able to deliver the amount of inspections that we did.

Resources leveraged as a result of this project: In return our contribution to hire the contract inspectors put them world past what they would have been in 4291 Inspections due to funding cuts and restraints on hours required for seasonal employees.

Number of People/entities involved in this project: We hired 10 contract inspectors. Cal-Fire was involved as was our council in developing lists of problem or trouble properties. Local Fire Districts aided us in also developing problem areas or properties. All told West Point Fire, Central Calaveras Fire, Murphys Fire, Altaville Melones Fire and Ebbetts Pass Fire. In total 7 agencies contributed to the project as well as 10 contract employees.

- 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.)

Project photos were taken and will be attached via cd.

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

Complete

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 partnership we have gained with Cal-fire is incredible. This was an excellent way to show all four battalions in our County how close our mission is with there's. It also gave them a chance during extremely difficult budget times to still produce an inspection program where there may not have been if funding was not available. This program not only helped us with Cal-Fire but also with the public and the awareness of what we do on a daily basis in their backyard. The project also helped us distribute applications for our Seniors and Disabled defensible Space Program as well as our Door-to-Door Chipper program. Both of which gave the homeowner solutions to making their homes more fire safe but gave them an avenue to obtain help financially to accomplish those goals. This is a phenominal program that Cal-Fire is excited to participate in with years to come.

With these bonds gained by this program we have also received money to develop a current and adequate CWWPP for our entire County. We will be starting this project in October with at least a basic format done by February 2011.

Description of Project Accomplishments:

1. Most Significant Accomplishment

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

The project allowed us as well as Cal-fire to inspect over 4,000 lots in Calaveras County that would have taken the local unit 4-5 years to complete under the current fiscal crisis.

2. WOW Factor

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

I think the most significant WOW factor was the relationships between Cal-Fire and the public that were gained during this project. This project helped us fill a relationship gap that we have struggled to obtain through other means. Our Council is more valuable than these groups ever anticipated.

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?

Gain a partnership with the battalion chiefs that are supervising your contract inspectors. They have a relationship with these contractors that you will struggle to obtain in this short a time period.

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.

This project was essential in us being effective in receiving grant funding for our 2011 Chipper Program. We had indicated that with over 4000 inspections having been done there was a great need for help in homeowner compliance and cost reduction. We believe it was a selling point in the grant selection process.

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 major collaboration as stated before was with Cal-Fire. The supplied matching funds for transportation, mileage and workers comp insurance which would have been an incredible expense to our Council. The only conflict we received was with homeowners asking specific site improvement questions to the Council. Cal-Fire was very quick to answer these specific questions in regards to mitigating problems on properties.

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.

Our Council has been blessed with many successful projects over the years. Our board is a very diverse cross section of fuels reduction, land management, conservation and concerned citizens. We have a real estate agent, county board of supervisor, SPI, local fire chief and community citizen as a makeup of our board. We have a small volunteer base as well as a paid project coordinator. We have been able to juggle large numbers of projects and have been very successful.

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 challenge was with landowners calling with specific questions in regards to their inspections which Cal-Fire answered without a problem.

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?

We plan on forming a better bond with other Forest and land management organizations, such as BLM, USFS and BIA. We plan on applying for grants to continue this project as well as projects to compliment this project such as Door-to-Door Chipper Programs and Defensible Space Programs.

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.

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

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.