

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: Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District

Project title: Fish Friendly Farming Environmental Certification Program

SNC Reference Number: SNC 070260

Submittal Date: 3/30/12

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Check one:

6-Month Progress Report

Final Report

6-Month Progress Reports should reflect the previous three 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.)

- 1) See exhibit A

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.)

- 1) See exhibit A

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.)

- 1) See exhibit A

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

- 1) See exhibit A

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
Outreach, development, coordination	\$55,680	\$55,680.00
Operating expenses	\$5,000	\$5,000
Professional, consulting services	\$222,800	\$222,800
GRAND TOTAL	\$283,480	\$283,480

Explanation: (if needed)

F. 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.)

None.

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

Since March 1, 2012, over 10 additional growers have requested to be enrolled in the FFF program. Growers are talking about their experiences and sharing the benefits of going through the program with others. There seems to be a growing level of advocacy for this program and the planning process is based on. We have strong partnerships with the USDA_NRCS, UCCE, County Ag Commissioner, Board of Supervisors, and various grower associations who are committed to providing assistance as the program evolves. In addition, the program is currently developing Best Management Practices workbooks specific to rangeland. We anticipate an extensive amount of interest in future years from ranch lands.

We also believe the program is of regional interest as many growers from Placer and Amador counties have expressed interest in participating in the program. We hope to continue our relationship with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy through its upcoming grant announcements as we believe this exemplifies the mutual interest of grower, RCD and that of the SNC.

**Fish Friendly Farming Environmental Certification - El Dorado County
California Land Stewardship Institute
Summary Report**

Exhibit A

Introduction

In 2007 the El Dorado County/Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District contacted the California Land Stewardship Institute about working together to bring the Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) Environmental Certification Program to El Dorado County. The two organizations submitted a successful grant proposal to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. The work on the grant started in August 2008 but was interrupted by the state wide stop on all grants. The program re-started in 2009. The following summary describes the work done by task.

TASK 1

The workbooks and templates for El Dorado were created by revising the existing FFF workbooks for Napa and Sonoma counties. The primary water quality concern for agriculture in El Dorado County is pesticide pollution. There are a number of potential pathways for pesticides to enter surface or groundwater so the BMPs include assessment of soil erosion from all areas of the property; storage, mixing and loading, and application methods for chemicals; toxicity of chemicals to fish and wildlife and availability of alternative less toxic materials. BMPs also included reviewing wells for protection against contamination and overall water conservation techniques. BMPs for integrated pest management (IPM) were developed for the large number of crops grown in El Dorado including: apples, peaches, nectarines, plums, walnuts, Christmas trees and cherries. The existing sections of the FFF workbooks for winegrapes and pears were revised to fit El Dorado conditions including the specific diseases and pests in the county. Lynn Wunderlich, farm advisor for El Dorado County from the University of California Cooperative Extension reviewed and commented on the BMPs and her comments were addressed in the next draft. Several other technical reviewers also provided feedback. In addition to including BMPs for pesticide control the workbooks also include various types of wildlife enhancement activities appropriate for small farms and for the El Dorado region.

TASK 2

The first FFF workshop was held July 20, 2010 for the first group of six enrolled sites. This workshop reviewed the FFF program and certification as well as the specific BMPs for soil erosion control, chemical use, storage and applications, wildlife habitat enhancement and water conservation.

Workshops for the second group of 18 sites were held on Jan 28, 2011 and March 11, 2011. The first workshop presented information similar to the July 20, 2010 workshop specific to the FFF program. The second workshop included a presentation on IPM techniques by Randy Hansen, a Pesticide Control Advisor (PCA) who works with many growers in El Dorado County.

The third group included 9 sites and workshops were held August 26, 2011 and September 9, 2011. The August 26 workshop focused on IPM methods for winegrapes and was taught by Lynn Wunderlich. CLSI announced the next rounds of FFF sign ups. The September 9 workshop focused on the FFF program and covered the same information as the July 20, 2010 and Jan. 28, 2011 workshops.

The fourth group included 14 sites and a workshop was held on Jan. 7 2012 which focused on the FFF program and BMPs.

TASK 3

A total of 47 sites enrolled in the FFF program. For each site enrolled an aerial and topographic map are created for use in the site visit. Site visits were completed for all but 2 sites. CLSI worked with each owner to create maps and finalize their farm plan. These sites encompass 2,755 total acres of which 863 are irrigated orchards, vineyards or vegetable crops. On each vineyard or orchard site a set of 38 BMPs were applied or if the site was a Christmas tree farm 33 BMPs were applied. Tables 1 and 2 along with Figure 1 show the locations of these sites and the BMPs applied.

Because the focus of the program is to reduce pesticide pollution we were not able to do a load reduction estimate as we would typically complete for watersheds with fine sediment as the primary pollutant.

TASK 4

Two agencies completed the certification of sites – Natural Resources Conservation Service and the El Dorado County Agricultural Commissioner. CLSI held a training workshop for the staff in these agencies on January 20, 2010. A total of 39 sites were certified and 8 enrolled sites did not complete the certification process. As part of the certification of these 39 sites 75,640 linear feet (14.3 miles) of creeks were assessed, 21.9 miles of roads were assessed and 7 projects were identified.

The certified sites are:

- Quartz Hill Vineyard
- Herbert Vineyard
- Safari Estate Vineyard
- Meyer Ranch
- Meadow View Gardens
- Boeger Winery, Inc.
- Walker Vineyard
- Arrastra Vineyard
- Vine Hill Vineyards
- Crystal Creek Tree Farm
- C.G. Di Arie Vineyard and Winery
- Lava Cap Vineyards and Winery
- Schaefer Vineyards
- Carson Ridge Evergreens
- Madrona Vineyards
- Sumu Kaw/Enye
- Kingsgate Farm
- McGee Christmas Tree Farm
- Smokey Ridge Ranch

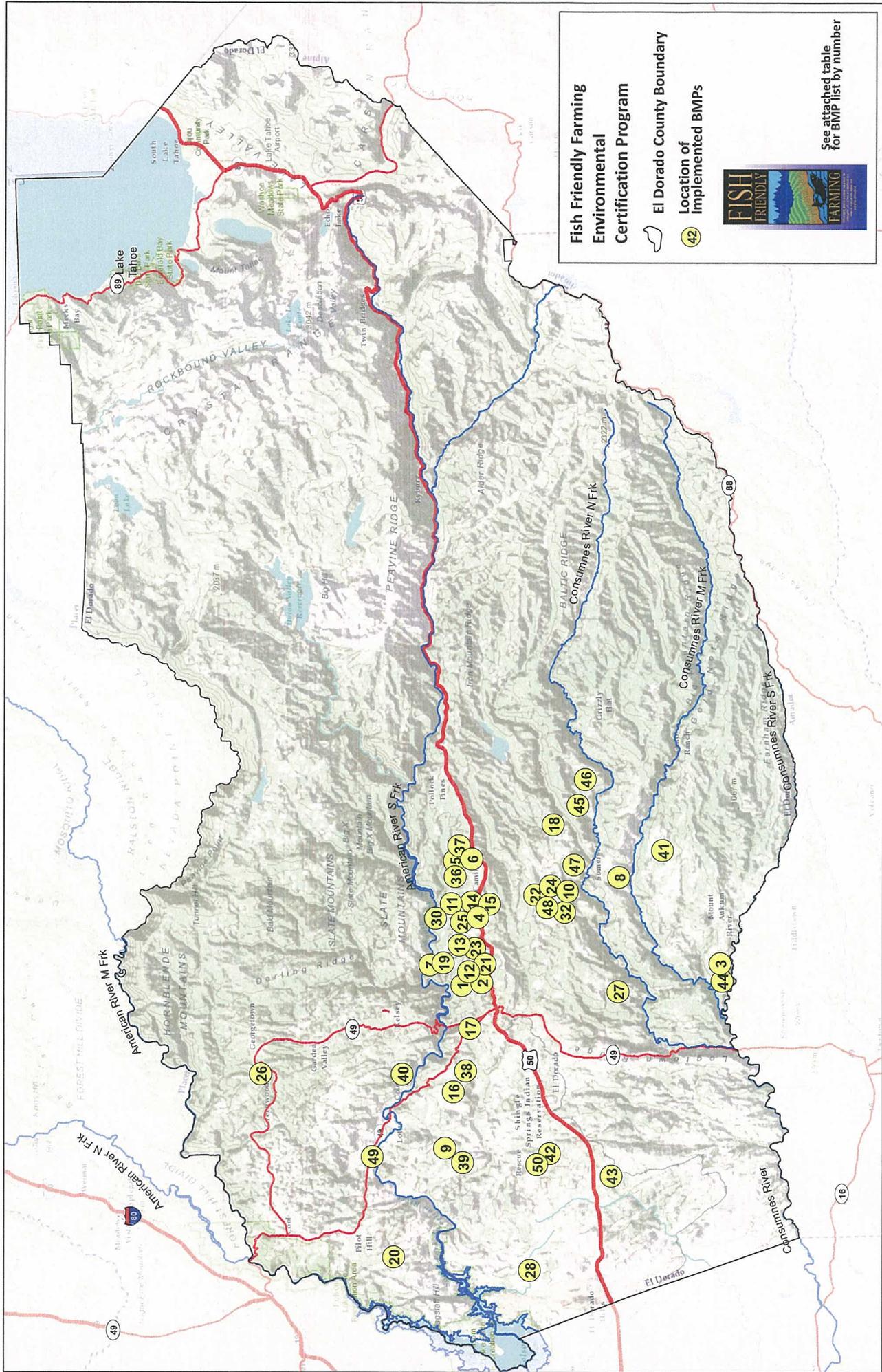
Sun Mountain Farm
Holly's Hill Vineyards, LLC
Hinrichs Farm
Miraflores Vineyard and Winery
Sierra Vista Vineyards and Winery
D'Artagnan Vineyards
Wofford Acres Vineyards
J & J Vineyards
Bycroft Road Vineyard
Z & B Ranch
Crystal Springs Vineyard
El Dorado Vineyards
Cielo Estate Winery
Sauber Vineyards -Site 1
Sauber Vineyards -Site 2
Mad Dog Mesa
Jack Russell Brewery & Winery
Clos des Knolls
Rancho Olivo Vineyards
Upcountry Ranch

For each certified site the landowner will take photographs at designated photo monitoring points to document site conditions and implementation of BMPs. Additionally several sites had either erosion control projects or wildlife enhancement projects which were identified and will be implemented over the next few years.

UNANTICIPATED SUCCESSES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS OBSTACLES AND FUTURE NEEDS

There are several things of note about the development and implementation of the Fish Friendly Farming program in El Dorado County. For the most part the growers seemed motivated by two factors: 1. Wanting the FFF certification to provide for compliance with water quality regulations of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board; and 2. Wanting to have the FFF certification to use for marketing. CLSI and the RCD met with the Regional Board staff throughout the project and discussed how the certification program could fulfill water quality regulatory requirements. We were advised to work through the local watershed coalition group and many of the certified growers have been attending these meetings and requesting that the FFF program be included as a compliance method.

For marketing CLSI provided all of the certified sites with a vineyard sign so that they can display their accomplishment. Additionally one of the wineries, Sierra Vista winery worked with CLSI to allow for use of the logo on their estate bottled wine. CLSI has established procedures for labeling which were used for Sierra Vista Winery.



**Fish Friendly Farming
Environmental
Certification Program**

-  El Dorado County Boundary
-  Location of Implemented BMPs



See attached table for BMP list by number

Site ID*	FISH-FRIENDLY FARMING BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES										Wildlife Enhancement	Photomonitoring																		
	Soil Conservation					Drainage system							Pest and Disease Control					Water Conservation			Replanting									
1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
8	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
9	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
10	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
12	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
13	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
14	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
16	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
17	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
19	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
20	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
21	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
22	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
23	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
24	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
25	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
26	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
27	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Site ID*	FISH FRIENDLY FARMING BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES		
4	Soil Conservation		Winter ground cover use over entire Christmas tree farm floor by Oct. 15.
			Winterization of turnarounds, and field roads and adjacent areas by Oct. 15.
			Emergency erosion control preparedness by Oct. 15.
			Installation of vegetated filter strips by Oct. 15, or if harvest is later than October 15, install erosion control practices by October 15 then seed cover crop post harvest.
			Year round roads have energy dissipaters at culvert outlets.
			Year round road crossings of streams are stable and not eroding.
			Year round roads and parking areas are winterized.
			Year round roads are inspected and repaired as needed.
5	Drainage system		Drainage improvements in orchard/vineyard are designed at a minimum for the 50 to 100-year frequency.
			Farmer completes annual inspection and maintenance of drainage system including inlets.
			Farmer completes winter inspections and repairs as needed.
			Farmer completes repairs to drainage system (resizing to increase capacity) as needed.
15	Creek Mgt & Enhancement		All outlets have adequate energy dissipaters or basins.
			Creeks are evaluated and revegetation and erosion control measures are identified.
5	Pest and Disease Control		Monitor insects prior to use of chemical control.
			An integrated pest management (IPM) system is used.
			Limit use of pre-emergent, persistent herbicides.
			Revise application methods for pesticides and herbicides within 50 ft. of a creek to eliminate drift into surface water.
			Lowest toxicity chemical is chosen
			Fertilizer is limited and applied in a manner which avoids runoff into creeks.
4	Surface and Groundwater Protection		Wind conditions are monitored before and during spray applications.
			Storage of chemicals follows Country Agricultural Commissioner requirements.
			Mix and load site is bermed or located to protect surface and groundwater from contamination.
			Spray equipment is calibrated regularly.
5	Water Conservation		A backflow protection system is in place for sites with chemigation/fertigation
			Water conserving irrigation practices are used.
			Irrigation system is regularly checked for leaks.
			Soil moisture/plant condition is monitored to determine irrigation needs.
15	Replanting		Water is purchased from an irrigation district or comes from an on-site well.
			Replanting program includes soil conservation practices during installation incorporates filter strips and relocation of orchard roads away from creeks.
4	Wildlife Enhancement		Grower has carried out wildlife enhancement projects or improvements.
5	Phenomonitoring 9		Provide map with sites for photo monitoring.
			Complete monitoring once you are certified.