

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: **The Trust for Public Land**

Project title: **Cold Stream Canyon Acquisition**

SNC Reference Number: **SNC 080143** **Submittal Date:** _____

Report Preparer: Carl Somers **Phone #:** 415.290.7708

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 conservation of the Cold Stream property, encompassing 1,174 acres of sub-alpine meadow and upland forest habitat, a significant portion of Cold Stream Creek (a headwater tributary of the Little Truckee River), and major segments of the Mt. Lola trail, a very popular hiking path giving access to the peak of Mt. Lola, one of the highest peaks in the Sierra Nevada north of Lake Tahoe.

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.)

Protection of the property through its purchase and conveyance to the Truckee Donner Land Trust.

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.)

The bond freeze introduced a lot of confusion and delay into the funding process. On the other hand, the flexibility and resourcefulness of SNC in the face of the freeze allowed us to succeed in our efforts to protect this property despite the state's acute financial problems.

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

None come to mind.

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
Acquisition	\$1,000,000	\$706,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,000,000	\$706,000

Explanation: (if needed)

In the course of the bond freeze we were looking for alternative funding (being unsure if the SNC funding would ever come through) and we did manage to secure some additional funding from NSP. This reduced the amount of SNC funding that we needed to complete the purchase price.

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.)

Yes. See page 7 below.

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.)

No.

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

TDLT will be the steward of these remote, semi-wilderness lands for the foreseeable future, and is managing them consistent with the rest of their landholdings in this area for the benefit of wildlife and the recreating public.

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 had late stage complications with our grant disbursement related to an earlier than anticipated reconveyance of the property to its intended long term steward, the Truckee Donner Land Trust. The staff members at SNC were communicative and constructive throughout the process of rectifying our earlier errors and omissions, and we are hopeful that we are ending this project with an even better/stronger relationship with them than when we started.

Description of Project Accomplishments:

1. Most Significant Accomplishment

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

Acquisition of the Cold Stream parcels for public benefit satisfies a long-held goal of the Tahoe National Forest and TPL's Sierra Checkerboard Initiative, and of the Northern Sierra Partnership. TPL and our local partner the Truckee Donner Land Trust sought to acquire these parcels for years for their location at the center of a scenic and recreational mecca, in close proximity to the Castle Peak Proposed Wilderness and the Pacific Crest Trail. In removing Cold Stream from private ownership, we are able to eliminate a significant inholding in the National Forest and protect this land from development, over harvesting of timber, forest and streambed deterioration, and infringement on the outstanding natural views.

2. WOW Factor

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

A jaw-droppingly beautiful hanging, glaciated valley (with roaded access) with a meandering stream and meadow system is now saved for ever from land-use conversion and development.

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?

Carefully adhere to the letter of your grant agreement.

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.

Successful implementation of this project has helped build visibility and support for TPL's Sierra Checkerboard Initiative, for the Northern Sierra Partnership, for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and (we sincerely hope and believe) for bond-funded land conservation work more generally.

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 had to work through an awkward situation created by the timing of our transfer of the property to its originally intended permanent steward. We brought the issue to the attention of SNC and everyone worked through it constructively and professionally.

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.

TPL is proud of the work that it has achieved in the Northern Sierra with the help of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the Northern Sierra Partnership, and, especially, with the support and assistance Truckee Donner Land Trust. Together we have made a huge difference at a huge scale. The success of these partnerships strengthens our organizations individually, but it has also improved the region for future generations in ways that will persist even after we have all passed on. That's what seems most important.

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 bond freeze was a very challenging situation. Our internal creativity in finding sources of internal bridge funds was key to the success of this venture, as was SNC's creativity and commitment to persevering through what were very hard times. The fact that SNC found a way to make grants and sign agreements and get things done in the midst of that crisis is really commendable and shouldn't be forgotten.

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.

Photos 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?

The property is being used as intended for passive summer recreation and winter snowmobiling and skiing. It is very popular.

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.

John Svahn, Stewardship Director
Truckee Donner Land Trust
john@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.)

A. Performance Measures for All Categories

1. Number of People Reached (measures progress of information sharing and education efforts and inclusiveness of other project efforts such as plan development)
This project includes The Trust for Public Land, the Tahoe National Forest, and the Truckee Donner Land Trust as the principal stakeholders involved in this project's planning and implementation. The local Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT) represents more than 1,400 members that support TDLT's mission to preserve and protect important historic, recreational and scenic open spaces in the greater Truckee region. Approximately 20,000 people visit designated wilderness areas within the Tahoe National Forest annually and enjoy a vast network of trails (including the Mt. Lola Trail), campsites, fishing access points, and other recreational amenities. In 2005, 1.6 million people visited the Tahoe National Forest and 20,000 visited wilderness areas within the Forest. According to the Forest Service, 90% of their visitors are recreational users whose trip destination is the Tahoe National Forest.

2. Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada
A \$706,000 grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy was leveraged at a ratio of more than 3:1. The estimated fair market value of this site was \$2,900,000 at the time of purchase. The total estimated cost of this project was \$2,970,100. A \$706,000 grant from SNC leveraged an additional \$2,264,100 for this land conservation project.

3. Number and Type of Jobs Created
Not applicable. This acquisition project will not directly create new jobs.

4. Number of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities
Local services necessary for this project included an environmental assessment, which was performed by Youngdahl Consulting Group, Inc, which has offices in both El Dorado and Placer Counties. The estimated cost for this assessment work was approximately \$4,300. Other costs, such as County recording fees, title insurance, and signage. These other project costs, totaling approximately \$14,000 were performed by local businesses in order to support and preserve local economic activities. In preserving and enhancing local recreation opportunities, this project will also indirectly preserve the economic activities associated with the local and regional tourism, recreation and service industries.

B. Performance Measures Common to Site Improvement and Acquisition Projects

6. Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected
The Cold Stream Creek Acquisition Project aims to permanently protect approximately two miles (10,560 linear feet) of Cold Stream Creek that flows through the property from its headwaters at Mount Lola to its terminus at the Little Truckee River. Protecting these two miles of Cold Stream Creek has significant benefits for the restoration efforts taking

place in the watershed and preserves the opportunity for the reintroduction of Lahontan cutthroat trout in the creek.

10. Acres of Land Conserved

The Cold Stream Creek Acquisition Project will permanently protect 1,174 acres of land in Sierra County for habitat and wildlife preservation and enhanced local recreational access.

14. Feet of Trail/Path Lengthened Constructed or Improved

Currently, the popular Mt. Lola Trail traverses the property for approximately three miles

(15,840 feet). This project will not only protect the scenic and recreational values of this trail, but it will allow the U.S. Forest Service and/or the Truckee Donner Land Trust to implement some needed modifications to the trail in the future, which will be funded by other means.

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.