

2010 DOC Watershed Coordinator Grant Program

Quarterly Report Form

Grantee name and contact information: Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners

Address: P.O. Box 1180, Three Rivers, CA 93271

Phone: (559) 799-7204

Website: www.tularebasinwildlifepartners.org

Grant number: 3010-238

Watershed name(s) + HUC(s): **Tulare-BuenaVista Lakes 18030012**

and location(s) [counties]: **Fresno, Tulare, Kings & Kern Counties**

State Senate District number(s): **14, 16, 18**

Senators(s): **Berryhill, Rubio, Fuller**

State Assembly District number(s): **29, 30, 31, 32, 34**

Assembly Member(s): **Halderman, Valadao, Perea, Grove, Conway**

Preparer name and title: **Carole K. Combs**

Phone: (559) 799-7204 and email: ccombs@thegrid.net

Quarterly Reporting Period (mm/dd/yy): 05/23/11 through 08/23/11

Report submission date (mm/dd/yy): 08/24/11

Refer to the *DOC Watershed Coordinator Grant Program Quarterly Report Form Instructions* document for detailed directions on how to complete this form.

1. **Executive Summary:**

The goal of the Tulare Basin Wildlife Partner's (TBWP) Watershed Initiative is a healthy regional watershed with ecologically functional waterways, wetlands and uplands, providing abundant clean water for both people and wildlife. The Initiative will promote integrated natural resource management in the Tulare Basin Watershed. The Initiative's main objective is to ensure that water supply, water quality and flood control practices funded and carried out through the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) process consider and incorporate ecological, watershed and sustainability principles in project design. The Watershed Coordinator will lead outreach efforts to the seven Tulare Basin IRWM planning groups and will work closely with natural resources agencies and non-profit organizations operating in the Basin to add environmental value and enhance state, federal and private funding opportunities for IRWM and other water-related projects in the Basin. The Coordinator will work to improve stakeholder involvement for organizations not currently represented in IRWM groups, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service Resource Conservation Districts and other conservation or civic

organizations active in the Basin. The Coordinator will also work to ensure the sustainability of the position and secure funding to continue the position after the end of this grant.

2. **Activities and Accomplishments Summary:** List major activities and accomplishments completed this quarter.

- The majority of the Watershed Coordinator's time was spent reaching out to the many partners, stakeholders, community leaders, agencies and organizations to provide an introduction to the Watershed Initiative and to ascertain levels of involvement or interest in watershed-based activities.
- The Coordinator attended meetings of six of the seven Tulare Basin Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) groups (Objective 1, Task 1.2), spoke with the project manager for the seventh, and attended the monthly meetings of the Tulare Basin IRWM Coordination Group. The Coordinator followed up with key IRWM representatives on details on specific issues and projects.
- The Coordinator met with many of the organizations to discuss goals and objectives of the watershed initiatives and determine opportunities for collaboration. (Objective 2, Tasks 2.1, 2.3, Objective 3, Tasks 3.1, 3.2, Objective 4, Tasks 4.1, 4.2)
- The Coordinator met with several disadvantaged communities -- most notably Stratford -- to discuss integration of water supply/waste water disposal needs with surrounding IRWM groups. Stratford is currently not included in an IRWM planning area.

3. **Completed performance measures (PMs) as listed in work plan.** Identify the completed PMs for this quarter.

Watershed Goal: The goal of the Tulare-Buena Vista Lakes Watershed Coordinator is to create a healthy regional watershed with ecologically functional waterways, wetlands and upland, providing abundant clean water for both people and wildlife. The Watershed Coordinator will cooperate with the seven Tulare Basin Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) groups and with the Tulare Basin Working Group (TBWG) to promote integrated natural resource management in the Tulare Basin Watershed (in Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and Kern counties).

Work Plan Objective #1: Identify environmental benefits that can be added to specific IRWM water projects, adding environmental value and enhancing funding opportunities for these projects, as well as providing the following end result benefit to the watershed: conceptualization and implementation of projects emanating from relevant conservation plans that provide strategically located wetland, riparian and upland wildlife habitat.

Performance Measurement: Facilitate the development and implementation of up to 14 environmental projects from TBWP and public agency planning documents that can add environmental value to IRWM projects.

Completed measures and outcomes addressed:

- Attended meetings of the seven Tulare Basin IRWM groups and monthly meetings of the Tulare Basin IRWM coordinating group. Most of the groups are either revising their IRWM plans, or their documents are only in draft stage. Several of the IRWM groups were awarded implementation grants. Westside IRWM was not successful, and the Coordinator attended their meeting with Department of Water Resources regarding the analysis of their unsuccessful grant application. The Coordinator will be providing input for the next implementation grant cycle (due date mid-2012). The Coordinator also participated in the Southern Sierra IRWMP planning grant application review. (Task 1.2)
- Initiated review of TBWP conservation plans and other agency planning documents. (Task 1.1)

Work Plan Objective #2: Match IRWM and other projects that have environmental benefits to grant opportunities and work to bring state, federal, and private resources to facilitate the funding of these projects, with the end result benefit to the watershed of increased fundability of IRWM water projects as well as providing additional valuable habitat for wetland, riparian, and upland wildlife species through these integrated projects.

Performance Measurement: Facilitate the preparation by IRWM cooperators of 12-36 funding proposals that add environmental benefits to IRWM projects.

Completed measures and outcomes addressed:

- Met with Conservation Strategy Group, NRCS and the Central Valley Joint Venture to explore grant opportunities. (Task 2.1)
- Met with private wetland owners, Semitropic Wildlife Improve District and the US Fish and Wildlife Service private lands biologist on water supply needs for habitat enhancement and restoration in the Tulare Basin. (Task 2.1)
- Met with Bureau of Reclamation staff on opportunities for funding of conservation projects and other grants. Many of the districts were successful with “Water Smart” grants. Reclamation funded California Water Institute \$250,000 for another year of Valley water planning which should benefit IRWMPs. (Task 2.1)

Work Plan Objective #3: Coordinate with Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) and the San Joaquin Valley Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council as well as with other conservation and civic organizations not currently represented in IRWM groups to promote consideration of resources other than water (e.g. soil, air, open space, recreation, and wildlife) in IRWM projects; the end result benefit of this objective will be increased public involvement that will lead in turn to increased benefits from the IRWM water projects for a wider array of the public, enhancing the regional agricultural heritage, economy, and quality of life.

Performance Measurement: Facilitate development and implementation of up to 12 IRWM projects that integrate benefits to soil, air, open space, recreation, wildlife and other resources.

Completed measures and outcomes addressed:

- Met with Westside RCD (Task 3.1)
- Met with the Greenprint steering committee. The Watershed Coordinator will provide input to the Greenprint planning process and will work with Conservation Biology Institute to help organize conservation group participation in this planning process, as well as in IRWM planning. (Task 3.2)
- Attended the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley board meeting in July. The Watershed Coordinator will report at each quarterly board meeting starting in December 2011. The Partnership board includes community leaders, elected officials and Cabinet-level Secretaries for the State of California. (Task 3.2)
- Participated in the Strategic Growth Council public workshop in Sacramento with members of the Fresno COG, City of Fresno and Economic Development Office at Fresno State. Sought opportunities for partnerships and possible funding sources for Tulare Basin projects. Made connection with UC Davis Information Center for the Environment (ICE, data management), Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) and other potential partners. (Task 3.2)

Work Plan Objective #4: Coordinate with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to assist implementation of Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and other NRCS programs; the end result benefit of this objective to the watershed will be additional wetland and riparian projects funded by NRCS and increased acreage of these essential wildlife habitats.

Performance Measurement: Identification and implementation of up to 12 WRP and program projects in conjunction with IRWM projects.

Completed measures and outcomes addressed:

- The NRCS representative participates on the TBWP Watershed Management Core Team and routinely provides guidance on NRCS programs (Tasks 4.1, 4.2, 4.3).

Work Plan Objective #5: Coordinate with disadvantaged community interests to identify specific overlap between those interests and environmental interests and work to integrate both components into specific IRWM water projects; the end result benefit of this objective is that IRWM water projects will demonstrate increased synergy between wildlife needs and open space needs of people living in disadvantaged communities.

Performance Measurement: Facilitate the integration of up to six projects that provide environmental benefits for disadvantaged communities in IRWM water projects.

Completed measures and outcomes addressed:

- Held discussions with the community of Stratford, which is currently not located in an IRWM planning area. Met with community leaders and the Public Utilities District (SPUD) to explore inclusion of Stratford in an IRWM group and to explore grant opportunities. (Task 5.2)

- Held discussions with representatives of Self-Help Enterprises and Community Water Center. (Task 5.1)

Work Plan Objective #6: Provide riparian and wildlife corridor concepts to assist IRWM groups with integration of climate change adaptation and sustainability strategies into specific IRWM water projects; the end result benefit to the watershed is that IRWM water projects will include climate change adaptation and sustainability benefits that will provide movement corridors for plants and animals and fewer species will be extirpated from portions of their ranges and listed as threatened or endangered.

Performance Measurement: Integrate up to 12 TBWP corridor project concepts or project components with climate change adaptation and sustainability benefits into specific IRWM water projects.

Completed measures and outcomes addressed:

- Held discussions with contractor (MWH) working on the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan for the Department of Water Resources. Of interest was the relationship to flood issues in the Tulare Basin, particularly as relates to climate change and projected changes in snow pack amount and timing of snow melt. (Task 6.2)
- Held discussions with Federal and State agencies on threatened and endangered species threats assessments and recent Biological Opinions. (Task 6.1)
- Discussed the efficacy of Safe Harbor agreements in the Tulare Basin with the US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife program manager. (Task 6.1)

Work Plan Objective #7: Ensure stakeholder support of the Watershed Coordinator's efforts through twelve-month reports by the Watershed Coordinator to the Tulare Basin IRWM Coordination Group (TB IRWVG, composed of lead representatives of the seven Tulare Basin IRWM groups) and to the Tulare Basin Working Group (TBWG), soliciting evaluation and consensus recommendations concerning the optimal organizational and funding basis for continuing the position beyond March 2014; the end result benefit to the watershed of this objective will be achievement of stakeholder consensus on the value of continuing the position, with post-grant optimal organizational platform agreed upon, and the need for funding continuity and long-term sustainability agreed upon.

Performance Measurement: Completed twelve-month reports by the Watershed Coordinator and performance evaluations by the TB IRWVG and TBWG, with summary reports (including summaries of reports to the Department of Conservation) posted on the TBWP Web site.

Completed measures and outcomes addressed:

- Monthly reports and work plans shared with partners.

Work Plan Objective #8: Coordinate with the TBWP, TB IRWMG, TBWG participants and other interested parties to secure funding for the continuation and sustainability of the position after the end of the grant; the end result benefit to the watershed will be continued integration of environmental components in water and flood control projects in the Tulare Basin.

Performance Measurement: Secure a minimum commitment of funds for two additional years, with a long-term funding strategy for ten years or more.

Completed measures and outcomes addressed:

- None to report.

3. New funding obtained from the Grant Start Date through this reporting period.

- a) Grant proposals submitted to date.

Table 1: Grant proposals submitted throughout the grant							
Program Name	Funding Entity & Type	Funding Source	Purpose	Requested Amount	Status	Award Amount	Award Date
Lawrence Foundation	Private foundation	N/A	Cash match support, operating costs	\$10,000	May 27, 2011 appl.	Declined	N/A
NRCS	CA State Office 2011-2012 Agr'ment	WRP	Cash match support, funds Assistant Watershed Coordinator functions in 2012	\$27,500	Final Agree-ment rec'd	\$27,500	8/12/11
Central Valley Joint Venture, USFWS	USFWS year-end funds	Migratory Bird Program	Cash match support, operating costs – updated TBWP brochure	\$1,189.08	Paid	\$1,189.08	8/16/11
Heller Charitable Foundation	Private foundation	N/A	Cash match support, operating costs	\$12,870	July 27, 2011 LOI sent	TBD	TBD
BLM	Coop. Agr'ment Mod.	Bakersfld Regional office Healthy Lands Initiative	Cash match support, operating costs	\$27,500	At BLM CA State Office	\$27,000	8/18/11
Pacific Gas and Electric Company	Fresno Gov't Rels	Kuyler Crocker	Cash match support for Watershed Initiative operating expenses	\$3,000	Rec'd 8/5/11	\$ 3,000	7/21/11
Cumulative Total				\$82,059.08		\$58,689.08	

b) New non-grant funding obtained to date.

Table 2: New non-grant funding obtained throughout the grant

Program Name	Funding Entity & Type	Funding Source	Purpose	Amount Received	Date Received
Central Valley Joint Venture/USFWS	Grant Agr'ment Mod.	Migratory Bird Program	Funds Conservation Strategy Group Consulting September 2011 – August 2012, to assist Watershed Coordinator & Core Team with funding and project implementation strategies	\$36,000	8/11/11
Cumulative Total				\$36,000	

4. **Include final copies of outreach materials and other products created during the reporting period. Submit photos in digital format on CD.** (Pdf of updated brochure completed 6/12/11 attached to e-message and included with hard copy.)
5. **If applicable, describe any problems or setbacks related to the implementation of the grant or the work plan.** None
6. **Within 30 days of the end of the quarter, submit one hard copy and one electronic copy** (in MS Word; no PDF files) of this completed quarterly report to your assigned grant administrator.