

Quarter/Dates of Activity: Q1 July 2007 through September 2007
Seed Grant: Integrating Land and Water Solutions in Tulare Lake Basin
Grantee Organization: Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners
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Description of this Quarter's Activity and Impact on Partnership Goals and Objectives

We laid groundwork for three grant deliverables based on our three completed Tulare Basin Regional Conservation Plans:

1. Outreach Strategic Plan drafted;
2. Fundraising Strategic Plan drafted; and
3. Conservation Bank site recommendations to Tulare County drafted.

We received a grant award of \$40,875 from Tulare County Association of Governments to do in-depth Riparian-Wildlife Corridor Survey and Report in support of Conservation Bank site recommendations. We initiated similar grant requests for funding from Fresno, Kings, and Kern Counties for similar in-depth reports by the end of 2008, to assist with development of possible regional mitigation bank or, at minimum, to assist each County with mitigation needs related to anticipated transportation and housing developments. We entered into an especially close partnership with the California Water Institute, as water needs are integral to our priority conservation projects and as Basin-wide IRWMP is an objective of the Partners. We planned the October 17 meeting of Tulare Lake Basin Working Group as Conservation Priority Setting meeting to provide the necessary strategic and substantive foundation for our Comprehensive Fundraising Plan. *Please email Carole Combs, see above, for the attached agenda for the meeting and list of partner organizations. Fifty-eight representatives from these groups are expected to attend.*

Planned Activities for next 3-6 months

From October – December 2007 we will complete our Outreach Strategic Plan, Comprehensive Fundraising Plan, and Conservation Bank site recommendations for Tulare County. We will do this working with lead consultants (Leslie Friedman Johnson and Tasha Newman of Conservation Strategy Group and Will Murray of Will Murray Company). From January – March 2008, we will begin implementing the Outreach Strategic Plan and Comprehensive Fundraising Plan (through grant completion in December 2008) and work with Fresno COG Transportation Technical Committee on in depth survey to provide mitigation site recommendations by June 2008. We expect a grant from Kings County Fish & Game Fines Commission (obtained with the assistance of the Kings County Planning Agency) to prepare similar work on behalf of Kings County during the January – June time frame. We will develop and get approval for a proposal for similar work in Kern County to be completed by December 2008.

Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback

We have plenty of challenges, but no problems or bottlenecks to report. Please note that we have decided not to create a "steering committee", as the participants in the Tulare Lake Basin Working Group in effect serve as that committee.

If you have coordinated any outreach, please describe briefly.

During this first quarterly reporting period, we initiated partnerships with Tulare, Fresno, Kings and Kern County planners and Blueprint representatives. We made a presentation to the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) Board and met frequently with TCAG staff to plan and implement our Conservation Bank site recommendations deliverable.

During this reporting period, we reached out to the more than 40 agencies and nonprofits participating in Tulare Lake Basin Working Group (Partners) to orchestrate the October 17 meeting where we plan to reach a consensus on "land and water solution" priorities for future funding and implementation.