

Dates of Activity: January 2008 through March 2008  
**Seed Grant: Integrating Land and Water Solutions in Tulare Lake Basin**  
**Grantee Organization: Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners (TBWP)**  
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### **Description of Quarter's Activity/Impact on Partnership**

During the third quarter (Jan 08-Mar 08) of this grant, the Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners (TBWP) undertook activities strongly geared toward leveraging its Tulare Regional Conservation Plans and Priority Conservation Projects through the Integrated Outreach and Fundraising Plan (see second quarter report). Specific examples follow:

- January 4, submitted Watershed Coordinator Grant to Department of Conservation with three-year goal, objectives, and work plan to implement land and water solutions in the Tulare Basin through Basin-wide Integrated Watershed Management Planning (Note: on April 11, we received notice that this grant request will not be funded; the reason given was that the funding source was Prop. 50, related primarily to CalFed goals). No grant requests to this source from entities in the Tulare Basin hydrological unit are on the funding list. This grant request nevertheless provides a solid framework for our activities for the next three years.
- January 15, received grant agreement and \$70,000 in funding from the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation/ Preserving Wild California Program, to complete the Tulare Basin Wildlife-Corridor Conservation Plan for the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP)
- January 22, Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners' president Robert Hansen presented our vision, history, current activities and plans to the California Biodiversity Council (CBC) on the occasion of the roll-out of the State of California Wildlife Action Plan. The TBWP received high praise for its activities and endorsed the TBWP as its first major pilot project under the California Wildlife Action Plan. CBC Executive Committee formed a Tulare Basin Management Group—U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), DFG, California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and Department of Commerce (DOC)—to assist our efforts going forward. Marc Hoshovsky, DFG-Sacramento, has been assigned to staff the follow-up effort.
- February 9, the TBWP met with Kern Water Bank managers and provided information and assistance on grazing and weed management concerns, continuing a partnership relationship begun during completion of the TBWP's Kern Lake—Buena Vista Lake Conservation Plan in late 2006.
- February 25, the TBWP presented its Tulare County Measure R Riparian-Wildlife Corridor Report to the board of the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG). This report was a result of a \$40,875 grant from TCAG in August/September 2007 to provide in-depth information to the Tulare County regarding riparian-wildlife corridor mitigation opportunities under its recently passed transportation measure.
- February, the Council of Fresno County Governments provided a \$32,700 grant to the TBWP and approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the TBWP to provide a riparian-wildlife corridor report, similar to the report it had prepared for TCAG, to assist Fresno County with mitigation planning under its Measure C transportation requirements.
- January–March, the TBWP worked with UC Merced Sierra Nevada Research institute faculty and Vice-Chancellor John Garamendi, Jr., to initiate and plan a University of California Natural Reserve System Field Station with satellite branches in Tulare Basin. Prop 84 and major fundraising requests are planned to further this initiative.
- January–March, the TBWP participated in the Partnership's Land Use, Agriculture and Housing Committee Work Group (LUAH) through meeting attendance and close attention to LUAH notices.
- January–March, the TBWP made several presentations at the request of the Kings County Planning Agency as part of an ongoing effort to assist staff of that Agency to identify funding for a riparian-wildlife corridor survey to be completed by December 2008 (\$32,700 request). The Agency desires TBWP assistance to complete the Resource Element of its General Plan Update and to meet requirements under AB 162.
- March 10, the TBWP met with Ted James, director of Kern County Planning Agency, to request \$66,000 in funding for a Kern County Riparian-Wildlife Corridor survey.
- January--March, the TBWP arranged to attend Poso Creek IRWM, Kaweah Basin IRWMP, Upper Kings Forum IRWM and Kern County IRWMP (startup) initiatives to provide assistance to these efforts through its multipurpose Priority Conservation Projects (list approved at October 17, 2007.) TBWP Vice President Richard Moss continued to play a leadership role in the formation of a Basin-wide IRWM(P) effort through a Joint Powers Agreement.
- January–March, the TBWP continued its work with DFG, California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) and USBR under \$265K Central Valley Project Conservation Program grant to launch a landscape scale wetland-upland acquisition project in Goose Lake (an integrated "land and water solution").
- March 17, the TBWP met with Sarge Green and John Shelton to explore and develop a possible "Lower Arroyo Passajero Solutions" project to its Conservation Priorities list.

- March 19, the TBWP held a meeting to explore the possibility of a Lower Deer Creek project as an addition to its Conservation Priorities list.
- March 27, the TBWP received a \$49,000 (five-year) assistance grant from the BLM in recognition of the service we provide to BLM through coordination of the Tulare Lake Basin Working Group, management of a grant \$189,000 grant that we received to assist BLM with wetland enhancement and species re-introduction for BLM's Atwell Island Project, and analysis and parcel information provided through our Tulare Basin Regional Conservation Plans.
- January–March, the TBWP planned extensive re-development of its Web site and began work to implement that plan.
- January–March, the TBWP continued the close consulting assistance of Will Murray Company and Conservation Strategy Group under this grant.

The above activities further the following Partnership goals and objectives (as mentioned in our first and second quarterly reports): Goal 1 (Objectives A and B), Goal 4 (Objective A), Goal 5 (Objective A), Goal 7 (Objectives B & C) of the Land Use, Agriculture, and Housing Work Group of the Partnership Strategic Action Proposal (pp. 49- 53). They also further Goal 1 (Objectives A and B), Goal 2 (Objective A), Goal 3 (Objectives B and C), Goal 4 (Objective A) and Goal 5 (Objective A) of the Water Quality, Supply and Reliability Work Group (Proposal, pp. 62-64). Our efforts also support Goal 6 (Objective C) of the Air Quality Work Group (Proposal, pp. 59-60).

### **Planned Activities for next 3-6 months**

- TBWP is planning a major outreach and fund-raising request (\$1M) to the USBR to continue integrated land and water solutions project implementation, outreach, and fundraising efforts begun under this grant (2009-2019). On April 28, a presentation was made to USBR, USFWS and other agencies in Sacramento to set the stage for success with this grant application. A planning event with the assistance of Kathy Wood, California Water Institute, San Joaquin Valley Water Plan took place April 28.
- Continued work with TCAG as needed to assist it in implementation of the Measure R report and mitigation site recommendations.
- Continued work under the Council of Fresno County Governments MOU referenced above.
- Continue work with Kings County Planning Agency staff to identify funding source for Kings County Riparian-Wildlife Corridor Survey and Report.
- Continued work to pursue the development of Lower Deer Creek and Lower Arroyo Passajero Solutions projects, as additional possible "integrated land and water solutions."
- April 3, the TBWP to submit a funding proposal for a Tulare Basin riparian-wildlife corridor survey and report to Ted James, Kern County Planning Agency. We will pursue this request during the next quarter.
- The TBWP – UC Merced Natural Reserve System initiative will continue to develop, with TBWP providing leadership through writing a case statement, making major foundation contacts, and setting meetings.
- April 8, Conservation Strategy Group staff will provide testimony in support of Assemblymember Nicole Parra's legislative initiative to establish the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley on a permanent basis. The TBWP and Conservation Strategy Group will continue to make support of this legislative initiative a high priority.
- The TBWP will continue re-development of its Web site during this quarter.

### **Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback**

None

### **If you have coordinated any outreach, please describe briefly.**

All of the efforts listed above involve outreach and coordination of outreach. In addition, the TBWP organized and coordinated the January 14 meeting of the Tulare Lake Basin Working Group (TLBWG). In March, the TBWP planned the April 14 meeting of the TLBWG.

**The following attachments can be requested via email to Kelli Furtado, [kfurtado@csufresno.edu](mailto:kfurtado@csufresno.edu):**

1. Abstract of January 22 presentation to California Biodiversity Council
2. TBWP Measure R Report to Tulare County Association of Governments (and map)
3. TBWP & TLBWG Conservation Priorities List (approved at our October 17, 2007 TLBWG meeting, as described in our second quarter report)
4. Agenda for January 14 TLBWG meeting
5. Agenda for April 14 TLBWG meeting