

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Environmental Enhancement Fund
Grant Program

FINAL PROGRESS REPORT

Lake Isabella, Kern County Property Acquisition for Acquisition of Fee Interest

Date: 6/18/2024

Agreement No.: Q2175063

Grant Term: 5/2/2022 - 5/31/2024

Fiscal Report

Fund Source	Amount Awarded	Total Amount Reimbursed
CDFW EEF Grant Funds	\$150,322	\$150,322
Cost Share	\$26,809	
Agreement Totals	\$177,131	

Brief Summary of Work Performed 05/22/2022 to 05/31/2024

- Task 1: Project Management and Administration. This has been performed by the President, Vice-President and Secretary of the Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation
- Task 2: Land Acquisition (Budget: Item B). We have acquired the 2.88 acre 'Woo' Property, APN# 485-042-7 in Lake Isabella, Kern County, CA.
- Task 3: Develop Infrastructure on acquired land (Budget: Item A, B, D). We have removed the internal fences to incorporate this land into our adjoining Hot Springs Valley Wetlands (HSVW). We have cleared the wetlands that were clogged with excess growth. We have added an external fence along the boulevard where there was none.
- Task 4: Monitoring and management (Budget: Item C). Through our sub-contractor, Southern Sierra Research Station, we have performed a baseline survey of the 3 species that will benefit from incorporating and managing this land within the bigger HSVW preserve. These are the Tricolored Blackbirds and the Alkali Mariposa Lilies. From here on out we will perform the same survey to monitor these species.

Deliverables

<u>Task</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Deliverables</u>	<u>Expected Completion Dates</u>	<u>Completed (Yes/No) *</u>	<u>Date submitted to CDFW</u>
1	Project Management and Administration	Quarterly Progress Reports	Due within 30 days following each calendar quarter (March, June, September, December) after grant execution	These were done as 3 or 6 monthly progress reports.	Dec. 2022, July 2023, Oct 2023, Jan. 2023,
		Quarterly Invoices	Due within 30 days following each calendar quarter (March, June, September, December) after grant execution	These were done as needed	
		Final Draft Report	June 15, 2024	Y	
		Final Report	June 30, 2024	Y	
		Final Invoice	June 30, 2024	Y	
2	Land Acquisition	Draft Close of Escrow report	December 30, 2023	Y	
		Final Close of Escrow report. Information to include a copy of the Final Closing or Settlement Statement and Title Insurance	January 21, 2024	Y	
3	Infrastructure	Fence Removal	May 31, 2024	Y	
		New Fence Installation	May 31, 2024	Y	
		Gate Installation	May 31, 2024	N	We decided we did not need the gate as there was one close to the property.
		Draft Progress Report	May 31, 2024	Y	

		Final Progress Report	May 31, 2024	Y	These infrastructure reports have been included with the progress reports as completed
4	Project Monitoring	Draft Survey Report	May 31, 2024	Y	
		Final Progress Report	May 31, 2024	Y	Oct 2023

***If no, summarize in Problems/Delays and Lessons Learned section below**

Problems/Delays and Lessons Learned:

None

Project Benefits and Results:

Incorporating the Woo property with the HSVW Preserve will restore and enhance the wetlands on the Woo property and also allow a critical wetland connection between different areas of the HSVW Preserve. This acquisition will restore and improve habitat and the ecosystem of the Woo property and will also enhance the ecosystem of the surrounding lands owned by the Heritage Foundation. Furthermore, the wetlands of the Woo property and HSVW project are fed both by the offsite Scovern Hot Springs and seasonal rainfall so water levels. By allowing the waters of this wetland to flow between the Woo property and the HSVW project we will increase the size of this rare alkaline/sub-alkaline marsh/wetland and meadow system. In managing this wetland system on the Woo property we are and will continue to encourage the nesting of 2 rare or endangered bird species, the Kern Red-Winged Blackbird and the Tricolored Blackbird, and the growth of the rare and endangered Alkali Mariposa Lily.

Estimated Co-benefits achieved to date:

The water is now able to flow between the 2 properties and different bird species have started to use the land.

Summarize Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities (if applicable):

We are working with Ducks Unlimited and a multi-property grant application to create a walkway from our multi-use pathway across the Hot Springs Valley Wetlands, the Woo/EEF Property to the Bob Powers Gateway Preserve. This will allow access to our community members in Lake Isabella, which has been classified as a disadvantaged community.

Objectives

Project Objective (as stated in Grant Agreement)	Objective met or exceeded? (Yes/No)*

Task 1: Project Management and Administration	Yes
Task 2: Land Acquisition	Yes
Task 3: Develop Infrastructure on acquired land	Yes
Task 4: Monitoring and Management	Yes

*If No, please explain in Issues and Lessons Learned section below

Issues and Lessons Learned

None of note.

Relevant Pictures, Tables and Maps for this Report:

The new fence along the boulevard, along the north boundary and a new corner brace on the east.



Unseeded narrow-leaf milkweed and ash growing on the land



Our reports have included more information, including a map of the pathway we are working on as our next step.