

SNC Reference Number

080139

Performance Measures

Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project

Performance Measures

Project Purpose & Goals: Restore a valuable economic and natural watershed resource by restoring Finnion Lake back to its original operating capacity of 350 acre feet while enhancing fishery and aquatic habitats, improving wetland habitat, improving upland forested habitats, and securing a sustainable water supply to combat wildfires.

“The Project not only lies within the purview of, but typifies the specified intent of the SNC, to “...initiate, encourage, and support efforts that improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities and the citizens of California.”” – Assemblyman Ted Gaines.

Performance Measure #1: Number of People Reached.

The strengths of the Sierra Nevada Region are its natural beauty, its fiercely independent population, and its growing tourism and recreational sector. Its main weaknesses are internal politics, the failure of civic leaders to recognize the interdependence of their environment and economy, and the lack of a regional identity (James Irvine Foundation, Collaborative Regional Incentives. November 2005). Regional and local partnerships such as: the Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (CABY IRWMP); and the South Fork American River Watershed Group (SFARWG), have engaged a diverse population of stakeholders seeking to enhance economic vitality, increase social equity, and protect the natural environment throughout the region.

The Finnion Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project (Project) has been adopted by the CABY IRWMP which represents a total of thirty-two (32) organizational and agencies from throughout the CABY region. The Project has also been supported by 25 other entities that include local and regionally elected and agency officials, non-governmental and business partners and others. These diverse sets of stakeholders understand the benefits of resource restoration and its impacts to economic vitality and the enrichment in the quality of life, both locally and regionally.

This network of governmental, agency, and community organizations is an important vehicle to engage people with diverse interests. It also contributes to a more sustainable and engaged community. Through implementation of this project the following deliverables will be met:

- 1) Development of a “Finnion Lake Restoration Newsletter”
 - a. Distribute over 500 each quarter to local residents,
 - b. Distribute electronically to the CABY, SFARWG, and other forums to utilize existing email distribution networks.
- 2) Incorporate project updates in the existing “Mosquito Byte”. A publication that goes to over 1000 residents living in the community.
- 3) Announce volunteer opportunities in the local media including the Georgetown Gazette and the Mountain Democrat. The number of volunteers who participate

will be reported. The SAC-Sierra Trout Unlimited and the Hangtown Fly casters will provide volunteer recruitment assistance. Local High Schools including El Dorado, Ponderosa, Union Mine, Golden Sierra and Oak Ridge, will provide Place-based educational opportunities to allow integration with what they are learning in the class which on-site field studies. Project tasks where volunteer assistance can be leveraged include: the Fish Rescue and Relocation; Fishery Habitat improvement; and, the Healthy Forest Restoration component.

- 4) Quarterly public forums will be held at the Finnon Lake restaurant to provide updates on the project and to receive public input. The number of people in attendance will be reported.
- 5) Conduct project site tours during important stages of the Project to increase public awareness and support of the project. The number of people in attendance will be reported.
- 6) The MVFA will hold monthly meetings will allow for community feedback and information exchange. The number of people in attendance will be reported.
- 7) Project information will be posted on the Georgetown Divide RCD website.

Performance Measure #2: Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada.

Planning, design, specifications, and strategies have been completed. All permits and environmental studies have been completed through unprecedented in-kind contributions of volunteers and government agencies. Resources leveraged during project implementation have been measured in every \$1.00 the SNC provides, \$1.34 dollars in cash and in-kind services are provided.

Tasks Summary:

Task 1: Project Administration:

(RCD: 36 months @ 40 hours/ month @ \$60/hour = \$86,000) Match=\$26,000
SNC contribution includes 1% contribution to CABY IRWMP=\$6,100.

Task 2: Environmental Monitoring.

(RCD: 36 months @ 20 hours/ month @ \$60/hour = \$43,200) Match=\$13,200

Task 3: Fish Rescue and Relocation.

20 volunteers @ \$18/hr @ 80 hours = \$28,800. Match=\$28,200.

Task 4, 5, 6, 8, 9: Construction Implementation: Labor.

International Union of Operating Engineers Job Corps Training Project: 12 Corps workers @ \$18/hr @ 29 months @ 120 hours/month = \$751,680

Task 4, 5, 6, 8, 9: Construction Implementation: Materials: TDB.

Total Value of Resources Leveraged: \$819,680.

Performance Measure #3: Number and type of jobs created.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO), the federal government's top investigative agency, has released a report confirming the existence of serious problems in nonunion apprenticeship programs, and in the Department of Labor's management of the nation's apprenticeship system. As an integral part of its commitment to provide highly skilled heavy equipment operators to the construction and environmental industries, the International Union of Operating Engineers developed and implemented comprehensive training programs that are widely recognized as the best in those industries. A major sector of the International Union of Operating Engineers, the Job Corps is the nation's largest and most comprehensive residential, education and job training program for at-risk youth, ages 16 through 24. Since its inauguration in 1964, under the Economic Opportunity Act, Job Corps has provided more than 2 million disadvantaged young people with the integrated academic, vocational, and social skills training they need to gain independence and get quality, long-term jobs or further their education. The International Union of Operating Engineers – Job Corps has filed a Letter of Intent with the MVFA to provide a labor force for restoration activities at Finnon Lake as a training project. It is estimated that up to 12 people per training session will be involved with the project.

Increased use of the restaurant located on site will also provide for sustainable service based jobs.

Performance Measure #4: Number of New, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities.

This analysis will be integrated under TASK 2: Environmental Monitoring. (May 2009 – April 2012): Environmental Monitoring activities will commence upon start of the project and will resume until all performance and success criteria have been met. This task describes the long-term management objectives that ensure multiple benefits are realized.

Information will be gathered on the increased public use of the recreational facility. Information collected will include the total number of visitors using the facility for fishing, camping, boating, community events and educational programs. An economic analysis will also provide much needed and up-to-date analysis of Finnon Lake contribution to the community's economy. This analysis will be conducted in partnership with the El Dorado County Economic Development Department and the Sierra Economic Development Corporation (SEDCorp).

Performance Measure #5: Number of New Recreational Access Points.

Restoration will provide recreational opportunities not previously available including boating, camping, fishing, swimming, hiking, equestrian trails and a Frisbee golf course.

Performance Measure #6: Number of Special Significant Sites Protected.

Finnon Lake is registered on the National Registry of Historic Places and is listed as a wild game preserve.

Performance Measure #7: Tons of Carbon Sequestered: The Healthy Forest and Restoration Task will increase the ability of forests to sequester additional atmospheric carbon while enhancing other ecosystem services, such as improved soil and water quality.

Measurement guidelines for forest carbon sequestration have been by agencies such as the USFS to developed and support reporting by public and private entities to greenhouse gas registries. These guidelines are intended to be a reference for designing a forest carbon inventory and monitoring system by professionals with knowledge of sampling, statistical estimation, and forest measurements. We do not intend to designing a forest carbon inventory and monitoring system under this project. However, we do want to recognize the importance of healthy forests and their ability to sequester additional atmospheric carbon while enhancing other ecosystem services, such as improved soil and water quality.

Performance Measure #8: Acre feet of Water Supply Conserved or Enhanced. Over 350 acre feet of water supply will be enhanced as Finnion Lake is restored back to its original capacity. Task 10: Supply 350 acre feet of water to Finnion Lake. The El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) has an "inherited" legal obligation to provide a reliable water supply for Finnion Lake. A resolution was mutually agreed upon to install a 2-inch water meter off of the piped system, with no connection or commodity charges, to deliver water up to the capacity of the meter to Finnion Lake upon its restoration and after fire suppression draw-downs. Any water supplied to Finnion would be metered, and the usage accounted for as non-revenue water put to beneficial use.

Performance Measure #9: Acres of Land Improved or Restored. This project will restore 5.5 acres of wetlands and 5.9 acres of forest habitat.

Task 9: Healthy Forests and Restoration Monitoring Plan. (August 2009, November 2009 – February 2010, November 2010 – February 2011). Objectives for upland forest health and habitat improvements include enhancing; wildlife habitat conditions, vegetative health and vigor, reduce fire risk, and to provide for more plant species diversity. These objectives will be accomplished through a partnership with USDA-NRCS and CALFIRE with the use of the California Conservation Crews (CCC). The NRCS will provide a Forest Conservation Plan, while the CALFIRE will provide CCC crews for in-the-ground restoration work. The area has been identified as Extreme Fire Hazard by CALFIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zoning Map. Volunteers, Boy Scouts of America and k-12 students will build bat and owl boxes that will be placed in appropriate locations. Approximately 5.9 acres of forest will be treated.

The Project proposes to restore Finnon Lake back to its original operating level of 350 acre feet. Approximately 1.25 acres of direct fill of waters of the United States is authorized by ACOE Nationwide Permit Number 3 (SPK-2002-00467). To mitigate for the loss of the flooding of 10.9 acres of waters of the United States, the MVFA is required to implement a Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for Finnon Lake according to the provisions outlined under the Nationwide Permit No.3: Two (2) acres of wetlands will be created as a result of maximum water level soil saturation and vegetation establishment; Three (3) acres of wetlands will be credited as a result of reservoir drawdown and water level fluctuations during spring and summer. To assure success of the preserved and created waters of the United States, the MVFA will monitor compensatory mitigation, avoidance, and preservation areas for five (5) years until success criteria has been met.