



S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund Grant Evaluation Form

**Grant Period: November 15, 2012
through November 30, 2013**

**Evaluation Due Date:
December 15, 2013**

***Note:** The program period covered by the grant was December 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 therefore we are submitting evaluation earlier than scheduled. SRPF

Organization: SANTA ROSA PLATEAU FOUNDATION

Contact Name: Ginger Greaves

Title: Executive Director

Phone Number: 909-732-2209

Grant Period: 12/1/2012 – 6/30/2013

Award Amount: \$15,000

Grant Number:

- **Describe the project's key outcomes and results based on your goals and objectives. Provide the number of clients served and other relevant statistics.**

The goals of this specific grant period and grant request were the following:

1. Expand the pilot middle school grassland program to include 5th grade and high school components and redesign the program as a "Habitat Studies and Restoration Program" for grades 5 – 12.
2. Sustain and grow the Title I Outreach (low-to-moderate income) schools to serve 2,250 students in the 2012-2013 school year.
3. Sustain and grow the third grade education program to serve at least 7,000 students from ten school districts.

Key Outcomes:

1. **A.** A 5th Grade Seed Bank Study program was implemented with two classes from two elementary schools that feed into Shivela Middle School. (Shivela is the core school providing the students for the grassland restoration component, which was also the beginning of the habitat program). A total of 40 students participated. Students were engaged in a plan to identify and grow native plants from seeds. They traveled to the Reserve to identify the plants fully grown, to learn their names and how to propagate and grow seeds. A "Seed Book" was developed for them to use as a reference. The seeds were taken back to their school to plant and grow. Students would return to the Reserve to reintroduce the plants into the appropriate habitat area. Students were mentored by Botany graduate students from UCRiverside, science teachers and students in the high school component of the program.

B. High school students were recruited from the Environmental Studies and Science Club at Murrieta Mesa High School. Thirty-five students began the program and 23 continued in the program from the beginning. Students reviewed the work completed by the middle school students in the first year of the pilot project. They developed a new science question as to how to restore a particular area of a grassland habitat. With the guidance of the middle and high school science teachers, UCRiverside Botany Department graduate students, the Reserve Naturalist and students implemented their new restoration plan, performed tasks from transecting plots, preparing soil, analyzing the effects of weather on the plants and recording their findings.

2. Title 1 Outreach – The program continued to be introduced to new schools and classrooms. However the total served did not increase as planned. This was due in large measure to a scheduling conflict that occurred mid-year with the Docents and classroom teachers. This has been addressed to prevent future conflicts.
 3. Third Grade Education – The number of students served totaled 7,789, an increase of approximately 1,500 students from the 2011-2012 school year. The goal was to serve at least 7,000 from ten different school districts.
- What were the challenges and obstacles you encountered (if any) in attaining your goals & objectives? How did you overcome and/or address the challenges and obstacles? What were the lessons learned?

Challenges:

1. Seed Bank Study – plants were not routinely watered at the school sites. A required task was added to the curriculum/Seed Bank Book to help the students and classroom teachers set a maintenance and watering routine.
2. Grassland and High School Habitat – students were recruited from clubs, and thus their participation was voluntary and subject to other events in their lives.

The recruitment and participation aspect of the program was tackled head on with the development of a comprehensive short-and long range “logic model” for the program. Included is discussion as to how the content of the SRPF Habitat Studies and Restoration program can be integrated into science and/or environmental science classes at the middle and high school level with the Murrieta Valley Unified School District. Please see the attached “logic model” detailing the plan.

The 5 – 12 grade program continues to be a pilot project giving time to perfect the individual components to ensure that the education and restoration experiences are valid, fun and impactful on the student and the Reserve.

- Describe any unintended positive outcomes as a result of the efforts supported by this grant.

One of the restoration unintended outcomes was the discovery of a new growth of a rare flower...the "Chocolate Lily". The previous year's restoration method included the burning of certain sections of the selected project area. As students were beginning to re-plot the study area, they found new growth of this rare plant. The plant heretofore has only been found in one section of the Reserve far from the grassland plot in a different habitat (Bush grass) area. The students were very excited at this finding and it became a terrific teaching tool. They began to study why the plants showed up in this area. Were the seeds laying dormant for hundreds of years and did the burn activate the new growth? After the burn, many birds flocked to the burn area. Did they bring the seeds? The students became very engaged in the mystery. The unintended outcome of a new batch of a rare flower helped to achieve the intended outcome of exciting and hopefully inspiring the students to further explore and take care of our natural world.

Ultimately, we hope that the Habitat Studies and Restoration program can be replicated and used by many other schools and districts. We are beginning to receive interest in the program from outside of the Murrieta school district and we did not anticipate this happening at this juncture. We see this as a very positive, unintended outcome at this time.

The local Chamber of Commerce learned of our work and the expanded programs and nominated the SRPF as Non-Profit of the Year.

- Describe the overall effect this grant has had on your organization.

The support and confidence of the S. L. Gimbel Foundation Fund towards the SRPF programs has greatly impacted SRPF's ability to continue to evolve the older student programs. There are very few sources to fund environmental education programs, especially those developed by a non-profit. SRPF programs are evolving into an "Environmental Education Pathway" for students in grades 3-12. Our programs are a "one-of-kind" collaborative programs that are augmenting environmental science requirements, while providing experiences for youth to become stewards of our natural world. We could not continue to develop the programs without the support of the S. L. Gimbel family! Thank you!

- Tell us a few success stories that made an impact on your organization and/or community as a result of this grant.

Three middle school students, who participated in the first year of the grassland project, enrolled at Murrieta Mesa High School and sought out the Science teacher and asked to participate in the high school component of our program. They are returning to the Reserve this school in the advanced program.

We discovered that 62% of the students participating in the middle school component also had participated in the Third Grade Education and Third Grade Title I Outreach programs.

- Provide a financial report on the use of your grant funds (expenditures).

Research tools and materials, planting supplies, GPS, Trail Prep	\$1,000
Outreach Teaching Displays	1,000
Para-Botanist	500
Transportation/Buses	10,000
UCR Graduate Students	1,000
Teacher Release/Substitute	<u>1,500</u>
	\$15,000

- ❖ Please send copies of publicity and other promotional materials.
- ❖ All variances or time extensions must be approved by The Community Foundation's Grant Committee. Please contact us at 951-684-4194, ext. 114 immediately if a variance or extension becomes necessary.

Please return the completed form to:

Celia Cudiamat, Executive Vice President
 3700 Sixth St., Suite 200, Riverside, CA 92501 or fax to 951-684-1911
 Or email to: ccudiamat@thecommunityfoundation.net