



The Community Foundation
Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

**The Desert Legacy Fund
Conservation Grant Program**

Organization: _____ Sonoran Institute _____

Date of Award: _____ 4/1/2010 _____ Amount of the Award: _____ \$334,000 _____

- What were the goals and objectives for the grant specified in the original grant proposal?
 - A Morongo Basin Regional Conservation Plan, with components including the Conservation Priorities Report, land ownership and parcel analysis, Morongo Basin Alternative Futures report
 - Conservation plan implementation, including local level planning decisions and policies to support the plan and a Planning for People and Wildlife initiative.
 - Local capacity building
 - Regional trails program
 - Local fee simple purchases and conservation easements to protect priority lands

- Describe the project's key outcomes and results.
 - While a conservation plan per se was not produced, the components including the Conservation Priorities Report, land ownership and parcel analysis (contained in the CPS report) and the Morongo Basin Alternative Futures report were developed and distributed in the Morongo Basin. These products are available for download at:
<http://www.sonoraninstitute.org/where-we-work/southwest/morongo-basin.html>
 - Local general plan development processes were informed of project outcomes and both the local town of Yucca Valley and the city of Twentynine Palms integrated the SC Wildlands wildlife linkage design corridors into their general plan update mapping and plan development. One aspect of the work in the Morongo Basin was to create a regional vision for wildlife connectivity. The work of the Open Space Group as described in the Conservation Priorities Report accomplished this by identifying wildlife corridors and land parcels that needed to be preserved in order to maintain wildlife connectivity across the basin.
 - The Planning for People and Wildlife initiative included a well-attended local workshop held in November of 2011, and subsequent development of the Model Wildlife Overlay Ordinance, including ordinance text and a user's guide for local desert communities. The Model Ordinance is available at the web link above, as well as through the SCOTie Best Practices website:
<http://scotie.sonoraninstitute.org/component/content/article/6-wildlife-habitat-and-corridor-protection/239-morongo-basin-ca-model-desert-wildlife-connectivity-and-habitat-overlay-ordinance.html>



- Sonoran Institute provided data, mapping and technical support to several local non-profit conservation organizations in support of local, state and national level planning efforts including the Solar PEIS and the California Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP).
 - Support to the Twentynine Palms community trails plan included assistance with planning logistics, community meeting facilitation, and plan production and mapping.
 - Efforts by the Mojave Desert Land Trust and the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, with support of the Joshua Tree National Park and others, have resulted in the long-term protection of 955 acres adjacent to the Joshua Tree National Park, as well as a recent successful acquisition of a gateway parcel of Joshua Tree forest located within the Joshua Tree North wildlife linkage corridor.
- What were the challenges and obstacles you encountered (if any) in attaining your goals & objectives?

While the Morongo Basin Open Space Group worked to be proactive on this front, turnover in leadership and in local government hindered the ultimate production of a regional conservation plan, which had been supported early on in the process. However, key players involved in the project continue their work and commitment to regional conservation and recognize the importance of the work, and are seeking ways to maintain a successor effort to the project.

- Describe the partnerships developed or strengthened as a result of this grant.

The opportunity for the Open Space Group to provide a forum for discussion and interaction was often cited as one of the key strengths and benefits of the work. Several partners maintain and continue these efforts. The local land trust and Marine Base are a good example. Other examples are the work that the National Park Conservation Association has done in support of protection of areas outside the national park, which complement Open Space Group conservation goals pertaining to wildlife and community identity; and the work of the Morongo Basin Conservation Association in raising awareness and promoting community activities around dark night skies, control of invasive plants, and water-wise desert landscaping.

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

The success of the Conservation Priority Setting project and the methodologies developed led to a \$45,000 contract with the National Park Service to conduct a similar project to map conservation priorities between desert park units in California.

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

The work in the Morongo Basin was part of the Sonoran Institute's 2007 strategic plan "flagship demonstration project," involving discrete engagements that lead to regional conservation planning outcomes. As such it has provided the organization with insights and direct experience on conducting a project of this type, which differs from the Institute's Legacy Programs, where the organization's engagement is long term addressing a broader suite of environmental issues.

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



- ❖ Please send copies of publicity and other promotional materials.

A hard copy of the 2012 *Morongo Basin Conservation Priorities Report* was forwarded to TCF on publication. Digital versions of the report and other products are available at:
<http://www.sonorainstitute.org/where-we-work/southwest/morongo-basin.html>

- ❖ Please e-mail the completed form to ccudiamat@thecommunityfoundation.net or fax to (951) 684-1911.
- ❖ All variances or time extensions must be approved by the Foundation's Grant Committee. Please contact the Program Dept. at 951-684-4194, ext. 114 immediately if a variance or extension becomes necessary.



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WildSpaces Grant

**Sonoran Institute's Morongo Project
The Desert Legacy Fund at the Community Foundation
Service Riverside and San Bernardino Counties**

Financial Report for Award 201415 30461

Final Cumulative Financial Report for the Award Period Ending March 2013

Note: The time period covered should correspond with the date of the grant award until present

EXPENSES	PROPOSED PROJECT BUDGET*	Total Actual Wildspaces	MATCH SOURCES	TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES
Salaries - specify individual salaries	231,262			
Amelia Stier		693	865	865
Cameron Ellis		9,025	9,548	18,573
Claire Zugmeyer		3,880		3,880
Ian Wilson		3,744		3,744
Joe Marlow		386		386
John Lavey		504		504
John Shepard		17,045	314	17,359
Marjo Curgus		11,674		11,674
Nina Chambers		329		329
Stephanie Weigel		154,884		154,884
Benefits		41,105	2,544	43,649
Professional & Contractual Services (Please list individually)	25,700			-
Audrey L. Spillane		880		880
Craighead Environmental Research Institute		9,200		9,200
Elizabeth McLaughlin		3,043		3,043
Fregonese Associates		-	2,210	2,210
Kina Murphy		894	4,106	5,000
Nina Trasoff & Associates		180		180
Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger		7,500		7,500
Suzanne Schafer		6,020		6,020
Terry Moody		774		774
Theresa Reindel Bingham		4,050		4,050
Travel	16,356	9,020	885	9,905
Postage				
Staff Training & Ducs/Subscriptions				
Supplies/Materials	10,210	7,812	61	7,789
Rent and Utilities				
Grants/Sponsorships/Participant Stipends				
Telephone/Internet				
Printing, Copying & Photos	7,000	7,438		7,438
Equipment & Supplies	3,000	2,741		2,741
Other (Meetings/Workshops)	10,108	814		814
Indirect Costs @ Federal Rate 34.74%	-	-	81,420	81,420
Other (Overhead 10% Foundation)	30,364	30,364	833	31,197
TOTAL	334,000	334,000	102,786	436,786

* Modified Original Budget to reflect the \$334,000 award