



The Community Foundation
Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund Grant Evaluation Form

Grant Period:

November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2012

Organization: The Nature Conservancy in Alabama
Contact Name: Linda Montgomery Title: Director of Philanthropy
Phone Number: 205 251 1155 x125 Grant Period: 11/1/11 - 10/31/12
Award Amount: \$25,000.00 Grant Number: 2011743

- Describe the project's key outcomes and results based on your goals and objectives. Provide the number of clients served and other relevant statistics.
- 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?
- Describe any unintended positive outcomes as a result of the efforts supported by this grant.
- Describe the overall effect this grant has had on your organization.
- Tell us a few success stories that made an impact on your organization and/or community as a result of this grant.
- Provide a financial report on the use of your grant funds (expenditures).
- ❖ 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, Vice President of Grant Programs
3700 Sixth St., Suite 200, Riverside, CA 92501 or fax to 951-684-1911
Or email to: ccudiamat@thecommunityfoundation.net

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Key Outcomes and Results:

With the assistance of the S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund and several other private donors, The Nature Conservancy in Alabama expanded our most-visited preserve, Splinter Hill Bog, by closing on two tracts of land totaling 247 acres on June 15, 2012. By acquiring the "Carrigan Tract", the Conservancy has been able to expand its footprint in a key conservation area.

The Nature Conservancy, along with the State of Alabama, has identified the Perdido River Corridor Conservation Area as a portfolio site and, specifically, the Splinter Hill Bog site as a Stage 1 Priority Site. Splinter Hill Bog is an extremely important part of this Conservation Area in terms of both location and biological diversity. Splinter Hill Bog is the turn or "elbow" of the corridor, which will link the Lillian Swamp and Perdido River with the Mobile-Tensaw Delta.

The Splinter Hill Bog Conservation Area also contains perhaps the best and largest remaining area of white-topped pitcher plant seepage bogs in Alabama. The greater site was historically known to contain the Panhandle Lily, a globally imperiled plant, and American Chaffseed, a species listed as endangered. There are also healthy populations of several other globally-rare plant species occurring here, including the White Topped Pitcher Plant, Purple Pitcher Plant and the Wherry's Sweet Pitcher Plant.

Another appealing feature of this Conservation Area is the presence of longleaf forest and its habitat. Once occupying 90 million acres stretching from Virginia to Texas, the longleaf forest has been reduced to 3% of its range. Splinter Hill Bog boasts one of the best privately-owned longleaf forests, along with its bog system, left in the East Gulf Coastal Plains. There are significant acres of relatively mature longleaf pine in the area with several thousand acres of restorable longleaf habitat.

Successful acquisition of this additional acreage has enhanced the Chapter's land portfolio and added to our ability to restore and protect land of significant ecological value. As the chapter does not have the means to track or officially count the number of visitors to the preserve on an annual basis, we are unable to quantify the impact to the public, but through specially-planned work days, field trips, donor outings and promotion of the preserve on our Web site, we hope to continue to increase visitation and interest.

Challenges and/or Obstacles:

The only obstacle faced by the Alabama Chapter in the acquisition of this land was the garnering of private funds to bring the transaction to fruition. The Chapter raised approximately one-half of the total cost before closing on the property in June, 2012. The remaining balance is being covered by an internal loan issued by the Conservancy's national headquarters. Our plan is to retire this debt in three years through additional fundraising.

Leveraged Strategies / Success Stories/ Unintended Outcomes:

With a total price tag of over \$350,000, the Carrigan Tract presented a significant fundraising challenge to the Alabama Chapter. Unlike most of our other preserves – and the remainder of Splinter Hill Bog, where years of conservation have produced stunning results – the Carrigan Tract, having been “clear cut,” is not particularly attractive at present. Other parts of the Tract were “fire-suppressed,” resulting in the growth of weeds and undesirable hardwood species.

However, the lead gift from the Gimbel Foundation gave us just the kick we needed to reach out to other, more local donors. Soon we had raised another \$37,500. We also applied for and were a finalist for a grant of \$106,000 from a local women’s giving circle. Because of the funds we had in hand, including the Gimbel grant, we were able to assure them that we would go forward with the purchase, should they award us the grant. (Unfortunately, we did not receive that grant.) However, we completed the purchase, using an internal loan from the Conservancy.

Another part of our strategy was to use the Tract as a private 1:1 match for a grant we applied for through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. While we will not receive official notice until the second week of August, we have been told that we will receive this grant. The total NFWF grant is \$150,000 and will be used to carry out restoration and stewardship activities including planting of 100 acres of longleaf pine, several prescribed fire days and extensive landowner outreach programs (at Splinter Hill Bog and on the Carrigan Tract specifically). Purchase of the Carrigan Tract was critical to our ability to pursue this sizeable federal grant.

Finally, an unexpected and positive outcome is that we invited employees of a local power company to a “work day” at Splinter Hill Bog, and they were so impressed that they are considering adopting the Preserve as an ongoing volunteer project.

Overall Effect:

As demonstrated, the grant of \$25,000 from the S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund for purchase of the Carrigan Tract has had a positive domino effect on the Alabama Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. This lead gift – from outside Alabama – encouraged other private funders to also give generously. Now, the completed purchase is leveraging a federal grant for \$150,000 to restore the land. The gift was impactful, with significant results for the ecological footprint of the Conservancy in Alabama.

Financial Summary:

Carrigan Tract: Splinter Hill Bog

Purchase Price	\$272,000.00
LPF* Interest: (if carried the full 36 months)	\$22,256.19
Other Expenses: closing costs	\$3,470.00
Tax Obligation	\$0.00
Stewardship Startup	\$0.00
Stewardship Endowment	\$54,400.00
Total Project Costs to TNC	\$352,126.19
Less funds-in hand*	-\$217,240.19
Total LPF loan amount	\$134,886.00

*LPF = Land Protection Fund or internal loan program for Conservancy state chapters to borrow at lower interest rates from organization headquarters in Arlington, VA.

**"Funds in-hand" included the \$25,000 gift from the S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund paired with other grants from private Alabama foundations, revenue from removal of non-native timber, and land acquisition funds on-hand within the Chapter.