

Annual Report
Eureka Conservation District
Fiscal Year 2021-2022
Approved September 14, 2022

Instructions: Please leave all text in place and submit your answers below each bullet point. If the bullet point is not something the Conservation District board can answer or is not relevant to your Conservation District, please note that with NA. Please remember to SIGN and DATE.

NOTE: you may attach pictures, PDFs, or any additional information the board would like submitted to the SCC at the end of the document. You may use the excel or word version.

Conservation District Information:

- Please identify the Conservation District board members, their positions, and seated terms.
 - Vickie Buchanan Chairwoman Term: 2021-2024
 - Jim Gallagher Vice-Chairman Term: 2019-2022
 - Carl Olsen Member Term: 2019-2022
 - Gary McCuin Member Term: 2021-2024
 - Denise Moyle Member Term: 2019-2022
 - Jake Tibbitts Eureka County Representative Term: 2021-2022
 - Shasta Blackeye-Adair District Clerk

- Briefly describe your Conservation District's mission:
 - The mission of the Eureka Conservation District is to coordinate technical and educational resources to meet the needs of the individuals within the District for the conservation of natural resources.

- Describe the Conservation District's major achievements for the FY.
 - All major achievements are identified and discussed below, primarily in the 'Outreach/Education' and 'Projects' sections.

Goals:

- Briefly describe your Conservation Districts goals:
 - The principal goal of the ECD is to conserve natural resources – soil, water and related resources – for current and future wise-use and enjoyment. Conservation assistance is made available free of charge, to district landowners and operators

through coordination of working agreements and pursuit of partnerships and project funding with the USDA-NRCS and other federal agencies, state agencies, local agencies, such as the Eureka County Natural Resources Department, and many private entities such as the mining industry and wildlife groups.

- What goals did your Conservation District accomplish this year?
 - Built a new partnership with NDOW and funded a new, novel project (cloud seeding).
- What goals did the CD struggle to accomplish and why?
 - Limited time and capacity still make it difficult to accomplish all ECD would like to get done. Many of the needs identified are not being met or addressed because of time and capacity constraints.

Meetings:

- Please list all meetings dates for the Conservation Districts of the last fiscal year:
 - September 23, 2021
 - February 3, 2022
 - April 13, 2022
 - May 25, 2022
 - June 15, 2022
- Identify needs, if any, to help your meetings be more effective, efficient and collaborative.
 - More public and landowner participation.
- List meeting material needs if any.
 - N/A
- List meeting guest speakers or guest presentations which helped the Conservation District meet its goals and mission statement.
 - ECD meetings are typically well attended by partner agencies. We have good relationships with various agencies and organizations and usually can bring in the right person to present or work with us when needed.
- Describe any training needs related to holding public meetings.
 - N/A

Outreach and Education:

- What outreach methods did the Conservation District use in the fiscal year?
 - Various email distribution lists to partners, landowners, and producers.
 - Public postings, in addition to those required by Open Meeting Law.
 - Personal connections and specific targeting of agencies, organizations, and individuals as needed.
- Were the outreach methods successful? Why or Why not?

- Yes, for the most part. There may be some stakeholders we are still not reaching or partnerships that have not been developed.
- What education opportunities did the Conservation District participate in?
 - The 2022 National Association of Conservation Districts Poster Contest was successful at reaching youth and engaging them in conservation topics. The poster theme, provided by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), of “Healthy Forests, Healthy Community”, assisted youth with understanding the importance of balance in nature and in our everyday lives. It also created an opportunity for the youth to think about conservation practices and start implementing them while they are still young. The ECD provided poster contest materials to the Eureka Elementary School, Crescent Valley Elementary School and to the Pine Valley area students. The students were briefly educated on meaning of the theme in order to assist them with depicting/drawing the theme on their poster. Once all posters were submitted, they were judged by the ECD Supervisors and the top three posters in each age category were awarded cash prizes and certificates. The winning posters from the local competition were forwarded onto the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts (NvACD) state poster contest. Please see Attachment 1.

| Winners | |
|---|--|
| Kindergarten through 1 st Grade | 1 st Place-Jovanny Dominguez 2 nd Place-Alex Rains 3 rd Place-RaeLynn Bunner |
| 2 nd Grade through 3 rd Grade | 1 st Place-Michaela Tye 2 nd Place-Ellie Christensen 3 rd Place-Jaxon Taylor |
| 4 th Grade through 6 th Grade | 1 st Place-Annie Tibbitts 2 nd Place-Jacqueline Kofoed 3 rd Place-Kaitlin Cloninger |
| 7 th Grade through 9 th Grade | 1 st Place-Jenna Rosener |

- The Eureka Conservation District helped sponsor the Junior Duck Stamp Program that is coordinated through the Eureka County Juvenile Probation Office. The Junior Duck Stamp Program is presented at the Eureka Elementary School, the Crescent Valley Elementary School, and to Pine Valley students on an annual basis. Students were educated on waterfowl habits and related conservation efforts. The ECD provided a sponsorship to the Junior Duck Stamp Program for expenses on materials and educational information. Please see Attachment 2.

| Winners | |
|---|---|
| Eureka | |
| Pre K through 1 st Grade | Jovanny Dominguez |
| 2 nd Grade | Ellie Christensen |
| 3 rd Grade | Westin Taylor and Boone Tibbitts |
| 4 th through 6 th Grade | Annie Tibbitts |
| High School | MarCia Brown |
| State Winners | |
| Elementary | High School |
| 1 st Place-Boone Tibbitts 2 nd Place-Westin Taylor 2 nd Place-Annie Tibbitts 3 rd Place-Jaxon Taylor | 1 st Place-MarCia Brown 2 nd Place-Jaylea Eller 2 nd Place-Jillian Bludworth |

- The ECD made continuing education scholarships available to Eureka High School students who were interested in continuing their education in an agricultural and/or natural resource related field (this area of study is preferred, it is not mandatory). The scholarship applications were made available in April 2022. In June 2022, two scholarships were awarded.
 - Eureka High School College Scholarship Recipient's:
 - James Quade Filippini
 - Molly Zimmerman
- The ECD also made college scholarships available to any and all current college students from Eureka County, Nevada, to continue to further their education in an agricultural and/or natural resource related field (this area of study is preferred, it is not mandatory). In June 2022, one college scholarship was awarded.
 - College Scholarship Recipient:
 - Katie Damele
- What is needed for the Conservation District to provide more outreach and education?
 - ECD had a Facebook page set up some time ago. We are not using it and other social media as could be done. This requires a lot of time and human capacity to accomplish.
 - We would like to hold more educational workshops. But, we have seen a general lack of interest and attendance when we have done so in the past. Finding topics of interest and other incentives to get people to attend is a struggle.

Natural Resources:

- What natural resource concerns did the Conservation District address?

- Our consistent focus the last few years has been on water quantity, drought, pinion and juniper encroachment/infill, and noxious weed control.
- What natural resources concerns were brought forward but not addressed? And why were they not addressed by the Conservation District?
 - Nothing new has been brought forward this year. However, we have discussed moving forward on a Conservation Action Plan (CAP) to better focus capacity to address the needs identified in the Resource Needs Assessment (RNA) we completed a few years ago. Without more human and financial capacity, we are not likely to be able to address much more than we are already working on.
- What natural resource concerns does the Conservation District need addressing or need more information on?
 - See above on development of CAP to fully address RNA.
- What natural resource concerns did the Conservation Districts Local Work Group with NRCS identify as the top priority?
 - For Cropland with the top practices to address those concerns:
 - #1-Insufficient Irrigation Water
 - IWM #1 practice giving more priority to higher efficiency systems
 - #2-Soil Degradation-Soil Quality
 - #3-Degraded Plant Condition
 - Minimize tillage
 - Cover Crops
 - Introduction of Livestock (aftermath grazing)
 - For Rangeland with the top practices to address those concerns:
 - #1-Degraded Plant Condition
 - Addressed by livestock watering systems for distribution &
 - Herbaceous weed control for noxious weeds + Range Seeding
 - Grazing management systems
 - Woody species management + Range seeding
 - #2-Insufficient Water
 - Livestock Watering system
 - Brush Mgmt. (tree removal)
 - #3-Soil Erosion (Streambank areas)
 - Bio-engineering
 - BDAs
 - Critical area plantings
 - For Pasture with the top practices to address those concerns:
 - #1-Degraded Plant Condition
 - Grazing systems
 - Seeding for diversity
 - Herbaceous weed control (weeds and encroaching brush)

- #2-Insufficient Irrigation Water
 - Irrigation delivery
 - Livestock watering systems
 - #3 Soil Quality Degradation
 - Inter-seeding for Soil health
 - Grazing system
 - The LWG also developed additional recommendations:
 - Prescribed Grazing-528 on Public Lands-consideration of payment for prescribed grazing on BLM allotments and FS allotments.
 - Emergency Fund Pools-In the Past NRCS has had some Emergency Fund Pools to help out with wildfires, that doesn't seem to occur anymore, when there is a fire NRCS doesn't have the ability to respond with funding in a timely manner, the contracting process does not coincide with when practices need to be applied to the land
 - The LWG would like the STAC to focus on promoting cross jurisdictional management. Working more closely with BLM and FS
 - There is a concern that there are no Riparian ESD's in NV, however UT does have some developed. There is a rumor that work on the ESD's has ceased, is that true?
 - There is a great potential for cropland to be converted to permanent cover in the near future in the Service Area due to the over allocation of water resources. Are there any NRCS programs to help with this directly and make this a priority?
 - Along the lines of Soil Health, how are rodents being addressed? The common practice is to rip the field to control the rodents, however this contradicts the principles of soil health. Are there any other ways for NRCS to address the rodent problem on pivots?
 - There is a concern in Eureka County that several NRCS contracts have been awarded to junior water rights holders, how might those contracts be affected if, in the next 5 years, those lands are taken out of production by order of the NV State Water Engineer?
 - There is a concern that NRCS contracts are too restrictive. When new science is available the contract holder should have the ability to adopt the new science under the contract instead of the practice that was contracted. Are there options to make the contracts more fluid?
 - What technical assistance did the Conservation District or staff provide for NRCS?
 - NRCS either attends or provides a report for every ECD meeting. We have good conversations with NRCS regarding projects and practices and addressing concerns. ECD also provided local knowledge regarding a couple projects when requested by NRCS.

Projects:

- List any projects and give a brief description of the project and the Conservation Districts' role.
 - Martin Ranch Fence Project
 - ECD entered into a contract with NDOW to manage a fencing project where 4.6 miles of wildlife friendly fence were constructed around the upper and lower private meadows of the Martin Ranch on the Monitor Range. The fence had to be surveyed and the project inspected and approved by NDOW before payments was processed. Final cost for the project was \$62,473.15.
 - Diamond Valley Groundwater Management Plan (DVGMP):
 - The ECD continues to, budget for and makes itself available to participating in and facilitating the DVGMP in order to better understand alternatives for the water issues being faced in Diamond Valley (DV). The ECD has been providing facilitation, administrative assistance, and sponsoring lunch at the DVGMP workshops. The DVGMP is now completed and approved by the State Engineer but was overturned by the District Court and appealed to the Nevada Supreme Court. In June 2022, the NV Supreme Court reinstated the DVGMP and ECD continued to share information on the status of the DVGMP and offer assistance as requested, as it wended it way through the legal system. ECD anticipates continuing, where appropriate and requested, to assist on conservation-related matters under the DVGMP.
 - Desert Research Institute Cloud Seeding
 - ECD participated in funding cloud seeding within the Humboldt River Watershed administered by the Desert Research Institute (DRI). Many other partners were involved and provided funding, including the Humboldt River Basin Water Authority, Nevada Gold Mines, and various counties. ECD contributed \$3,500.00. Seeding occurred in the Ruby Mountains with six generators that seeded 26 different storm periods, utilizing 704 hours of generator hours with an estimated increase of 13,000-acre feet of snow water equivalent. In the Santa Rosa Mountains, there were two generators that seeded 24 different storm periods, utilizing 177 generator hours with an estimated increase of 3,300-acre feet of snow water equivalent.
 - Rangeland Drills
 - ECD owns three rangeland drills that continue to be leased and used by local landowners. By cooperating with individuals, groups, and local officials in having the rangeland drills available, the county is advancing in conservation goals and objectives. The use of the drills by local

landowners has proven beneficial for post-fire rehabilitations, pasture restorations, and noxious weed control. Having this service available not only benefits the local landowner but helps improve long term conservation planning. The drills were rented out at least 3 times over this past year.

- Weed Control
 - The Eureka County Board of Commissioners, through the authority granted in SB 276, designated the ECD Board of Supervisors to become the Weed Control District Board of Directors in January 2016. While the budgeting for the Weed District falls under the Board of Commissioners, ECD has directed the work completed under the Weed District and continued partnerships with landowners to control noxious weeds. Eureka County hired a full-time weed technician in this fiscal year and the technician participated in many ECD meetings and coordinated directly with ECD on weed control efforts. Many thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours were devoted to weed control this year through spraying, herbicide distribution to landowners, and providing technical assistance. ECD also purchased a storage container to share with the Weed District. The container is located at the Eureka County laydown yard and cost \$5,997.00.

Grants:

- What new grant/s were awarded to the CD? Describe the grant work and goals, the amount awarded and any partners on the grant.
 - ECD entered into an umbrella contract with NDOW which allows NDOW to provide task orders to ECD for various projects. The Martin Ranch Fence Project was completed under this mechanism. The cap on work under the NDOW contract is \$99,999.00 with a term extending to September 1, 2024.
 - ECD worked with Eureka County through the Weed District (which the ECD Board serves as the Board of Directors) to apply for a new assistance agreement with Battle Mountain BLM for weed control. The current agreement expired in July 2022. While not awarded under the reporting period for this report, the new agreement was funded recently.
 - ECD was awarded \$18,000 in May 2022 from the State Conservation Commission Competitive Sage Grouse Grant Program. Work under the grant was initiated in June 2022. Private land owners, BLM, and Eureka County are all partners on this grant.
- What grant/s were closed out this fiscal year? Describe the grant work and goals accomplished. What was the final amount of grant money spent and amount matched by the CD?

- None
- What grant/s are ongoing, and describe the work done this year? What is the current amount spent under the grant and the amount of match provided by the CD?
 - 2022 State Conservation Commission Competitive Sage Grouse Grant Program. No funding expended thus far. ECD committed \$30,000 as match.
- What overall grant needs were identified by the Conservation District?
 - More human capacity to apply for and manage grants.

Partners:

- What Partners did the Conservation District work within the FY?
 - NRCS, NDOW, BLM, DCNR, private landowners, and Eureka County.
- What Partners would the Conservation District like to collaborate with in the future?
 - More landowners, tribes (especially Duckwater Shoshone Tribe), and other community-based organizations.

Needs:

- Identify some of the needs that came up for the CD in the fiscal year and please identify them as on the following: 1. Ongoing need 2. Specific to FY 3. Addressed in FY 4: Other(explain)
 - Nothing not already identified and discussed above.
- What strategy is the CD taking to address those needs identified?
 - Development of Conservation Action Plan to address Resource Needs Assessment and other identified needs.

Please add any information, photos, questions and or concerns identified as part of the fiscal year close-out process.

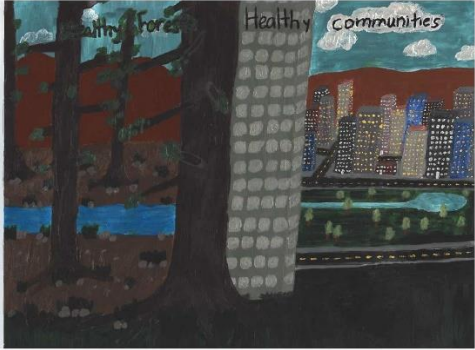
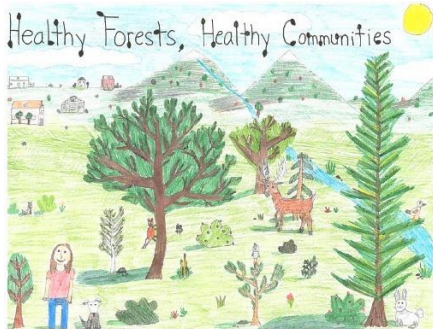
Attachment 1

Attachment 2

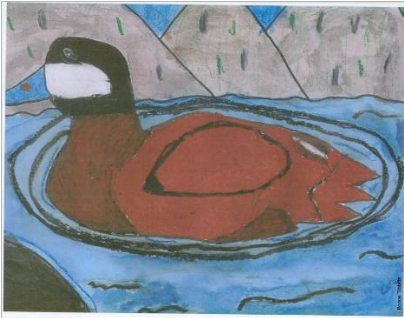
Signed by: 

Date: 9-14-22

ANNUAL POSTER CONTEST WINNERS



JUNIOR DUCK STAMP WINNERS



EUREKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022

RECEIPT SOURCE AMOUNT

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| State Funds - Annual CD Distribution | \$4,068.26 |
| Additional State Funds | \$0.00 |
| County Funds | \$0.00 |
| City Funds | \$0.00 |
| Other Government Funds | \$0.00 |
| Administrative Income (specify) | \$0.00 |
| Interest – Money Market Account | \$23.46 |
| TOTAL | \$4,091.72 |
| Grants | |
| CD Program Sage Grouse Grant | \$18,000.00 |
| NDOW Martin Ranch Fence Project | \$62,473.15 |
| TOTAL | \$80,473.15 |
| Donations | \$0.00 |
| Other Sources of Income-Reimbursement | \$0.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$84,564.87 |

**EUREKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022**

EXPENDITURE AMOUNT

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Spending Categories (Edit as needed) | |
| Office Expenses: Bank Paper Statement Fees | \$30.00 |
| Office Expenses: Postage | \$167.95 |
| Office Expenses: Office Supplies | \$190.84 |
| Office Expenses: New laptop with software | \$1,827.77 |
| Education: Higher Ed Scholarships | \$5,500.00 |
| Education: Range Camp Donation | \$1,491.47 |
| Education: Duck Stamp Contest Donation | \$350.00 |
| Education: NACD Poster Contest Prizes | \$350.00 |
| Project: DRI Cloud Seeding | \$3,500.00 |
| Equipment Expenses: Storage Container for Weed District and ECD supplies | \$5,997.00 |
| Dues: NvACD | \$600.00 |
| Dues: NACD | \$775.00 |
| | |
| Total | \$20,780.03 |
| | |
| TRAVEL Expenditures | |
| Total | \$0.00 |
| | |
| Grant Expenditures | |
| Project: NDOW Martin Fence Project | \$62,473.15 |
| Total | \$62,473.15 |
| | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$83,253.18 |

EUREKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

USE OF STATE APPROPRIATED FUNDS

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Amount State Appropriated Funds | \$4,068.26 |
| | |
| Funds Expended: | |
| DRI Cloud Seeding | \$3,500.00 |
| Duck Stamp Poster Contest | \$350.00 |
| NACD Conservation Youth Poster Contest | \$218.26 |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| Balance Remaining: | \$0.00 |
| Matching Funds Spent: (see other Expenditures) | \$79,184.92 |


Authorized Signature:



EUREKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| BEGINNING OF YEAR FUND BALANCE: | |
| List all bank accounts: | |
| Nevada State Bank Checking Account | \$ 30,801.38 |
| Nevada State Bank Money Market Account | \$ 117,322.63 |
| Total funds carried forward | \$ 148,124.01 |
| END OF YEAR INCOME: | |
| Total from Receipts this fiscal year: | |
| Total from receipts page (automatically populates) | \$84,564.87 |
| Total funds available (including carry over) | \$232,688.88 |
| END OF YEAR EXPENDITURES: | |
| Total from expenditures page (automatically populates) | \$83,253.18 |
| Any Pending expenditures | \$ - |
| Total expenditures: | \$83,253.18 |
| SUMMARY: (these will populate as you fill out sheets) | |
| Carried over total from previous FY | \$148,124.01 |
| Total of Receipts | \$84,564.87 |
| Total of Expenditures | \$83,253.18 |
| TOTAL | \$149,435.70 |
| Authorized Signature: | |
|  | |