



## FY2018 (7/1/17 – 6/30/18) Annual Work Plan Smith Valley Conservation District

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The Annual Work Plan and Annual Budget for the Smith Valley Conservation District (SVCD) were reviewed, updated and approved at the May 23, 2017, Board of Supervisors meeting.

### Natural Resource Priorities and Goals:

- **Improve natural resources and reduce soil erosion** – provide landowners financial and technical assistance to improve water resource quality and quantity, efficiency of delivery, bank erosion, sedimentation and flood control of priority watersheds (Desert Creek and Dalzell watersheds, West Walker River and East Walker River); reduce nonpoint source pollution; reduce energy demands; develop alternative energy sources; reduce fire potential; improve grazing management; improve sage grouse habitat; improve fishery habitat; provide fuels reduction/education; provide technical assistance wherever possible; and provide assistance to land planning agencies
- **Invasive and Noxious Weeds inventory and treatment** – Smith Valley Conservation District in partnership with Mason Valley Conservation District and the Walker River Basin Cooperative Weed Management Area will continue comprehensive noxious weed inventory, mapping and management within the Walker River watershed including associated tributaries; inventory and treat noxious weeds in Northern Nevada; and assist private landowners with noxious weed management
- **Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement** – Smith Valley Conservation District is partnering with the Nevada Department of Wildlife to remove young Pinyon and Juniper (PJ) trees that have grown since the initial removal treatment of the area. Other PJ removals have been identified that the District could perform as funding is secured.

### Information – Education/Public Outreach Priorities and Goals:

- Outreach priority – promote the protection of prime and important farmland within District boundaries by:
  - Provide guidelines to evaluate and mitigate the consequences of land taken out of traditional agricultural production and land denuded of native vegetation
  - Encourage adoption of an open space plan which would enable the District, in partnership with other agencies, to access funding for the implementation of worthwhile conservation projects
- Outreach priority - alleviate conflicts between the urban/agricultural interfaces by:
  - Review Smith Valley Master Plan as needed
  - Conduct subdivision reviews and submit recommendations, on behalf of Lyon County
  - Provide assistance to residents regarding ditch maintenance, maintenance of easements and



right-of-ways, control of flooding and erosion due to loss of native ground cover, noxious & invasive weed infestations; fuels reduction and fire prevention

- Outreach priority – sponsor registration fees for one student to attend Nevada Range Camp
- General Public Goal – provide stakeholders with noxious weed educational opportunities including handbooks, guides and brochures that detail identification, methods of dispersal, treatments and contacts for control
- General Public Goal – provide landowners with resource management and conservation technical and financial assistance

### **District Operations Priorities and Funding Sources:**

#### **SVCD Goals for District Operations**

- Complete Financial Report, Annual Work Plan, Budget and other reporting as necessary
- Inventory, map, and treat noxious weeds on private lands within District Boundaries; implement noxious weed treatment on federally managed lands within the basin.
- Treat weeds on private property as requested by landowners
- Cut and treat tamarisk along the Walker River
- Attend the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting
- Submit Proposed Budget and Annual Work Plan to State Conservation Commission
- Conduct “normal” year to year business including:
  - Hold regularly scheduled board meetings
  - Pay annual dues (NvACD, Nevada Weed Management Assoc.)
  - Clerical administration
  - Subdivision reviews
  - Promotion of conservation
  - Attend applicable meetings
  - Expand public relations
  - Apply for and administer grants
  - Nominate local conservation leaders for awards
  - Participate on the Nevada Forest Stewardship Committee
  - Attend State Technical Committee and Local Work Group meetings



#### **Anticipated funding sources for fiscal year 2017-2018 and contract expiration dates:**

- *State:*
  - Nevada Department of Agriculture (\$4,444.09) Noxious weed treatment (Medusahead) for Sage Grouse Habitat improvement

## **2 Smith Valley Conservation District FY 2018 Annual Work Plan**

- Nevada Department of Agriculture (\$5,445.66) Noxious weed treatment on the Walker River Corridor
- State Conservation Commission (\$16,836.41) Noxious weed treatment (Medusahead) for Sage Grouse Habitat improvement
- Nevada Department of Wildlife (\$10,675) for Sage Grouse Habitat improvement
- Nevada Department of Wildlife (\$15,000) PJ treatment maintenance.
- *Local:* Lyon County, NV (\$7,500)
- *Direct Federal:*
  - RAC – Noxious Weed Project (\$90668.60)
  - RAC – Medusahead Project \$21,703.51)
  - BLM Noxious Weed Control Project (\$ original award \$30,000.00, renewable for up to \$50,000.00 per year through August 20, 2020)
- *In-Kind Services:* Board member volunteers (\$3,500)



**Summary of Grant Objectives and Tasks:**

**Nevada Department of Agriculture – Medusahead Treatment for Sage Grouse Habitat**

- Monitor effectiveness of 2016 pre-emergent spray
- Continue inventory to document existing Medusahead infestation
- Inventory for new infestations

**State Conservation Commission -- Medusahead Treatment for Sage Grouse Habitat**

- Inventory for new infestations
- Continue inventory to document existing Medusahead infestation
- Aerially apply pre-emergent herbicide in the fall

**US Forest Service Resource Advisory Council – Noxious Weeds Removal Project**

- Comprehensive weed inventory, mapping and treatment project for the entire riparian corridors of the East, West and main-stem Walker Rivers
- Employ seasonal staff to implement all tasks
- Provide weed management plans to individual landowners
- Maintain a GIS database for all field data



**US Forest Service Resource Advisory Council – Medusahead Project**

- Treat an area in Desert Creek for Medusahead infestation. Treatment with a pre-emergent herbicide will reduce the germination of the species and allow the desirable native vegetation an opportunity to increase in vigor. Increasing desirable vegetation in these areas not only improves critical habitat quality for the Desert Creek sage grouse lek, but also reduces wildfire potential from destroying private and federally managed lands

**Bureau of Land Management - Mason and Smith Valley Noxious Weed Control**

- Comprehensive weed inventory, mapping and treatment project for the entire riparian corridors of the East, West and main-stem Walker Rivers
- Employ seasonal staff to implement all tasks
- Provide weed management plans to individual landowners
- Maintain a GIS database for all field data




**NDOW PJ Treatment Maintenance**

- Cut small Pinyon and Juniper trees that have grown or germinated since the area in the Sunrise Pass was previously treated.

**Landowner Assistance Requests**

- Continue to provide technical assistance (including spraying noxious weeds) to landowners on a reimbursement basis for all costs.

  
Richard Huntsberger, Chairman  
Smith Valley Conservation District

5/23/17  
Date

SMITH VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL BUDGET  
SHEET 1 – ESTIMATE OF RECEIPTS

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018

<u>RECEIPT SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Lyon County Contribution	\$ 7,500.00
NDA Noxious Weeds	\$ 5,445.66
State Conservation Commission Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement	\$ 16,836.41
NDA Noxious Weeds	\$ 4,444.09
NDOW Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement	\$ 10,675.00
*** BLM Noxious Weeds	\$ 30,000.00
*** NDOW PJ Treatment Maintenance	\$ 15,000.00
*** USFS RAC Weeds	\$ 90,668.60
*** USFS RAC Medusahead	\$ 21,703.51
<b><u>TOTAL RECEIPTS ESTIMATED FOR BUDGET</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 202,273.27</u></b>

\*\*\* Pending Notification of Award

**SMITH VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BUDGET  
SHEET II – ESTIMATE OF EXPENDITURES**

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018		Last FY Actual	This FY To Date	Proposed FY 18 Budget
US Postage	0	\$ 8.94	\$ 25.50	\$ 50.00
Bank Service Charge		\$ 35.00	\$ 31.50	\$ 40.00
Educational Workshop with Students and Public		\$ 1.00	\$ -	\$ -
Travel and Training		\$ 640.45	\$ 50.50	\$ 200.00
Dues: NACD			\$ -	\$ -
NvACD		\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
NWMA			\$ -	\$ -
Computer Software and Modernize Hardware		\$ 125.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00
Financial Audit			\$ -	\$ -
Bookkeeping services		\$ 30.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
SVCD Annual Meeting		\$ 362.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 400.00
NV Range Camp Scholarship			\$ -	\$ -
NDPES Permit		\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Office Supplies		\$ 483.22	\$ 308.39	\$ 500.00
Board Meeting		\$ 14.80	\$ 42.22	\$ 75.00
Equipment (tools for project)		\$ 610.31	\$ 688.00	\$ 500.00
Vehicle Insurance and Maintenance (oil, gas, upkeep)		\$ 6,086.57	\$ 5,939.28	\$ 5,000.00
Worker's Compensation for Board Members		\$ 1,813.28	\$ -	\$ -
Worker's Compensation for Volunteers		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
District Employee Wage's		\$ 18,122.05	\$ 54,009.03	\$ 131,365.66
Employee Drug Testing		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00
General Liability Insurance		\$ 4,654.94	\$ 1,300.37	\$ 1,000.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 33,687.56</b>	<b>\$ 63,569.79</b>	<b>140,480.66</b>
<b>Total Available Project Funding 5/19/2017</b>				
<b>Lyon County Funding</b>				<b>7,500.00</b>
<b>Project Name:</b>				
<b>NDA Noxious Weeds</b>				
	Salary + Fringe Benefits			\$ -
	Operating			\$ 250.96
	Travel			\$ 326.60
	Contract			\$ 3,866.53
				<b>\$ 4,444.09</b>
<b>NDA Noxious Weeds</b>				
	Salary + Fringe Benefits			\$ 5,158.94
	Operating			\$ -
	Travel			\$ 286.72
				<b>\$ 5,445.66</b>

State Conservation Commission Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement			
	Salary + Fringe Benefits	\$	9,452.16
	Operating	\$	6,855.00
	Travel	\$	529.25
		\$	<b>16,836.41</b>
NDOW Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement			
	Contract	\$	10,675.00
		\$	<b>10,675.00</b>
<b>Total Available Project Funding 5/19/2017</b>			<b>37,401.16</b>
Pending Notification of Award			
Project Name:			
BLM Noxious Weeds			
	Salary + Fringe Benefits	\$	24,000.00
	Operating	\$	4,000.00
	Travel	\$	2,000.00
		\$	<b>30,000.00</b>
NDOW PJ Treatment Maintenance			
	Salary + Fringe Benefits	\$	12,000.00
	Operating	\$	200.00
	Travel	\$	2,800.00
		\$	<b>15,000.00</b>
USFS RAC Weeds			
	Salary + Benefits	\$	72,628.65
	Operating	\$	13,089.55
	Travel	\$	4,950.40
		\$	<b>90,668.60</b>
USFS RAC Medusahead			
	Salary + Benefits	\$	8,125.91
	Operating	\$	2,135.00
	Travel	\$	642.60
	Subcontract	\$	10,800.00
		\$	<b>21,703.51</b>
	<b>Pending Notification of Award</b>	\$	<b>157,372.11</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR ESTIMATED BUDGET</b>		\$	<b>202,273.27</b>



# Annual Report

## Smith Valley Conservation District

Fiscal Year July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018

### Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement

The Nevada State Department of Agriculture granted the Smith Valley Conservation District (SVCD) \$7,634 to treat tamarisk on the Walker River Corridor. SVCD was able to inventory 166 acres of tamarisk, and using the cut-stump method, chemically treat .5 acres. The District identified tamarisk at 58 total locations. Of those, 35 locations were treated, and 23 locations were tamarisk that had been treated in previous years which did not require follow-up treatment.

Approximately 140 linear miles of the Walker River riparian corridor are monitored and mapped on an annual basis, with a minimum of 1,200 acres physically inventoried for noxious weed populations. At least 25 acres of critical Sage Grouse habitat are restored/

improved through the treatment and reduction of noxious weeds annually.

Native wildlife species, including the Bi-State Sage-Grouse are dependent on native vegetation for successful breeding, nesting, and food. Protection of their habitats is of primary importance. One of the communities at risk is the riparian habitat where invasive weeds are displacing native plant species. Weeds affect streams by changing the vegetation on the banks and reducing bank stability. These displaced populations also negatively affect climate change by reducing carbon sequestration of the perennial vegetative population.



Tamarisk Treatment Area

#### Inside this issue:

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### Regular Meetings

On January 24, 2017, the Conservation District held a joint meeting with the Mason Valley Conservation District at the Heyday Inn in Smith Valley. The meeting was well attended, and featured guest speakers Maggie Orr, NvACD President, Rick Orr, and Gary McCuin, who gave a presentation on Resource Needs Assessments (RNA). Ray Dotson, the NRCS State Conserva-

tionist is supporting the Conservation Districts in Nevada with a \$3,000 financial incentive to prepare a RNA for the District. This incentive is for the first six Districts to commit to a RNA development. SVCD voted to move forward with a RNA at their March 21, 2018 meeting.

SVCD held regular Board meetings on:

- September 26, 2017
- March 21, 2018
- May 29, 2018
- June 19, 2018

#### Board of Supervisors:

- Richard Huntsberger
- R. H. "Cub" Wolfe
- Denise Hunewill
- Todd O'Banion
- Annette Blackwood
- Greg Hunewill, County Commissioner



## Medusahead!

With a grant from the US Forest Service Resource Advisory Council (RAC), the State Conservation Commission, and the Nevada Department of Agriculture, the Smith Valley Conservation District was able to continue the annual weed (Medusahead, and Cheatgrass) treatment & control project located in the Desert Creek corridor. This infestation is located on private property that directly affects U.S. Forest Service lands.

The record moisture of the winter has caused more germination of medusahead, and the runoff that continued into July, has limited access to accomplish spot treatments. This has allowed the undesirables to increase even though desirable perennial vegetation has increased to the point that there is almost no bare ground in the pasture.

Medusahead has been named as one of the highest priority noxious weed species for the State of Nevada due to its eminent threat to rangelands across the west. Medusahead is extremely competitive and invasive which can contribute to the loss of native habitat and displacement of many native species. The presence of Medusahead leads to reduction of rangeland forage productivity, decrease of overall biodiversity and an



*Medusahead and Cheatgrass growing in the Desert Creek area of Smith Valley*



*Field Review with Conservation Districts Program Manager*

increase of fire fuels and spread of wild fires as well as degrade essential sage grouse habitat.

Due to the negative impacts of Medusahead, control of relatively small infestations, such as this one, is imperative. This project is necessary to prevent further spread and future devastating environmental and economic impacts to Nevada and other western states.



*Desert Creek area following treatment with pre-emergent herbicide*

The Conservation District received a second grant from the State Conservation Commission to augment our efforts on the Desert Creek property. This grant provided funds and guidance for monitoring of the project as well as con-

tingency funds in the event another treatment was required.



*Returning to Reload*



*Aerial application of a pre-emergent herbicide to control medusahead and cheatgrass on a private property in Smith Valley*

# Noxious Weed Treatment and Control

The Smith Valley and Mason Valley Conservation Districts began a multi-year noxious weed inventory and treatment project along the East, West and Walker Rivers in April 2009. Field technicians record infestation data to determine trends and effectiveness. Data recorded include infestation location using GPS coordinates (in NAD 83 UTM Zone 11N), species identification, phenological stage, abundance, distribution, gross infested area, treatment technique used for chemical application, ground cover, ground disturbance, if treatment was applied and also land ownership. Infestation data is kept in



*Tamarisk cut along the Walker River Corridor*

GIS. A copy of the data is kept at 215 W Bridge St Suite 11A Yerington NV 89447 for public review.

The Smith Valley Conservation District inventoried and treated noxious weed populations on U.S. Forest Service lands and private property along all river corridors. Species encountered



*Tall Whitetop*

included Canada thistle, musk thistle, hoary cress, tamarisk, Russian knapweed, poison hemlock, and tall white-top.

SVCD inventoried 1490 acres, documented 585 infestations, and treated 53.35 acres of noxious weeds in fiscal year 2017- 2018

Noxious weeds are extremely difficult to eradicate; however, with diligence and willingness to expand management practices these projects can be success-



*Inventory, mapping and treatment of noxious weeds along the riparian corridor*

ful. All parties involved have a better understanding of the necessary steps needed to protect their lands from invasion which includes additional herbicide treatments.



*In-Kind Weed Control by Landowner*

## Smith Valley Conservation District Resource Needs Assessment



*Female Bi-State Sage Grouse*

In cooperation with the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts (NvACD), Smith Valley Conservation District has implemented a Resource Needs Assessment for the entire Conservation District bounded area. We hope to use this assessment to identify opportunities for District funding that we have not previously pursued, and also to enhance our relationship with Natural Resources Conservation Service. This enhanced relationship may also help the District to partner with NRCS and their clients when implementing Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts. NvACD has received a grant to help fund personnel to research and prepare the assessments for the District, and the District is providing mapping and data support to that individual.



*Bi-State Sage Grouse*

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**SMITH VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**FINANCIAL REPORT TO  
THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
2017/2018 FISCAL YEAR**

**SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS**  
 For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018  
**SMITH VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

<b>Smith Valley (Income)</b>	
SV Annual Noncompetitive Grants	
Lyon County	7,500.00
Annual Dinner	402.50
State Conservation Commission Stipend	4542.86
Client Conservation Gateway Incentive	500.00
Projects	
14-028 NDEP Walker River Workday	
Fringe	172.90
Salary	342.67
Travel	40.12
Big Lake Conifer Removal	
Contract	126,174.00
BLM Weeds	
Salary/Fringe	23,815.22
Operating	49.58
Travel	1,512.99
NDA 2017 Tamarisk	
Salary	7,573.88
Mileage	2,017.59
NDA CWMA	
Salary	5,603.04
Mileage	462.24
RAC - Medusahead	
Salary	11,051.39
Operating	649.05
Travel	992.80
RAC Weeds	
Salary	1,093.25
Operating	200.00
Travel	106.92
Sage Grouse Fence Markers	
	324.30
State Conservation Commission Sage Grouse	
Salary	10,093.05
Operating	6,990.00
Travel	411.95
Weeds For Hire	
Salary	375.00
Operating	224.45
Mileage	225.00
<b>Total Smith Valley (Income)</b>	<b>213,446.75</b>

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**Smith Valley Expenses**

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## General Operating Expenses

Advertisement	
Annual Dinner	510.00
Bank Service Charge	35.00
Board Meetings	18.04
Bookkeeping	604.01
Dues	600.00
Drug Testing	30.00
Equipment	761.72
Insurance Premium	1,183.39
Office Supplies	12.30

## Payroll Expenses

District Administration	25,753.00
Employee Health Insurance	9,751.28
Income Tax	7,477.63
Holiday	3,507.00
Nevada Unemployment	628.41
Vacation	3,564.91
Workers Compensation	588.47

Postage and Delivery 25.00

Travel and Training 80.00

## Vehicle Maintenance

1500 Chevy	1,132.18
2500 Chevy	2,588.13
2007 Chevy	2,059.28
Ranger	41.22
Volume Fuel Discount	-20.06

Other (Chemical and Quad Storage) 302.50

## Projects - Smith

## Big Lake Conifer Removal

Salary	150.00
Contract	126,232.00

## BLM Weeds

Salary	20,334.96
Operating	590.49
Travel/Mileage	1,363.19

## NDA Cooperative Weed Management

Salary	5,603.04
Travel/Mileage	109.68

## NDA 2017 Tamarisk

Salary	7,170.48
Travel/Mileage	462.24

## NDF Sweetwater Hazardous Fuels

Salary	50,390.92
Operations	2,017.59
Travel/Mileage	7,573.88

RAC - Medusahead	
Salary	6,861.85
Operating	498.05
Travel/Mileage	1,678.06
RAC Weeds 11-PA-11041702-074	
Salary/Fringe	6,233.18
Operating	400.00
Travel/Mileage	729.54
State Conservation Commission Sage Grouse	
Salary/Fringe	9,452.16
Operating	7,187.73
Contracting	10,600.00
Travel/Mileage	529.25

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<b>Total Smith Valley Expenses</b>	<b>327,401.70</b>
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**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**  
 For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018  
 Smith Valley Conservation District

**Beginning of Year Fund Balance**

List of all bank accounts:

Checking Account

*Smith Valley* \$133,700.58

*Joint Account* \$33,313.37

Certificate of Deposit

*Smith Valley Certificate of Deposit 1* \$10,587.96

*Smith Valley Certificate of Deposit 2* \$14,207.74

**Total fund balance** **\$191,809.65**

**End of Year Fund Balance**

List of all bank accounts:

Checking Account

*Smith Valley* \$86,606.14

*Joint Account* \$33,199.43

Certificate of Deposit

*Smith Valley Certificate of Deposit 1* \$10,589.64

*Smith Valley Certificate of Deposit 2* \$14,305.99

**Total End of Year Fund Balance** **\$144,701.20**

**Summary:**

**Beginning of year fund balance** **\$191,809.65**

Plus total receipts

*Smith Valley* \$213,446.75

*Certificates of Deposit Interest* \$99.93

**\$405,356.33**

Less total expenditures

*Smith Valley* \$327,401.70

**Summary balance:** **\$77,954.63**



Richard Huntsberger, Chairman  
 Smith Valley Conservation District

9/18/18

Date