



Annual Report

Smith Valley Conservation District

Fiscal Year July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021

Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement

In October 2018, the Nevada State Department of Wildlife (NDOW) granted the Smith Valley Conservation District (SVCD) \$11,970 to maintain a previous Pinyon Juniper removal project in Buckskin Valley. SVCD was able to complete 64 acres of Pinyon Juniper maintenance. This project was completed in December 2019. NDOW funded an additional \$20,000 in December, 2019 to maintain additional acreage. The second phase was completed June 30, 2020. SVCD was able to treat an additional 208 acres.



Buckskin Valley Sunrise Pass Pinyon Juniper Treatment Area

In May, 2020, the State Conservation Commission Granted \$27,759.90 to continue this project in the Buckskin area. From May through January, 2021, the District was able to complete an additional 150 acres.

With the three grants combined, SVCD was able to complete 422 acres of Sage Grouse habitat improve-

ment. There are many more areas where conifers have been removed that are ripe for this type of maintenance

improvement. As grants become available, SVCD is ready to continue this valuable work.

Regular Meetings

In September, 2020, the Smith Valley Conservation District approved the Annual Report and Final Financial Report. Through the course of the year, the board approved the Annual Work Plan and the Annual Budget. Dave Hockaday was elected to the Lyon County Commission in November, 2020, and was appointed to the Conservation District Board by the

County Commissioners. He succeeded Jay Dini in January 2021.

In May, the Board created a subcommittee to look into highway signs to be placed at the District Boundaries and a publication for new residents of Smith Valley explaining what rural life is like and what services are necessary and available in the area. The publication

has been drafted, and the highway signs are still being researched.

SVCD held regular Board meetings on:

- September 1, 2020
- November 3, 2020
- March 16, 2021
- April 20, 2021
- May 25, 2021

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Board of Supervisors:

- Richard Huntsberger
- R. H. "Cub" Wolfe
- Denise Hunewill
- Annette Blackwood
- Pete Anderson
- Jay Dini, County Commissioner through December 2020
- Dave Hockaday, County Commissioner beginning January 2021

Medusahead!

With a grant from the Resource Advisory Committee, the Smith Valley Conservation District was able to continue with the medusahead treatment & control project located in the Desert Creek corridor. SVCD received additional funding from the Nevada Department of Wildlife to augment our efforts on the Desert Creek property. This grant provided funds for the aerial application of the pre-emergent herbicide over the entire treatment area. This infestation is located on private property and directly affects U.S. Forest Service lands.

The moisture of the winter and spring has resulted in increased germination of desirable perennial grasses. Perennial vegetation has increased to the point that there is very limited 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 imminent 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 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.

Annual monitoring is showing that the treatments are making progress at reducing the medusahead. We hope eradication is on the horizon!



Returning to Reload



Aerial Herbicide Application



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



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



Desert Creek area following treatment with pre-emergent herbicide

Noxious Weed Treatment and Control

The Smith Valley and Mason Valley Conservation Districts began a weeds for hire program in 2017, since there are no commercial weed treatment businesses in southern Lyon County. The program started slowly, but since 2019 Smith Valley Conservation District (SVCD) has been treating supply ditches and drains for the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) and several ditch companies to reduce the transportation losses in the canals and enable more efficient movement of the water due to fewer obstructions. Several private landowners have taken advantage of the program as well.



Tamarisk cut along the Walker River Corridor

dusahead area, it is very rocky. SVCD was able to treat the area with ATVs with sprayers using a pre-emergent herbicide in November, 2020. NDOW did a follow up inspection in May, 2021 and determined that the spraying project was approximately 90 percent effective. They are planning to seed the area this fall to jump start the revegetation process in the area and provide an additional desirable seed source for the area in the future



Tall Whitetop along the riparian corridor



Female Bi-State Sage Grouse

9, 2020. The loan allowed the Districts to pay the employees while they were sheltering at home giving them job and financial security until we could resume office and field operations. This loan was forgiven April 13, 2021 based on the criteria that the proceeds were used for payroll purposes.



Musk Thistle

Cheatgrass Control

The Smith Valley Conservation District received a task order to treat approximately 15 acres of cheatgrass in an area of public land adjacent to the Desert Creek Medusahead project. The project is small, but like the Desert Creek Me-



Tall Whitetop

Payroll Protection Plan Loan

The Mason and Smith Valley Conservation Districts applied for and received a Payroll Protection Plan Loan that enabled them to retain their employees during the Coronavirus Pandemic Office Closure. District employees were not allowed in the office from March 19, 2020 till May



In-Kind Weed Control by Landowner



Bi-State Sage Grouse

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To file a complaint of discrimination, complete, sign, and mail a program discrimination complaint form, available at any USDA office location or online at www.ascr.usda.gov, or write to: USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Ave, SW Washington DC 20250-9410

Or call toll free at (866) 632-9992 (voice) to obtain additional information, the appropriate office or to request documents. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

**SMITH VALLEY CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

**FINANCIAL REPORT TO
THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
2020/2021 FISCAL YEAR**

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS
 For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021
SMITH VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Smith Valley (Income)	
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SV Annual Noncompetitive Grants	
Lyon County	\$10,000.00
State Conservation Commission	\$4,000.00
Bank Account Interest	\$7.17
Projects	
NDOW Desert Creek	
Operating	\$8,396.56
Salary	\$1,201.72
RAC Desert Creek	
Contract	\$10,675.00
Operating	\$22.79
Salary	\$6,445.80
Travel	\$821.32
Sage Grouse Fence Markers	\$0.00
Weeds for Hire	
Mileage	\$1,987.20
Operating	\$10,069.63
Salary	\$12,675.00
<hr/>	
Total Smith Valley (Income)	\$66,302.19

Smith Valley Expenses	
<hr/>	
General Operating Expenses	
Advertisement	\$0.00
Annual Dinner	\$0.00
Bank Service Charge	\$24.60
Board Meetings	\$73.28
Bookkeeping	\$810.23
Dues	\$1,200.00
Drug Testing	\$150.00
Equipment	\$96.39
Insurance Premium	\$3,223.50

Office Supplies	\$5.07
Payroll Expenses	
District Administration	\$4,641.47
Employee Health Insurance	\$10,046.16
Income Tax	\$6092.22
Holiday	\$3,126.00
Nevada Unemployment	\$40.71
Vacation	\$2,713.75
Payroll Protection Program	\$6,224.88
Postage and Delivery	\$0.00
Travel and Training	\$0.00
Vehicle Maintenance	
1500 Chevy	\$550.43
2500 Chevy	\$1,349.98
Dakota	\$881.73
Ranger	\$252.35
Utilities	\$97.32
Projects - Smith	
NDOW Desert Creek	
Salary	\$1,201.72
Operating	\$8,158.28
RAC Desert Creek	
Contract	\$10,600.00
Salary	\$5,093.76
Operating	\$8,050.40
Travel/Mileage	\$112.84
SCC Sage Grouse 2020	
Salary	\$17,492.01
Operating	\$1,527.18
Mileage	\$370.44
Weeds For Hire	
Salary	\$8271.77
Operating	\$627.41
Travel/Mileage	\$216.72
Total Smith Valley Expenses	\$103,322.60

FINANCIAL SUMMARY
 For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021
 Smith Valley Conservation District

Beginning of Year Fund Balance

List of all bank accounts:

Checking Account	
<i>Smith Valley</i>	\$110,595.07
<i>Joint Account</i>	\$12,159.63
Certificate of Deposit	
<i>Smith Valley Certificate of Deposit 1</i>	\$10,592.29
<i>Smith Valley Certificate of Deposit 2</i>	\$14,213.43
Total fund balance	\$147,560.42

End of Year Fund Balance

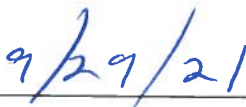
List of all bank accounts:

Checking Account	
<i>Smith Valley</i>	\$59,633.28
<i>Joint Account</i>	\$14,326.90
Certificate of Deposit	
<i>Smith Valley Certificate of Deposit 1</i>	\$10,593.35
<i>Smith Valley Certificate of Deposit 2</i>	\$14,214.85
Total End of Year Fund Balance	\$98,768.38

Summary:

Beginning of year fund balance	\$147,560.42
Plus total receipts	
<i>Smith Valley</i>	\$66,302.19
<i>Certificates of Deposit Interest</i>	\$2.48
	\$213,865.09
Less total expenditures	
<i>Smith Valley</i>	\$103,322.60
Summary balance:	\$110,542.49


 Richard Huntsberger, Chairman
 Smith Valley Conservation District


 Date

USE OF STATE APPROPRIATED MONEY

SMITH VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 20


Amount of State Appropriated Money Recieved: \$ 4,000.00

Money Spent:

Category administration Grant Preparation \$ 4,000.00

Balance Remaining: \$ 0.00

 9/29/21
Authorized Signature: Date

 chairman
Name and Title:

Submit by September 30th to:

Conservation Distrcit Program at

Convprogram@dcnr.nv.gov

or send to

State Conservation Districts Program

201 South Roop Street, Carson City, NV 89701

Phone (775) 684-8600 FAX (775) 684-8604



FY2022 (7/1/21 – 6/30/22) Annual Work Plan Smith Valley Conservation District

For More Information Contact Ed Ryan
775-463-2265 x 3111
Paul.ryan@usda.gov

The Annual Work Plan and Annual Budget for the Smith Valley Conservation District (SVCD) were reviewed, updated and approved at the May 11, 2021, 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 watershed, 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 and the State Conservation Commission to remove young Pinyon and Juniper (PJ) trees that have grown since the initial removal treatment of the area. Other PJ removal projects have been identified that the District could perform as funding is secured. In addition, the District is continuing treatment of the County's only known Medusahead infestation with the goal of total eradication
- **Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Management** – Improve the effectiveness of previous fuels modification treatments by masticating additional acreage of old and decadent vegetation, applying pre-emergent herbicide to treated areas in order to reduce invasive weeds such as Cheatgrass and annual mustard, followed by reseeding with perennial grass species less susceptible to wildfire



Information – Education/Public Outreach Priorities and Goals:

- Outreach priority – use the resource needs assessment for the Conservation District as a guide for priorities set by the Local Working Group
- Outreach priority - alleviate conflicts between the urban/agricultural interfaces:
 - Review Smith Valley Master Plan as needed
 - Provide assistance to residents regarding ditch maintenance, maintenance of easements and rights-of-way, 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 conservation 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 city, county, state, and 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 and agencies
- Cut and treat tamarisk along the Walker River
- Use the Local Working Group to establish priorities for the State Technical Advisory Committee
- 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 2021-2022:

- *Direct State:*
 - State Conservation Commission Stipend (\$5,000)
 - Nevada Department of Agriculture (\$18,663.50) Desert Creek Medusahead Treatment

2 Smith Valley Conservation District FY 2022 Annual Work Plan

- Nevada Department of Wildlife Cheatgrass Treatment adjacent to Desert Creek Medusahead (\$2,500)
- Nevada Department of Wildlife Pine Nut Mountains Pinyon Juniper Chipping (\$20,000)
- Nevada Division of Forestry Landscape Restoration Grant (\$294,990) Noxious Weed Inventory, Mapping, and Treatment on the Walker River corridor ***
- *Local:*
 - Lyon County, NV (\$10,000)
 - Weeds for Hire (\$15,000)
- *Direct Federal****
 - BLM Noxious Weed Control Project (\$10,000) ***
- *In-Kind Services:* Board member volunteers (\$3,500)

Summary of Grant Objectives and Tasks:

Nevada Division of Forestry – Landscape Scale Restoration ***

- 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

Weeds for Hire

- Control weeds on ditch banks and access roads as requested by ditch companies and Walker River Irrigation District.
- Control weeds as requested by landowners in the District as requested.

Nevada Department of Wildlife – Pinyon/Juniper Chipping

- Use a provided chipper to reduce previously cut Pinyon and Juniper slash around meadows in the Pine Nut Range to chips
- Maintain a GIS database for all field data

Nevada Department of Wildlife – Cheatgrass Treatment

- Treat an area adjacent to the Desert Creek medusahead with a pre-emergent herbicide to control Cheatgrass

Nevada Department of Agriculture – Medusahead Project

- Monitor effectiveness of 2020 pre-emergent spray treatment



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- Inventory for new infestations
- 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 - Smith and Mason 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

Local Working Groups

- Convene the Local Working Group to establish priorities for the NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee Local Working Group

Landowner Assistance Requests

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

*** pending award

for Richard Huntsberger, Chairman
Smith Valley Conservation District

5/25/21
Date

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

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2022

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2022		Last FY Actual	This FY To Date	Proposed FY 21 Budget
US Postage	0	\$ 55.00	\$ -	\$ 60.00
Bank Service Charge		\$ 35.00	\$ 24.50	\$ -
Educational Workshop with Students and Public		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Travel and Training		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Dues: NACD			\$ -	\$ -
NvACD		\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
NWMA		\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
Computer Software and Modernize Hardware		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Financial Audit		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Bookkeeping services		\$ 500.43	\$ 397.26	\$ 500.00
SVCD Annual Meeting		\$ 515.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00
NV Range Camp Scholarship		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 600.00
NDPES Permit		\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Office Supplies		\$ 48.72	\$ 5.08	\$ 100.00
Board Meeting		\$ 89.65	\$ 46.54	\$ 100.00
Equipment (tools for project)		\$ 144.68	\$ 67.18	\$ 500.00
Vehicle Insurance and Maintenance (oil, gas, upkeep)		\$ 2,844.14	\$ 2,557.17	\$ 3,000.00
Worker's Compensation for Board Members		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Worker's Compensation for Employees		\$ 4,333.00	\$ 3,223.50	\$ -
Utilities		\$ 67.85	\$ 81.22	\$ 90.00
District Employee Wage's		\$ 39,719.02	\$ 39,827.25	\$ 65,000.00
District Employee Health Insurance		\$ 9,847.32	\$ 8,371.80	\$ 15,000.00
District Employee Taxes		\$ 7,097.66	\$ 5,071.59	\$ 8,000.00
Employee Drug Testing		\$ 90.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 100.00
Nevada Unemployment		\$ 261.05	\$ 40.71	\$ 600.00
General Liability Insurance		\$ 1,131.00	\$ 1,247.00	\$ 1,500.00
Total		\$ 67,654.51	\$ 61,895.78	\$ 96,825.00
Lyon County Funding				\$ 10,000.00
State Conservation Commission Stipend				\$ 5,000.00
Total Available Project Funding 5/15/2021				
Project Name: P/J Chipping, Pine Net Range				
	Salary			\$ 13,125.00
	Fringe Benefits			\$ 5,643.75
	Travel			\$ 1,231.25
				\$ 20,000.00

Desert Creek Cheatgrass Treatment			
	Salary	\$	1,677.00
	Fringe Benefits	\$	737.50
	Travel	\$	85.50
		\$	2,500.00
Nevada Department of Agriculture Desert Creek Medusahead			
	Salary	\$	7,488.00
	Travel	\$	499.96
	Contract	\$	10,675.00
		\$	18,662.96
Weeds For Hire			
	Salary	\$	11,500.00
	Operating	\$	2,950.00
	Travel	\$	550.00
		\$	15,000.00
USFS RAC Medusahead			
	Salary	\$	7,118.00
	Fringe Benefits	\$	3,131.92
	Operating	\$	417.12
	Travel	\$	528.96
	Aerial Spraying Contract	\$	10,675.00
		\$	21,871.00
		Total Available Project Funding 5/15/2021	78,033.96
Pending Notification of Award			
Project Name:			
BLM Cooperative Weed Agreement			
	Salary	\$	6,000.00
	Fringe Benefits	\$	2,580.00
	Operating	\$	500.00
	Travel	\$	920.00
		\$	10,000.00
Nevada Division of Forestry Landscape Restoration Grant (Weeds)			
	Salary	\$	249,957.00
	Operating	\$	15,115.00
	Travel	\$	14,019.00
		\$	279,091.00
		Pending Notification of Award	\$ 289,091.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR ESTIMATED BUDGET			\$ 382,124.96