



Carson Valley Conservation District

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USDA Service Center

1702 County Road, Suite A

Minden, NV 89423

Annual Work Plan

Fiscal Year 2014-2015

The Annual Work Plan for the Carson Valley Conservation District (CVCD) was developed. The plan identifies the following key components to be addressed by the CVCD in 2014-2015.

1. Carson River stream bank stabilization and restoration projects - ongoing
2. Clearing, snagging, and channel maintenance - seeking funding
5. Cooperative Weed Management - ongoing
6. Conservation Education - ongoing
7. District Administration - ongoing

Carson River stream bank stabilization and restoration project

This project the CVCD includes protection of over 300 linear feet of stream bank. Rehabilitation efforts in this stretch of the river will focus on stabilizing the stream bank in its current location. Bioengineering strategies will be used to assist with stability of this stream-bank. Bioengineering will increase riparian habitat within the channel and on the stream bank, and increase geotechnical stability of stream banks. In order to complete this project, we will be putting in requests for additional funding to cover the costs of the projects and administration.

Stream bank clearing, snagging and channel maintenance

Along the Carson River there are several areas that require stream bank stabilization and/or restoration. Within the designated restoration sites, the district will perform channel clearing, snagging, and maintenance to help protect the engineered structures. Willow growth has become heavy on the right bank and is encroaching into the channel. The net effect has been in the reduction of channel capacity by an estimated 25-50% at high flows. Those projects will remove in stream vegetation and, if possible, this vegetation may be used for future rehabilitation projects. These project sites will involve protection of over 3,000 linear feet of stream bank.

Cooperative Weed Management

The CVCD continues to operate a cooperative weed management area in Douglas County. This year the district received funding from the CWSD, NDoA and Douglas County. The weed control program involves the identification, mapping, prioritization and treatment of specific noxious. In order to carry this out, the district relies on assistance from local private landowners for help with identification, location and herbicide application in controlling noxious weeds within the district boundary. Along with controlling invasive noxious weeds, the district has also been utilizing a GPS unit to map the known locations of noxious weeds in the area so that this information can be tracked on annual basis and submitted to Douglas County GIS for incorporation into the Nevada State Weed Map. Last year we were involved in spraying and mapping approximately 730 acres of noxious weeds. The district has entered into three separate inter-local agreements with CWSD, NDoA and the county. The intent of the agreements is to assist “weed free” hay growers and agricultural production outfits to treat a broader range of areas that impact the Carson River Watershed.

Conservation Education

For the last twelve years the CVCD, WNRC&D, and the River Wranglers have organized the annual Carson River Workday in Douglas County.

These annual events provide the opportunity for elementary school children to visit the Carson River and learn about the watershed they live in. The local high school students team up with approximately 3 to 6 elementary school children for the day and teach them about the many benefits the Carson River Watershed provides their local community. Students also learn how to conserve the Carson River and to maintain it for future generations.

Nevada Youth Range Camp

The CVCD will continue to support local youth in attending the Nevada Range Camp held annually during the month of June. This year Rosalie Rieman will be attending this year’s annual Range Camp and will present to the CVCD board in July at our meeting to report back.

District Administration

The CVCD is in agreement and understands that in order for the district to have a successful work plan and carry out this work plan in a timely and efficient manner that the administrative component becomes the vital link between the Board of Commissioners, District Stakeholders, and other agencies assisting the CVCD in the completion of its work.

The CVCD has identified this section as a key component to accomplish of overall work plan for the district. The Administrative component to the work plan consists of (but not limited to) the following:

1. Employee Salaries
2. Employee Benefits
3. District Operating expenses
4. Equipment maintenance and/ or repairs

5. Travel/Training/Workshops/Education
6. Equipment Purchases.
7. Annual Permitting and mitigation expenses.
8. Hiring, training and deploying work crews.
9. Liaison with property owners, especially agriculture interests
10. Onsite inspection of bioengineering and weed work
11. Working with NRCS to obtain contracts
12. Attending meeting and doing paperwork
13. Monitoring project sites
14. Reports and studies
15. Permitting for depredation special permits
16. Addressing the legislature regarding funding
17. Grant writing and locating funding sources
18. Interagency and intergovernmental coordination
19. Purchasing Insurance
20. Locating project sites for bioengineering and noxious weed work
21. Liaison with the tribe for projects
22. Completing \$800,000 worth of work by leveraging \$3,500 in state funding
23. Fighting the bureaucracy for permits, reports, studies and funding
24. Day-today operations
25. Volunteering 20-30 unpaid hours a month to get it done.

Program Observations

We need the state level program administration in Carson City to find grants and deal with the permitting, reports, studies, meetings and other bureaucratic evolutions so the district can get more “actual” work done. Too much time is being spent on conceptual projects, studies, reports and reports on studies. In five years you will have a mountain of paperwork and a few good projects ion place.

The districts need state level people to become our paperwork, permitting and funding clearinghouse so the districts administrators can get paid for their time used to do actual physical projects for agriculture and conservation. The actual agriculture and conservation project work requires close supervision by the district manager or coordinator due manual labor to the nature of the work. We put boots on the ground.

Funding Ambassador

We really need to receive more funding from the state, district coordinators and managers should be salaried employees. Because the funding is so scarce the district coordinator has too many jobs and has to volunteer hundreds of hours each year to get things done. We don't have the funds to hire administrative assistants, grant writers, permit pullers, meeting attendees and presentation performers so the coordinator has to try and do too many jobs. We spend too much of our project funds on tasks that could easily be completed at the state level by our program staff. We also need our state level staff to liaise with state and federal permitting and funding agencies and develop a good working relationship that would allow districts to easily pull permits and have a streamlined, fast tracked process for obtaining and using funds from other state agencies. The state level people are in the correct geographical location to become good ambassadors for the conservation program. Knowing and working with the state and federal funding agencies should be carried out by the Director of the Conservation District Program. It takes too long to try and

establish a good working relationship with the state and federal people. The Director should be our ambassador and liaise with the key state level departments so funds, permits, reports, studies and meeting flow smoothly. Districts don't have time to establish and maintain these key relationships, we're doing local work.

Local Agriculture and Conservation Work

We are supposed to do local conservation work and work with our agriculture community. These relationships take time to develop and require trust on the part of the local cooperators. If the district isn't trusted, cooperators won't participate in programs. I'd estimate that we spend 40-50% of our time on tasks that could and should be consolidated and carried out at the state level. We can spend a bunch of time trying to wow funding agencies that either don't fund our projects or fund them so out of sync with the project timeline that it's not worth perusing the funds. Timing of permits and funding for projects is mission critical and trying to penetrate the bureaucracy at the state level to establish and maintain good relations is a full-time job. Attempting to do this part-time is a waste of time. Right or wrong, funds flow to people who attend meetings, presentation and other non-work related bureaucratic functions rather than to who has the best project. Once you understand this you will understand the value of having a Carson City level ambassador for the program.

District Management

I like my job but it's extremely frustrating to see bureaucrats making two to three as much as I do and doing only one job. See salary comparison; just type in a job description or the name of an employee and see what they make (<http://transparentnevada.com/>). The \$3,500 we get from the state is gone as soon as we buy insurance for the year, so basically I start out at \$0 and have to run grants and work projects to get paid. There is no money for generating these reports. I have to take time off my actual projects to produce the reports required to keep the district in good standing. I enjoy a challenge but I don't like being tasked with a job that can't be done properly because there are just too many facets to it. I believe that we can organize our state level staff in such a way that everybody has a job and everybody gets paid for doing their job. I sincerely hope we see some reorganization and an ambassador that helps the districts do more actual projects.

Mike Hayes
CVCD Coordinator



CVCD

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PROPOSED BUDGET

CVCD AND WATERSHED COORDINATOR CVCD + WSC

RECIEPTS

GRANTS FOR PROJECTS

STATE	3500	CVCD 3500	
NDOT	600,000		WSC 600000
NDEP	90,000		WSC 90000
CWSD	65,000	CVCD 45000	WSC 20000
<u>TOTAL RECIEPTS</u>	<u>758,500</u>	<u>CVCD 48500</u>	<u>WSC 710000</u>

EXPENDITURES:

<u>EMPLOYEE SALARY</u>	1280		WSC 1280
	9,000	CVCD 9000	
<u>FRINGE</u>	160		WSC 160
	1125	CVCD 1125	
<u>TOTAL SALARY</u>	<u>11,565</u>	<u>CVCD 10125</u>	<u>WSC 1440</u>

PROJECT COSTS

INSURANCE	3500		
NDOT	598,560		WSC 1440
NDEP	90,000		
CWSD	54,875	CVCD 10125	
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>758,500</u>		



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To: Tim Rubald
Program Director

Re: Annual Report

August 24, 2015

The Carson Valley Conservation District continues to receive funding from Douglas County for the Noxious Weed Program. The Carson Water Subconservancy funds bioengineering in the Carson River and some noxious weed treatments. The Watershed Coordinator has requested to become an independent contractor for NDOT and he continues to do Drainage projects in the Carson Watershed. There is some concern regarding the independent contractor doing NDOT drainage work inside the Dayton Valley Conservation Districts boundaries. And since the Watershed Coordinator has vacated the position of Watershed Coordinator we will be flying that position to be filled. We are considering replacing the Watershed Coordinator with a Grant Manager and an Administrative Assistant.

Noxious Weeds:\$100,000.00 Douglas County funds CVCD for \$100,000.00 for our Noxious Weed Program. The district does not hold these funds, the county does. CVCD bills into the funds held by the county. We continue to locate, map and treat noxious weeds on the larger (100ac+), irrigated Ag land. When we finish with the hay growers and large Ag parcels we start to work on the smaller parcels. We work in conjunction with the county's Weed Department. The program has been successful. The Nevada Department of Agriculture uses our approach as a model for other weed programs throughout the state. An important component of the program is our cooperation with the county's program and contacting the property owners in person regarding identification, mapping and treatments. Outreach like "Weed Pulls" and "Weenie Roasts" has very little impact on the community. Going out and knocking on doors and talking to property owners is the best way to get property owners to cooperate so you have an effective program. Currently we have nine crew members who are cross trained in weed identification, safe handling of equipment and treatment protocols. Several have obtained their Restricted Use cards from NDA. The program is ongoing and should continue due to the seed bank in the soil and the migration of noxious weeds that spread by wind and water and vehicle and foot traffic. We have prioritized broadleaf species like Perennial Pepperweed, Knapweed and Thistles as number one on the hit list. Weeds are mapped using the GIS department. The biggest threat to

the hay growers is Medusahead. We have two good sized infestations we watch closely to make sure it doesn't spread.

Bioengineering: \$40,000.00 We have been successful using bioengineering to repair eroded river, slough and ditch banks. Using indigenous willows we manufacture and place willow waddles, barbs and fascines. We also plant willows at the base of the repairs so when the willows get soaked in the spring they can sprout and knit the repair project together with a matrix of living plants. The living matrix is very strong and the willow structures prevent further wind and water erosion. The willows also shade the water and provide a habitat for indigenous wildlife. The Carson Water Subconservancy funds us for various amounts based on the project size and fund availability. We have been competing with other district for funds. We do actual, physical work which is a much better value than a "conceptual" project or a overpriced design project. We feel that actually doing the work with boots on the ground is deserving of more funding. The work is seasonal. We have to wait for the flows to drop below 100cfs before we can start work. This year we will be able to get to areas that we are usually prevented from accessing due to the drought cycle. The bioengineering work usually starts in the late fall or early winter.

Watershed Coordinator \$1,585,818.00: The Watershed Coordinator has been working with NDOT on drainage projects. His financial report is attached. Drainage slopes are reworked, bio textile is laid down under rip-wrap and old culverts are relined with plastic inserts. The work involves redoing existing drainages across public and private property and helps to clean-up runoff heading for the Carson River.

District Coordinator \$25,000.00: The County funds the District Coordinator position with \$25,000.00 a year. The district does not hold these funds, the county does. CVCD bills into the funds held by the county.

Program Supervisor: The Program Supervisor bills time to the projects that are under their supervision. Time varies based on the particular project.

Watershed Coordinator: Like the Program Supervisor, the Watershed Coordinator bills time for working on various Watershed Programs. We will need a river and grant manager to take over from the Watershed Coordinator who is now working for NDOT exclusively.

NDOT Drainage: The Independent Contractor is now dealing with NDOT directly.

Funding: Opening Balance	\$33,000.00 CVCD	
Conservation District Program:	\$3,650.009	\$3,650.00 used
Noxious Weeds Program	\$100,000.00	\$75,000.00 used \$25,000.00 balance
Bioengineering:	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00 used
District Coordinator:	\$25,000.00	\$23,500.00 used \$1,500.00 balance
Carson Water Subconservancy	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00 used
River Wranglers	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00 used
NDOT	(See Attached Watershed Coordinator's Report)	

Financial Statement Reporting for
 Watershed Coordinator activity
 1 July 2014 ti 30 June 2015

Projects			
NDOT	income	1,585,818.69	state
	expense	1,582,655.06	
CWSD	income	8,489.38	state
	expense	9,314.49	
River Wranglers	income	935.06	local
	expense	900.00	
NDEP	income	10,255.12	federal
	expense	9,954.89	
Project Income			
	federal	10,255.12	
	state	1,594,308.07	
	local	935.06	
		<u>1,605,498.25</u>	
Project Expenses		1,602,824.44	
District Expenses			
	Wages, benefits	606.10	
	Other expenses	<u>673.51</u>	
Income less expenses		1,394.20	
Balance Sheet			
Bank balance as of 7/6/2015	Cash	54,644.87	
(call it 6/30/2015)			

Change year over year

Bank balance as of 6/30/2014 Cash

53,250.67

Change in assets

1,394.20