

EUREKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Work Plan and Budget

July 1st, 2014 - June 30th, 2015

**EUREKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ANNUAL WORK PLAN & BUDGET
JULY 1st, 2014 – JUNE 30th, 2015**

CONTENTS

<i>INTRODUCTION</i> _____	<i>3</i>
<i>MISSION STATEMENT</i> _____	<i>3</i>
<i>OBJECTIVES</i> _____	<i>3</i>
<i>CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE</i> _____	<i>3</i>
<i>WORKING RELATIONS</i> _____	<i>4</i>
<i>INFORMATION AND EDUCATION</i> _____	<i>4</i>
<i>ADMINISTRATION</i> _____	<i>5</i>
<i>SPECIAL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS</i> _____	<i>5</i>
<i>CALENDAR OF EVENTS</i> _____	<i>6</i>
<i>AUTHORIZATION</i> _____	<i>7</i>
<i>ANNUAL BUDGET</i> _____	<i>enclosed</i>

INTRODUCTION:

The principal goal of Eureka Conservation District is to protect county soil, water, and related resources from unwise use. We believe the following work plan is realistic and helpful in implementing conservation efforts facing our county.

In general, conservation assistance is made available free of charge, to district landowners and operators through mutual and cooperative working agreements with the United States Department of Agriculture, and Natural Resources Conservation Service in Eureka, Nevada. All programs and services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, creed, nationality origin, sex, age, marital status, disability or sexual orientation. The District encompasses Eureka County.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Eureka Conservation District is to coordinate technical and educational resources to meet the needs of the people within the District for the conservation of natural resources.

OBJECTIVES:

- ❖ Concentrate conservation efforts in critical resources problem areas and important land use areas.
- ❖ Provide conservation assistance to district cooperators, individuals, minorities, limited resource farmers, and units of government.
- ❖ Reinforce work relationships with various agencies and groups, and support programs having a common interest.

- ❖ Carry out information and educational programs.
- ❖ Continue to carry out district administration activities.

I. <u>CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE:</u>	WORKING WITH	WHEN
1. Encourage landowners and operators to become cooperators	NRCS ECD Board	fiscal year 2014-2015
2. Develop conservation plans and provide technical assistance for cooperators to apply practices	NRCS ECD Board Cooperator	fiscal year 2014-2015
3. Work with producers to maintain eligibility under the provisions of the Food Security Act	NRCS ECD Board	fiscal year 2014-2015
4. Hire facilitator to implement long term conservation planning for the Eureka Conservation District	ECD Board	fiscal year 2014-2015
5. Long Term Conservation Planning	ECD Board	fiscal year 2014-2015
6. Pinyon-Juniper Wildlife Habitat Enhancement	ECD Board	fiscal year 2014-2015
7. Biochar project	ECD Board	fiscal year 2014-2015
8. Riparian Improvement project	ECD Board	continuous
9. Educational Scholarships	ECD Board	fiscal year 2014-2015
10. Sage grouse	ECD district	fiscal year 2014-2015
11. Soil health	ECD district	fiscal year 2014-2015
12. Capacity building	ECD District	fiscal year 2014-2015
13. Irrigation efficiency/water conservation	ECD district	fiscal year 2014-2015
14. Wildlife habitat	ECD district	fiscal year 2014-2015
15. Sponsoring workshops	ECD Board	fiscal year 2014-2015
9. Tree purchasing	ECD Board	fiscal year 2014-2015
10. Sponsor students for Range Camp	ECD Board	fiscal year 2014-2015
II. <u>WORKING RELATIONS:</u>	WHO	WHEN
1. Cooperate with individuals, groups, and local officials in land use planning to advance conservation goals and objectives	ECD Board NRCS	fiscal year 2014-2015
2. Assist the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to carry out conservation programs	ECD Board NRCS	fiscal year 2014-2015
3. Keep up-to-date on public policy issues and other agency proposals affecting Eureka County	ECD Board NRCS	fiscal year 2014-2015
4. Participate in public meetings concerning the District	ECD Board NRCS	fiscal year 2014-2015

- | | | | |
|----|--|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 5. | Be informed on legislative activities and notify legislative representatives on any issue of concern to the Eureka Conservation District | ECD Board | fiscal year 2014-2015 |
| 6. | Work with local cooperative extension services to develop demonstrations, research trials and conservation plans | ECD Board
NRCS | fiscal year 2014-2015 |

III. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION:

- | | | WHO | WHEN |
|----|--|--|-------------|
| 1. | Publish District's annual report in local newspaper | ECD Board | Oct/Nov |
| 2. | Publish semi-annual newsletter | ECD Board, UNR Extension,
Natural Resources | continuous |
| 3. | Sponsor local poster contest | ECD Board | October |
| 4. | Sponsor Range Camp participants | ECD Board | June |
| 5. | Sponsor scholarships for high school and college students interested in agriculture or natural resource fields | ECD Board | May |
| 6. | Provide financial assistance to local clubs | ECD Board | continuous |
| 7. | Take a leadership role in informing producers of progress being made in weed and pest control activities | ECD Board | continuous |
| 8. | Provide pamphlets or books to the public on weed and pest control | ECD Board | continuous |
| 9. | Sponsor conservation workshops | ECD Board | continuous |

IV. ADMINISTRATION:

- | | | WHO | WHEN |
|----|--|------------|----------------|
| 1. | Develop annual work plan. | ECD Board | April |
| 2. | Review Memorandum of Understanding. | ECD Board | continuous |
| 3. | Develop annual budget. | ECD Board | January - June |
| 4. | Manage District finances. | ECD Board | continuous |
| 5. | Hold regular meetings each month. Special meetings to be called as needed. | ECD Board | monthly |
| 6. | Plan and direct a conservation project. | ECD Board | continuous |
| 7. | Operate and maintain a local conservation office. | ECD Board | continuous |
| 8. | Hire employees or acquire the services of professionals. | ECD Board | as needed |
| 9. | Help orient new supervisors on district activities and programs. | ECD Board | as needed |

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 10. | Conduct employee appraisals. | ECD Board | as needed |
| 11. | Hold elections of board officers. | ECD Board | November |

V. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

- 1. Local Conservation Committee**
Patsy Tomera Jake Tibbitts
Patti Benson Gary McCuin
Juniece Salas Lynn Conley

- 2. Annual Meeting Committee**
Patsy Tomera
Patti Benson
Juniece Salas

- 3. Research and Education**
Patsy Tomera
Patti Benson
Juniece Salas
Jake Tibbitts
Lynn Conley

- 4. Poster Committee**
Patti Benson
Juniece Salas

- 5. Scholarship Committee**
Patsy Tomera
Patti Benson
Lynn Conley

- 6. ECD Empowerment Authority**
Jake Tibbitts
Gary McCuin

VI. CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

District supervisors will attend local, state, and national meetings, conferences, etc, to keep abreast of changing conservation techniques and resource issues, and to further conservation work plan projects.

	MEETINGS	WHO	WHEN
1.	Nevada Association of Conservation Districts	ECD Board	October/November
2.	Southwest Region Meeting	ECD Board Representative	September
3.	Northeast Area Meeting	ECD Board	June
4.	National Association of Conservation Districts	ECD Board	February

- | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|------------------|
| 5. | Annual Meeting of Eureka Conservation District | ECD Board | October/November |
| 6. | NACD Summer Board Meeting & Legislative Conference | ECD Board Representative | July |

VII. AUTHORIZATION:

Adoption of this work plan was authorized unanimously by motion of the Eureka Conservation District Board of Supervisors.

Approved by:

Patsy Tomera, Chairwoman

Date: _____

Patti Benson, Vice-Chairwoman

Date: _____

EUREKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
P.O. Box 323, Eureka, Nevada 89316
(775) 237-5091

Annual Budget
JULY 1, 2014 through JUNE 30, 2015

Supervisor’s Travel & Training:	\$5,000.00
Office Expenses:	\$7,800.00
Postal Fees (postage, bulk mailings, etc)	\$ 300.00
Office Supplies (including monthly Internet service)...	\$1,500.00
Salary for District Clerk	\$6,000.00
Projects:	\$100,000.00
• Biochar	
• Capacity building	
• Eureka County conservation poster contest	
• Long term conservation planning	
• Irrigation efficiency	
• Juvenile department duck stamp program	
• P-J thinning	
• Range camp	
• Research and education	
• Riparian project	
• Sage grouse/Wildlife habitat	
• Soil health	
• Tree purchasing	
• Water conservation	
Insurance (worker’s compensation and grain drills)	\$1,200.00
State and National Meetings and Dues:	\$7,375.00
NvACD dues	\$ 600.00
National Association of Conservation Districts	\$ 775.00
Registration and Travel Expenses for Meetings.....	\$6,000.00
<u>Expense Total</u>	\$121,375.00
<i>Annual Budget Amount.</i>	<i>\$45,000.00</i>
<i>(Grant request Eureka County) Please note this budget has not yet been approved by the Eureka County Commission</i>	
<i>State Fund Grant Amount</i>	<i>\$3,500.00</i>
<i>Conservation District Reserves</i>	<i>\$72,875.00</i>
Total Budget Amount	\$121,375.00

2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Eureka Conservation District



Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

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.

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	Page 2
➤ District Supervisors	
➤ Meetings Held	
➤ Objectives	
Projects and Services.....	Page 3-9
➤ Youth Education	
➤ On-the-Ground Projects	
Community Outreach	Page 10
➤ Annual Meeting	
Annual Budget-Summary of Receipts.....	Page 11
Annual Budget-Summary of Expenses.....	Page 12
Certification.....	Page 13

Introduction:

The Eureka Conservation District (ECD) was founded in 1950 which covered a land mass of 1,650 square miles. After land owner petitions and land transfers from Jiggs and the Humboldt Conservation District, the ECD now covers 4,175 square miles, the entirety of Eureka County.

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.

➤ District Supervisors:

Lynn Conley	Chairwoman
Jim Ithurrealde	Vice-Chairman
Jim Gallagher	Member
Juniece Salas	Member
Denise Moyle	Member
Jake Tibbitts	Eureka County Representative

➤ Meetings Held:

The ECD met nine times from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, hosted one Annual Dinner in November 2014, and hosted numerous workshops.

➤ Outcomes:

The ECD concentrated on conservation efforts in critical resource problem areas and important land use areas. The ECD provided conservation assistance to district cooperators, individuals, producers, and government agencies. The ECD reinforced work relationships with various agencies and support programs having a common conservation interest. The ECD continued providing information, educational programs, and carried out district administrative activities.

Projects and Services:

The ECD concentrates its efforts in resource problem areas and conducts education and on-the-ground projects to conserve water, soil, and other related resources. By hosting various projects they are helping reinforce working relationships with district cooperators, individuals, minorities, limited resource farmers, and Eureka County. ECD provides multiple services in order to help conserve the county's natural resources.

Youth Education:

The ECD continues their educational outreach and efforts by working with the Eureka County School District, Eureka County Juvenile Probation Office, Nevada Youth Range Camp, and by offering ECD scholarships. ECD helps promote educating students on protecting soil, water and related resources from unwise use.

➤ **National Association of Conservation Districts Poster Contest:**

ECD board members presented at the Eureka Elementary School, Crescent Valley Elementary School and to the Pine Valley students in October 2014. The theme that was presented was “Dig Deeper - Mysteries in the Soil”, which was provided by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). Students were educated on the protection of soil, water, and other related resources in order to help them depict the presented theme on their poster. Once all posters were submitted, they were judged by the ECD board, and the top three posters in each category were awarded. All of the poster winners were presented their prizes and certificates at the ECD Annual Dinner in November 2014. Winning posters were forwarded on for entry into the state level, Nevada Association of Conservation Districts (NvACD), contest.



Presentation of Awards to the Poster Contest Winners at the November 6, 2015 ECD Annual Dinner.

➤ Eureka County Juvenile Probation Office Duck Stamp Contest:

The ECD helped sponsor the Junior Duck Stamp Program that is coordinated through the Eureka County Juvenile Probation Office. The Junior Duck Stamp Program is presented to the Eureka Elementary School and Crescent Valley Elementary School on an annual basis. Students were educated on water fowl habits and conservation efforts. The ECD provides a sponsorship to the Junior Duck Stamp Program for any acquired expenses on materials and educational information.

Winners:



Annie Rose Tibbitts
Pre-School



Jace Kniefel
Kindergarten



Laura Lee Fitzwater
1st Grade



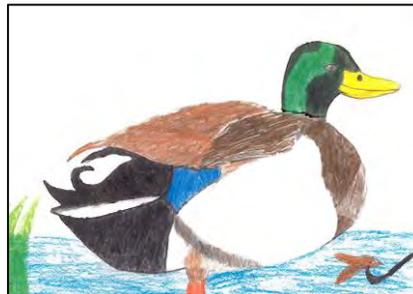
Corbi Brown
2nd Grade



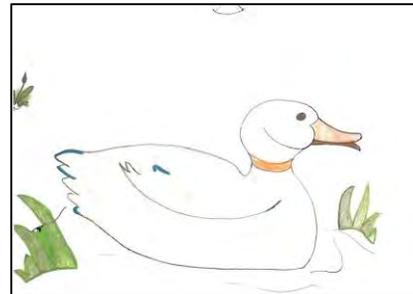
Mary Swanson
3rd Grade



Lucia Orozco
4th Grade



Christopher Burton
5th Grade



Sydney Norris
6th Grade

➤ Nevada Youth Range Camp:

The ECD offered sponsorships for students to attend the 55th Annual Nevada Youth Range Camp. The Nevada Youth Range Camp provides an educational experience

to students by learning about Nevada's desert and mountain rangelands. There was no interest submitted for sponsorship by any student in the 2014-2015 school year. The ECD provided a general donation of \$1500.00 to the Nevada Youth Range Camp for supplies and to be used on anything else that may be needed for an education Range Camp experience.

➤ Eureka Conservation District Education Scholarships:

The ECD made continuing education scholarships available to the Eureka High School students who were interested in the agriculture or natural resource fields of study in May 2015. A college scholarship for \$1,000.00 was made available to any student who meet the required criteria and was currently enrolled in college. Two high school scholarships were made available to students who meet the required criteria and had plans to attend college after graduation from high school.

Eureka Conservation District,
Thank you so much for the scholarship that you gave me this year. Your scholarship will help me fulfill my goal of becoming a dental hygienist. I am looking forward to starting the next chapter in my life and I appreciate the support you have given me!

Elizabeth Demele

Eureka County High School - Class of 2015



Eureka Conservation District,
Thank you for your \$500 scholarship toward my education. I really appreciate the local support. I will be attending UNR for Elementary and Early Childhood Education. Thanks again!

Sincerely,
Crystal Hubbard

On-the-Ground Projects:

➤ Pinion-Juniper (PJ) Removal Projects:

The ECD participated financially and administratively in a continued effort to cut PJ trees down on privately owned lands. The project was focused on improving wildlife habitat, increasing water availability, and providing additional forage for livestock operations. The PJ removal project was primarily an effort to enhance private land to help benefit Greater Sage Grouse habitats within the private property. In the last three seasons, a total of 4,175 acres of PJ on private land within sage grouse habitat were removed. The project still has a possibility of continue on into the next fiscal year if more private land is made available or BLM authorizes work on public land.

A portion of the overall project was funded through the Sage Grouse Habitat Grant Program. This part of the project removed additional downed trees to break up ground fuel continuity. Also, the biomass was used as feedstock for pyrolysis/biochar for associated but separate biochar projects (see below). Downed trees near roads, primarily Simpson Creek Ranch Road, were selected for removal to leverage the use of the road as an extended fire break and trees removed were transported to a nearby area and chipped for use as feedstock in producing biochar.



Pre-Project Photo:



Post-Project Photo

➤ Biochar Project:

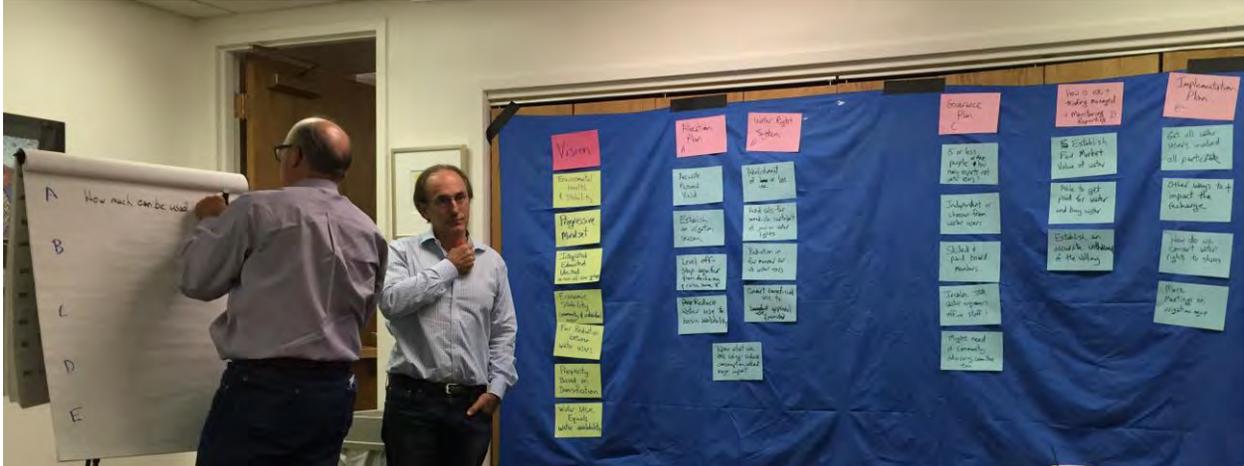
The ECD has been involved and continued in this project to find a use for the PJ biomass removed for the above habitat projects. There is also a focus on the potential of locally sources biochar being used as a soil amendment to increase soil moisture holding capacity in Diamond Valley and for local mining reclamation in order to reduce irrigation needs and increase vegetation establishment. The project was created in order to look into different alternatives for water issues being faced in Diamond Valley as well as ways to increase mining reclamation success. The biochar was researched and was determined to be a possible alternative for water conservation. The biochar was made using the PJ wood chips that resulted from the PJ removal project. Working with Amaron Energy in June 2015, 13 tons of biochar were produced from local PJ. There is still continued interest to continue to produce biochar with the remaining PJ wood chips in the future. There are ongoing efforts to now apply this biochar to fields and mine reclamation.



Biochar: Biochar has been shown to aid in moisture and nutrient holding capacity and shown to help absorption and efficient release of fertilizer and pesticides as it has a sponge like aptitude. Biochar is the product of cooking (not combusting) biomass at high temperatures with little oxygen resulting in a nearly pure carbon.

➤ **Diamond Valley Groundwater Management Planning (DVGMP):**

The ECD has been participating in the DVGMP in order to be better understand alternatives for the water issues being faced in Diamond Valley (DV). DV is severely over pumped resulting in water table decline and unsustainable use. Two-thirds of the population of Eureka County derives their water from DV and DV hosts roughly 200 center-pivots and contributes millions of dollars to the local economy. ECD has spearheaded “getting a pulse” on the opinions and issues in DV through informational and facilitated meetings, sending of questionnaires to all water users, and general administrative support. A local work group of farmers and other water users in DV have come together to develop and implement a plan that will determine their needs and every else’s needs regarding water resources in DV and will work to reduce groundwater pumping over time in a way that is fair and non-detrimental to the community. The ECD strives to participate in public meetings that may impact the district. The ECD has been providing administrative assistance, sponsoring lunch, and providing professional facilitators at the DVGMP workshops.



Steve Lewis (left) and Professor Mike Young (right) lead a Groundwater Management Plan workshop, hosted by the ECD, in Eureka June 11, 2015.

- **Crescent Valley Rangeland Improvement Project – Feral Horse Gather:**
 The ECD and Eureka County have been working with BLM and private land owners in Crescent Valley over the last few years to improve rangeland conditions. Much of the work has been related to noxious weed control. One of the primary issues impeding rangeland health and improvement is the huge population of feral horses in the area. These horses are tribal owned horses in trespass. They are not horses that fall under the “wild” status under federal law. Eureka County and the ECD were able to build the partnership with the tribal interests that own the horses to gather the horses. A private donation from a third-party interest was used to assist in the costs in gathering and removing the horses. Rangeland conditions have had a marked improvement in the area based on this gather.

- **ECD Rangeland Drills:**
 The ECD owns three rangeland drills that continue to be leased and used by local land owners. 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 a handful of times over this past year.

Community Outreach:

The ECD reaches out to the community by providing educational material, publications, projects, services, and hosts an annual dinner. Providing community outreach helps the community know that the ECD has resources available to benefit them as land owners and Eureka County. By working with the community the ECD has advanced their conservation goals and objectives for the present day and the future.

➤ Annual Meeting:

The ECD hosted an annual meeting, dinner, and election of three supervisors on November 6, 2014 at the Eureka Opera House. The Annual meeting, dinner, and election was open to the general public and the poster contest winners and their families are also invited to attend. The poster contest winners receive their certificate and prizes at the dinner. The dinner is very well attended by district cooperators, community individuals, and students.

Conservation Awards:

- American Ag Credit-Distinguished Support to the Cause of Agriculture and Conservation Award.
- Jeb and Dorothy Rowley-Conservation Excellence Award.
- Jake Tibbitts-Conservation Management Award.



Annual Budget-Summary of Receipts

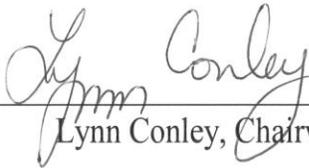
FINAL YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT	
EUREKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT	
Fiscal Year July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015	
SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS	
RECEIPT SOURCE	AMOUNT
State Funds-Annual Distribution	\$ 3,604.72
County Funds	\$ 38,250.00
City Funds	\$ -
Other Government Funds	\$ -
Beginning Bank Account Balance-July 1, 2014	\$ 26,732.07
Administrative Income	\$ -
Interest – CD, Savings, and Checking	\$ 42.57
Savings Account Approved Direct Transfer	\$ 80,000.00
State Funds: Sage-Grouse Habitat Grant	\$ 2,857.14
Grants For Projects-USDA/FS Qwest Support (Biochar Project)	\$ 2,500.00
Grants For Projects-Barrick Gold (Crescent Valley Range Improvement Project)	\$ 150,000.00
Grants For Projects-Eastern NV Landscape Coalition (Biochar Project)	\$ 3,000.00
Grants For Projects-Mt. Wheeler (DV-Groundwater Management Workshop)	\$ 700.00
Grants For Projects-State of NV Grant (Landowner Incentive Program)	\$ 42,802.71
Rental Income (equipment, etc.)	\$ -
Contributions	\$ -
Building/Property Rental Fees	\$ -
Other Sources of Income: Annual Dinner and Meeting	\$ 971.25
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 351,460.46

Annual Budget- Summary of Expenses

FINAL YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT	
EUREKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT	
Fiscal Year July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015	
SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES	
EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT
Employee Salary	\$ 5,417.37
Fringe Benefit Expense	\$ -
Supervisor Travel & Meeting Expenses	\$ 2,174.38
Building Rent	\$ -
Telephone	\$ -
Insurance (Rangeland Drill & Worker's Compensation)	\$ 931.50
Postage	\$ 462.40
Office Supplies	\$ 155.67
Education, Awards, Scholarships, & Donations	\$ 2,916.64
Annual Dinner	\$ 4,016.66
Equipment Purchase	\$ -
Equipment Expenses (maintenance, repairs, etc.)	\$ -
Dues (NACD, NvACD, etc.)	\$ 2,150.00
Project Costs:	
Crescent Valley Range Improvement Project	\$ 155,000.00
PJ Biochar	\$ 162,358.11
Groundwater Management Plan	\$ 8,410.87
Other Miscellaneous Expenses	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 343,993.60

Certification

The Eureka Conservation District approved the July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015
Final Annual Report on September 25, 2015.



Lynn Conley, Chairwoman

Submitted by: 

Jessica Santoyo, Clerk