

Lincoln County Conservation District
360 Lincoln St. PO Box 445
Caliente, NV 89008
775 726-3101

“Conserving our Resources for Future Generations”

ANNUAL WORK PLAN – 2017 / 2018

The mission of the Lincoln County Conservation District (LCCD) is to protect and improve the quality of our soil, water, and natural resources by providing programs and services to the citizens of Lincoln County. The quality of our soil and water depends on how wisely we use these resources now and how well we plan for the years ahead.

To accomplish this, LCCD will:

1. Provide a pro-active approach to resolving resource management conflicts and challenges between private property owners and state and federal agencies. LCCD meetings are a place for agencies to come together to work toward solutions.
2. Provide support for education programs that help increase knowledge of agriculture, Ag science and resource management issues that affect Lincoln County.
3. Actively influence the use and management of water, water quality, soils and other natural resources for all users.
4. Use our ability to act as grantees or subgrantees to administer conservation funding as made available.
5. Participate with Nevada Association of Conservation Districts (NvACD) and National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD).
6. Meet at least every odd month, usually in Caliente, to bring agencies and groups together and consider means by which LCCD may enhance conservation in Lincoln County. Hold an Annual Meeting in November to bring interested publics together and provide education.
7. Take advantage of opportunities as they come along, to adapt to the needs of the community. We intend to be nimble, intend to see what is needed and want to take advantage of it. We like broad strokes.

LCCD Supervisors are volunteers and the District has no paid staff. Therefore, not all elements of the long range plan are able to be addressed each year. Conservation assistance is made available, free of charge, to district landowners in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The boundaries of the District include all of Lincoln County, Nevada. District priorities are deemed to be of equal importance and the order listed does not imply any ranking.

PRIORITY: AGRICULTURE

Kelly Miller and Justin Frehner, primary
District Board of Supervisors and Cooperative Extension Service

Objective: Provide Conservation Assistance to District property owners, cooperating agencies, organizations, groups, and units of government. Concentrate water conservation efforts on irrigated lands; give input to Lincoln County Flood Control Board and conservation planning. Take an active role in advising farmers and ranchers up and down Meadow Valley Wash on how to get proper permits to restore their diversions.

- A. Evaluate irrigation systems and provide alternatives for improvements.
- B. Develop conservation plans on private lands.
- C. Assist with plans as appropriate for private property in conjunction with public land plans.
- D. Provide oversight and technical assistance to programs administered by the Farm Service Agency and NRCS. Participate in the NRCS Local Work Group and State Technical Advisory Committee to provide input to NRCS.
- E. Provide technical assistance, incentives and labor (if necessary) to control weeds on private land using resources from CWMA(s). Interface between agencies and private landowners pursuing weed control. Support CWMA efforts.
- F. Provide active leadership to Pahrangat Valley efforts to improve the condition of The Drain including encouraging landowner participation, equipment acquisition to accomplish tasks, actual work, coordination with federal, state, and county partners, and ongoing maintenance. This topic also applies under the Water Resources Committee.
- G. Encourage Lincoln County farmers to plant suitable crops for our area including niche specialty products. Provide information on the planting of orchard varieties, Christmas tree production, micro farms, sod farming and other enterprises.
- H. Solicit grants to assist with weed control efforts. Provide local list of targeted weeds. Sponsor pesticide applicator training and certification every four years in the winter if training is unavailable by other means.
- I. Convene Pahrangat Valley and North Lincoln Local Area Work Groups and encourage local citizens groups to support activities in relation to agriculture and other natural resource activities.
- J. Support activities to promote soil health for sustainability of cropped lands and rangelands in Lincoln County. This topic also applies under the Natural Resources Committee.
- K. Support the Farmer's Market facility next to the CD building.

PRIORITY: RANGELANDS

John Sanders and Steve Meldrum, primary
District Board of Supervisors

Objective: Provide rangelands resource assistance to cooperators and units of government.
Concentrate efforts on rangeland management.

A. Support rangeland management in Lincoln County through the local Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) Steering Committee.

B. Provide support to NRCS Plant Materials program.

C. Support any active soil surveys and ecological site mapping being completed in Lincoln County.

D. Provide technical training to the two high school FFA programs in Soils and Range Judging. Support participation in the local, Nevada, and national judging contests and provide assistance with transportation for these efforts.

E. Coordinate efforts to educate and better facilitate fire suppression activities concerning private property issues for public land agency crews.

F. Lead effort to coordinate wildland fire suppression and presuppression activity between Ely and Color Country BLM Districts and Dixie National Forest across the Nevada-Utah line.

G. Support activities and develop cooperative alliances to assist in methods of reducing pinyon-juniper cover with the intent of improving rangelands and the resulting enhancement to wildlife habitat for all species including Greater Sage-grouse and finding economic uses for the biomass produced. This topic also applies under the Natural Resources Committee.

PRIORITY: INFORMATION & EDUCATION

Margaret Orr, Kelly Miller and Steve Meldrum, primary
District Board of Supervisors

Objectives: Carry out active public and government awareness and education.

Provide an upgraded facility for the improvement of the community; the building also co-locates NRCS, UNR Cooperative Extension and Workforce who pay rent to the Conservation District. It also provides meeting space and long distance learning space for the community which is unavailable elsewhere. Concentrate on environmental education programs for youth and adults.

A. Provide environmental education programs for the public schools in Lincoln County including; rangeland, animal, and crop judging contests for 4-H and FFA at local, state and national levels.

B. Sponsor and distribute conservation materials to all schools in the county.

C. Sponsor youth and support Nevada Youth Range Camp.

D. Sponsor and coordinate the NACD Conservation Poster contest in the county and submit winning entries to the state contest sponsored by NvACD.

E. Support ongoing 4-H programs in Lincoln County including the 4-H Fair and livestock entries in the Clark County Fair.

F. Provide the Conservation District Workshop program; an ongoing series of informative presentations on a variety of topics of interest to people in Lincoln County with an emphasis toward agriculture and natural resources. Workshops will be geared for adults but the FFA students from Pahranaagat Valley and Lincoln County High Schools are encouraged to attend.

G. Financially support and provide material for the LCCD section of the Lincoln County Cooperative Extension website, <http://www.lcextension.org/>, to distribute CD activity and general information to Lincoln County citizens.

PRIORITY: WATER RESOURCES

John Sanders and Justin Frehner, primary
District Board of Supervisors

Objective: Water use and management is critical in Lincoln County.

A. Promote water quality programs in Lincoln County.

B. Promote the understanding of the state water laws.

C. Monitor static water levels and record in the following valleys: Panaca Valley, Pahranaagat Valley, Penoyer Valley and Lake Valley.

D. Promote high efficiency of irrigation through on-farm studies and Irrigation Water Management.

E. Carry out an active water resource program.

F. Provide active leadership to Pahranaagat Valley efforts to improve the condition of The Drain and other water related issues in the Valley, including encouraging landowner participation, equipment acquisition to accomplish tasks, actual work, coordination with federal, state, and county partners, and ongoing maintenance. This topic also applies under the Agriculture Committee.

PRIORITY: NATURAL RESOURCES

Steve Meldrum, Susan Hansen and Maggie Orr, primary
District Board of Supervisors

Objective: Through wise land-use planning and conservation management, the Lincoln County Conservation District is helping shape the present and future needs of Lincoln County, faced with greater demands on the area's natural resources. Concentrate on environmental concerns of farmers and ranchers in Lincoln County and innovative ways to use biomass present as pinyon-juniper on Lincoln County rangelands. Support state-wide efforts to protect the Greater Sage-grouse. Be a vehicle for groups and citizens to come together to solve problems.

A. Continue to review environmental assessments in Lincoln County and surrounding areas, as they become available.

- D. Convene Pahrnagat Valley and North Lincoln Local Area Work Groups and encourage local citizens groups to support activities in relation to environmental concerns.
- E. Support efforts to improve watershed functionality County-wide and specifically work to address issues with grade control structures and other work in Meadow Valley Wash.
- F. Provide assistance to Lincoln County on natural resource issues. Review current Memorandums of Understanding and discuss opportunities for assistance with County Commissioners.
- G. Support activities to promote soil health for sustainability of cropped lands and rangelands in Lincoln County. This topic also applies under the Agriculture Committee.
- H. Support activities and develop cooperative alliances to assist in methods of reducing pinyon-juniper cover with the intent of improving rangelands and the resulting enhancement to wildlife habitat for all species including Greater Sage-grouse and finding economic uses for the biomass produced. This topic also applies under the Rangeland Committee.
- I. Support the state-wide effort to restore and protect the Greater Sage-grouse by participation with the Sage-grouse Local Area Work Group efforts and producing and placing fence markers on identified fences to reduce Sage grouse mortality and ongoing projects to improve Sage-grouse habitat or populations. Support activities and develop cooperative alliances to encourage Sage-grouse populations and accomplish habitat improvement. Be involved in the effort to reduce raven predation.
- J. Engage in Cooperator status for Basin and Range National Monument RMP.

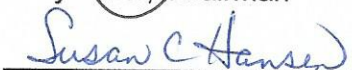
No person shall, on the grounds of race, color religion, national origin , handicap, marital status, or sex be excluded from participation in, or denied benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any activity of the Lincoln County Conservation District Program.

Adoption of this amended Annual Work Plan was authorized by a resolution of the Lincoln County Conservation District Board of Supervisors at a regular meeting held on March 21, 2017.



Kelly Miller, Chairman

Date: May 16, 2017



Susan Hansen, Treasurer

Date: May 16, 2017

Lincoln County Conservation District

360 Lincoln Street
P.O. Box 445
Caliente, NV 89008-0445
(775) 726-3101 ext 102

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Chairman, Kelly Miller / Hiko / 775 725-3502

Vice-Chair, Maggie Orr / Caliente / 775 726-3742

Secretary, Jessica Mathews / Pioche / 775 962-5733

Treasurer, Susan Hansen (City Appointment) / Caliente / 775 726-3643

Supervisor, Justin Frehner / Panaca / 775 728-4488

Supervisor, Steve Meldrum / Alamo / 702 232-8079

Supervisor, John Sanders (County Appointment) / Hiko / 775 725-3830

DISTRICT STAFF:

District Clerk, vacant, 775 726-3101 ext 102

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE:

District Conservationist, Cory D. Lytle / Caliente & Ely / 775 726-3101 ext. 103

Farm Bill Program Assistant, Paula Barstow / Caliente / 775 726-3101 ext. 104

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION:

Lincoln County Extension Educator, Holly Gatzke / Caliente / 775 726-3109

Secretary, Keith Larson / Caliente / 775 726-3109

4-H Coordinator, Hayley Gloeckner / Caliente / 775 726-3109

**PROPOSED BUDGET
LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ESTIMATE OF RECEIPTS**

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018

RECEIPT SOURCE	AMOUNT
State Funds	\$ 4,500.00
County Funds	
City Funds	
Other Government Funds (specify)	
Administrative Income (specify)	
Interest - CD, Savings and Checking	\$ 10.00
Grants for projects (specify)	
Rental Income (equipment, etc.)	
Contributions	
Building/Property Rental Fees	\$ 22,920.00
Other Sources of Income	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 27,430.00

(INCOME ESTIMATE MUST EQUAL EXPENSE ESTIMATE)

SUBMIT BY JUNE 1ST TO: DIVISION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS,
901 S. STEWART STREET #1003, CARSON CITY, NV 89701
PHONE (775) 684-2764 FAX-(775) 684-2715

LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ESTIMATE OF EXPENDITURES
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT
Employee Salary/Contract Labor	\$ 8,040.00
Fringe Benefit Expense	
Travel	\$ 1,000.00
Property Lease	\$ 10.00
Telephone	\$ 50.00
Insurance - Building	\$ 1,600.00
Postage	\$ 175.00
Operating Supplies	\$ 500.00
Office Supplies	\$ 50.00
Education & Information Expenses	\$ 800.00
Equipment Purchase (specify)	
Building Expenses (maintenance, repair, operation)	\$ 1,500.00
Dues - NvACD	\$ 600.00
Dues - NACD	\$ 275.00
Dues - Other	
Mileage	\$ 120.00
Investments (specify)	
Internet/Website	\$ 500.00
Bond and Insurance Expenses	\$ 825.00
Project Costs:	
Support of State President Travel & Activities	\$ 750.00
Support of Lincoln County Youth/Other Youth	\$ 1,500.00
Support of Local Work Groups/Other Groups	\$ 1,000.00
Other Expenses (specify):	
Utilities	\$ 6,000.00
Annual Dinner	\$ 600.00
Conference Registration Fees	\$ 300.00
Building Upgrades	\$ 1,235.00
Staff Support	\$ -
	\$ -
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 27,430.00
Projected Receipts	\$ 27,430.00
Extra for Additional Expenses	\$ -

(INCOME ESTIMATE MUST EQUAL EXPENSE ESTIMATE)

SUBMIT BY JUNE 1ST TO: DIVISION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
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"Conserving our Resources for Future Generations"

ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2017 to JUNE 30, 2018

LOCALLY-LED CONSERVATION

Lincoln County Conservation District (LCCD) continued to work for conservation and proper management of private and federal/state lands in Lincoln County and Nevada while maintaining our commitment to students, our community, National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), Nevada Association of Conservation Districts (NvACD) and the Nevada State Conservation Commission. Our style has been to take advantage of opportunities and ideas as they crop up; in this way we are able to adapt to the needs of the community. We will move into new opportunities with the completion of our Resource Needs

Assessment that will enhance our belief in partnerships and allow us to participate and coordinate accordingly between state, private and federal interests at the local and state level.



PARTNERING / COLLABORATION

The following entities participate at our meetings:

- UNCE
- NRCS
- BLM
- USFWS (both Partners in Conservation Program and Pahrnagat NWR)
- Nevada DCNR Conservation Staff Specialist
- State Conservation Commission / NV Association of Conservation Districts
- Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF)
- Tri-County Weed Control
- Nevada Department of Wildlife

Our intent, beyond accomplishing our own goals and projects, is to create the opportunity where these entities will hear / recognize a need of another that they can assist / act upon. We hold regular meetings every other month and special ones if needed for any decisions required for our projects. LCCD remains in good standing with all State Conservation Commission requirements and continues to grow as a voice in Lincoln County, the state of Nevada and the West.

LCCD continued its ongoing effort to address the negative impact of wild horses on Nevada's rangelands. In October we sent a letter to the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board requesting the Board recommend, "options for sale without limitation and euthanasia must be funded and approved by Congress to get the horse and burro numbers down to Appropriate Management Level." Please see attached letter.

We also wrote support letters to Ely BLM for BLM Wild Horse gathers in the Caliente Complex and Seaman and White River Herd Areas to bring the areas to zero horses per the 2008 Ely Resource Management Plan. The removal of wild horses in these areas is essential to rangeland health. Please see the attached detailed letter for the Caliente Complex which mirrors the White River Herd Area letter (not included).

LCCD continued involvement with the Southern Nevada Cooperative Weed Management Area and also participates with the Pahrangat Valley CWMA; a Supervisor works closely with Tri-County Weed Control in the Pahrangat Valley and the CD also contracted with Tri-County weeds to spray Russian knapweed on our Fry Ranch sage grouse project.

LCCD wrote a letter to Governor Sandoval over our concern for BLM cutting funding for their Cooperative Agreements with Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition (ENLC) and the Tri-County Weed Program. These are strong partners LCCD needs to keep in place. See attached letter.

The CD banner was prominent at the annual Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited dinner attended by 500+ people; it helps make our presence known and shows our support as they have supported us. It declares, "Lincoln County Conservation District – locally led conservation proud to partner with MVWU."

LCCD Supervisors participated at and/or contributed to many meetings and works-in-progress:

- Lincoln County Sage grouse Local Area Work Group regular meetings
- NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee meeting in Reno
- Two Supervisors attended the Annual meeting of Nevada Association of Conservation Districts in Minden in November and provided a bronze sponsorship
- Society for Range Management International Annual meeting in Sparks, NV
- Restoring Lincoln County High School's Agriculture Education (FFA) Program
- Pahrangat Valley Local Work Group addressing the Central Valley Drain issue
- Southern Nevada and Pahrangat Valley Cooperative Weed Management Areas
- Panaca Farmstead board meetings
- Commitment to support of travel for NvACD President
- Nevada Collaborative Conservation Network (NCCN) planning meetings
- Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited annual banquet and planning
- Ely BLM Wilson Creek Allotment Term Permit Renewal public meeting and comment letter

RESOURCE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The most important project the CD is currently involved with is the development of a Resource Needs Assessment (RNA) for Lincoln County. In cooperation with Nevada Association of Conservation Districts, who is providing the concept, template, some funding, a sophisticated survey, and the contractor to facilitate the Assessment and draft the RNA document from Board and other local input, LCCD began to accumulate a listing of resource concerns for both private and public lands that will form the basis of the document.

The process uses the USDA NRCS farm planning tools on an area-wide scale. The Board, with other local input, will identify resource concerns of soil, air, water, plant, animal, human and energy. The contractor will run the concerns identified through the NRCS Conservation Practices Physical Effects matrix to identify possible solutions to those concerns. From this the Board will write a Conservation Action Plan that can be used to direct funding from any source to solve the resource concerns. When complete, the CD will have a document in place that can be used for coordination and cooperation with federal, state and local planning efforts.

LCCD presented to the Lincoln County Commissioners to inform them of this important work that will benefit the County's efforts; the Commission voted to provide funding for LCCD to hire two staff to support the process, a summer intern and a GIS specialist. The information will be accumulated by watershed in Lincoln County; work began first in the Pahrangat/White River drainages.

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Lincoln County CD continued a seminar series titled "Conservation District Workshop." The intent is to provide an ongoing series of informative presentations on a variety of topics of interest to people in Lincoln County with an emphasis toward agriculture and natural resources. One program was held; Maggie Orr, president of Nevada Association of Conservation Districts (NvACD) presented on the history of Lincoln County Conservation district. She had several pictures and stories about the early stages of the CD and a description of what NvACD is involved with at a state and national level.

LCCD continues its strong support of education by automatically sponsoring two students to attend the Nevada Youth Range Camp in June whether they are from Lincoln County or not. One of our Supervisors is a regular cook at Range Camp and provides logistical support. If additional Lincoln County students wish to attend they are sponsored as well.

We offer cash prizes for the NACD National Poster Contest at the County level and bring the winning posters to the NvACD Annual Meeting for the state competition. The local poster contest happened in fall of 2017 when LCCD hired the County 4-H Coordinator to teach and organize the contest, paying mileage.

One supervisor joined the BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Pahrangat NWR, Southern Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office), State Historic Preservation Office, and the Lincoln County Habitat Conservation Plan Office at the Pioche Labor Day Celebration for public outreach booths and activities. The event reaches out to about 400 local residents and visitors from Las Vegas and surrounding areas. The highlights were live animals (desert tortoise, toads, and non-native fish), a fishing game where kids learned how to fish and to identify game fish within the state, animal track stamping station, mammal skulls and skins that kids could touch, and throwing an ancient spear (Atlatl) at a target. Children and adults alike enjoyed the activities and information provided.

We encourage participation in FFA and 4-H Soils and Range Judging. We supply add-on money for kids showing animals at Clark County Fair Junior Livestock Show as we believe the program teaches the American dream of how to work and see results; sometimes you profit and sometimes you don't.

We also offer our building meeting space to local groups such as 4-H, Lincoln Communities Action Team and many others such as mountain bike trail planning, RSVP, Homecoming, and provide the location for educational classes and meetings via video conferencing for no charge.

Attached is a letter from a local farmer expressing his appreciation for use of the building and support from the LCCD.

The CD continued to maintain and improve the building and grounds so as to provide for the conference room space and offices for NRCS, UNCE, Workforce and the Farmer's Market. We further enriched the wildflower garden along the front fence. LCCD approved continuing a community demonstration garden in the space by our office. LCCD pays the power bill for the cooler used by the Farmer's Market. We purchase from local stores and hire local contractors to support our rural community.

We submitted one article to the local newspaper, the *Lincoln County Record*, in September 2017 advertising our Conservation District Workshop. All articles contain basic history and information on conservation districts.

LCCD continues to maintain a website. Courtesy of Lincoln County UNCE, it is www.lcextension.org. The website includes a "subscribe" feature where people can sign up to receive updates, including the NACD Conservation Clip List.

GREATER SAGE-GROUSE

LCCD takes an active part in the Nevada effort to protect and manage Greater Sage-grouse. Representatives of LCCD routinely participate with the Lincoln County Sage-grouse Local Area Work Group and provide input to its work and the management plan Addendum. The CD is in frequent communication with the BLM about how we can integrate effective projects between public and private lands in the area of Table Mountain, the prime sage grouse habitat in Lincoln County.

LCCD continued to work toward completion of our four sage grouse projects in cooperation with DCNR Conservation Specialist Lauren Williams, Cayenne Engel of Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) and the NDF Pioche Honor Camp.

1. Brown Springs Project was finally completed by NDF crews; all piles were chipped.
2. Winz Creek Wildlife Corridor Project was monitored and the NDF Burn Plan, one of the first in the state, was approved for burning the piles remaining from the project. LCCD is in high hopes weather will allow the piles to be burned in the winter of 2018 / 2019.
3. LCCD spent the \$33,884.46 from the Fry Ranch Area Wildlife Corridor project to spray Russian knapweed by Tri-County Weeds and to pay the NDF Pioche Honor Camp crews for their work to seed, thin sagebrush and clear pinyon-juniper, and build beaver dam analogs in Wilson Creek. The proposed plan was amended as work proceeded as concerns were identified and solutions found. The pinyon-juniper biomass accumulation was feared to be a fire-hazard, so chipping of certain locations was implemented. Beaver dam analogs that were first made from sagebrush were suggested to be strengthened with pinyon and juniper; a low water year in spring 2018 accumulated sediment behind all the structures completed by that point, but the structures were not tested by any high water. Monitoring is ongoing to see if the seeding was successful and if there is a need to reseed; sagebrush seedlings were observed in the flat and forbs emerged from under the chips. Chips were spread to keep the thickness of the mat as thin as possible. Work will continue and the remainder of the current project will be funded by NDF's USFS Landscape Scale Restoration grant. Frequent field trips are made by NDF/DCNR and a CD Supervisor to advise the Honor Camp crews and keep the landowner apprised.

4. LCCD joined with White Pine CD to initiate the 2018 SCC Sage-Grouse Habitat Grant called Cave Valley Ranch. The project crosses the White Pine/Lincoln County line and the \$30,725.58 grant will be administered by White Pine CD to improve sage grouse habitat on private land at Cave Valley Ranch. An existing fence of 1.5 miles will be removed and relocated from a mesic area to be closer to an existing road to ameliorate anthropogenic disturbances within a wet meadow area, and a new fence will be built around a spring to wildlife friendly specifications including elk jumps. A swing gate will be installed to allow grazing as needed to prevent overgrowth of vegetative matter around the spring that can be detrimental to water flow. Controlled grazing will keep vegetation under control and the spring in its best functioning state to open up this habitat for sage grouse.

To support the work in the Cave Valley Ranch area, LCCD wrote a letter of support for the Wildlife Heritage Account application for the Cave Valley Ranch Pinyon and Juniper Removal Project to remove pinyon and juniper on an area adjacent to the ranch. The juxtaposition of the projects will increase the benefit to sage grouse and many other wildlife species in the area.

MEADOW VALLEY WASH PROJECT

LCCD continues to pursue a proactive, holistic solution involving fluvial geomorphology and bioengineering incorporated with engineering for the deteriorated Mathews Drop Structure Project located between Panaca and Caliente. The CD will continue to seek funding for implementation of this worthy project.



PAHRANAGAT VALLEY DRAIN PROJECT

LCCD still leads the work clearing The Drain in Pahrnagat Valley; the current funding from the USFWS Partners in Conservation program is called the Pahrnagat Drain South Enhancement project.

Work was planned for September and October after Southwest Willow Flycatcher breeding season, but there were problems getting and transporting an excavator; however, we have organized the details to borrow one from Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge – a Supervisor attended a Federal Heavy Equipment Operator class to allow him to operate Refuge equipment and Lincoln County agreed to provide for the transportation of the excavator. These are examples of the momentum of cooperation on this project between the CD and USFWS and Lincoln County.

COMMITTEES

The Lincoln County Conservation District organizes its work by five committees: Agriculture, Range, Information and Education, Water Resources, and Environmental. The Pahrnagat Valley and Meadow Valley Work Groups, under the Agriculture Committee, will continue to consult with NRCS.

The Range Committee participated in State Technical Committee meetings. LCCD will support efforts by the local NRCS office to improve initiation and completion of EQIP projects on public and private lands, fostering the relationship between the agencies. Conservation applied to the land in cooperation with NRCS this year include: Conservation Plan Supporting Organic

Transition – Written 1 plan, Brush Management 1250 acres, High Tunnel System 14,116 sq. ft., Fence 1693 ft, Irrigation Pipeline 5900 ft, Livestock Pipeline 43,100 ft, Pumping Plant Solar Livestock 2 each, Range Planting 22.1 acres, Stream Crossing 3 each, Structure for Water Control 7 each, Livestock Watering Facility 7 each. This all continued the NRCS mission in helping people help the land.

The Environmental Committee advises on the Southeastern Lincoln County Habitat Conservation Plan and will continue to monitor and advise on this and other projects on federal land that will affect life in Lincoln County and the West.

CD BUSINESS

LCCD accepted an agreement under NvACD to obtain insurance coverage with Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool (POOL/PACT). The new policy is an huge improvement from our previous policy coverage to protect our Supervisors and property.

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360 Lincoln St. PO Box 445
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775 726-3101

"Conserving our Resources for Future Generations"

October 4, 2017

Members of the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board,

Lincoln County Conservation District stands for the idea of "Healthy Herds on Healthy Rangelands." We strongly believe that the facts and figures of wild horse and burro populations demand that the options for sale without limitation and euthanasia must be funded and approved by Congress to get the horse and burro numbers down to Appropriate Management Level. We ask that you would make such a recommendation.

Horse populations in Lincoln County are doubling every five years, and the rangelands show the detrimental effects. We live in the area where the Great Basin Desert breaks into the Mojave Desert; this is not horse country. The Ely BLM Resource Management Plan of 2008 recognized this and called for dropping 16 Herd Management Areas; the horses are still there and their numbers double every five years.

We know this is a difficult recommendation, but it is the right one for both the horses and our rangelands.

Sincerely,



Chair, Lincoln County Conservation District

Lincoln County Conservation District
360 Lincoln St. PO Box 445
Caliente, NV 89008
775 726-3101

“Conserving our Resources for Future Generations”

December 26, 2017

Bureau of Land Management Ely District Office
Attention: Ben Noyes, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist
702 N. Industrial Way, Ely, NV 89301

Dear Mr. Noyes,

Lincoln County Conservation District wholeheartedly supports the Ely District Wild Horse Gather Plan Preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) Proposed Action (2.2 Alternative A) for gathering wild horses for up to ten years in the Caliente Herd Area Complex to zero out wild horses in that area. We spoke at the Spring 2015 meeting of the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council to request the RAC advise Ely BLM to complete actions set forth in Management Action 5 for Wild Horses and Burros from the Ely 2008 Resource Management Plan (RMP) which states, “Remove wild horses and drop herd management area status for those areas that do not provide sufficient habitat resources to sustain healthy populations as listed in Table 13.” Thank you for this EA to make that happen for the Caliente Herd Area Complex.

Specific comments:

- Page 3, first paragraph – we support the statement that the plan will allow gathers “over the next 10 years from the date of the initial gather;” the often-demonstrated uncertainty of gathers due to funding and litigation constraints demands that this action be allowed as much as possible to run its course and not expire without the possibility of action. This is also stated in the first paragraph of the proposed action on page 10.
- Page 4, second paragraph and page 10 second paragraph – we think the estimated population number should be consistent, one states 1744 and the other 1736. While there is not much difference, we think consistency would help in a litigation situation and strengthens the EA.
- Page 10 – In the first paragraph of the Proposed Action we request that it be stated point blank that all horses in the Caliente Herd Area meet the definition of “excess” as identified by Management Action 5 in the Ely RMP.
- Page 10, first bullet point – we support the idea that gathers “may involve areas beyond the Caliente Complex boundaries” as we often see horses outside the boundaries.
- Page 11, last bullet point – needs clarification; it needs to make clear inventories will continue to make sure all horses are removed and the number remains zero into the future in case horses move in to the Caliente Herd Area from other locations. As explained in the EA on page 7, “annual population statistics are probably underestimates of the actual number of equids on the range.” Therefore, inventories are needed to continue to keep working toward and maintaining zero horses in the Caliente Herd Area.
- We support utilizing all methods of operation including helicopter and bait/water trapping.

- Page 13 – second paragraph in “Transport,…” where the first sentence states, “...horses...identified to not return to the range...” - we request that you clearly reiterate that all horses not euthanized at the gather will be removed to “receiving off-range corrals.” We feel this issue is too important to not be so clear in every statement that there is no possibility of misunderstanding or interpretation.
- Page 14-15 – we support euthanasia and sale without limitation if Congress were to lift the current appropriations restrictions.
- Page 15 – we do not support 2.3 Alternative B – No Action as we believe there must be active management of horse numbers to protect our rangelands and all their multiple uses.
- Page 15 – we do not support any of the Alternatives Considered, but Eliminated from Further Analysis in Alternative 2.4; the reasons for not utilizing any of the seven techniques analyzed are well documented in their descriptions in this EA.

Lincoln County Conservation District welcomes the opportunity to comment on this EA and supports the removal of all wild horses from the Caliente Herd Area for the betterment of all the resources in the Area.

Sincerely,



Maggie Orr
Vice-chair, Lincoln County Conservation District

Lincoln County Conservation District
360 Lincoln St. PO Box 445
Caliente, NV 89008
775 726-3101

“Conserving our Resources for Future Generations”

May 6, 2018

Dear Governor Sandoval,

Lincoln County Conservation District (LCCD) is very concerned about the significant negative impact for eastern Nevada should the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) discontinue funding their Cooperative Agreements with Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition (ENLC) and the Tri-County Weed Program.

Lincoln County Conservation District is an entity of state government that is led by locally elected Supervisors who focus on voluntary, incentive-based conservation actions; we are a vital link to connect private and public lands interests in eastern Nevada with valuable partnerships.

The existence of two of our regular partners, ENLC and Tri-County Weeds, is threatened if the BLM does not fund their Cooperative Agreements with these entities. Both ENLC and Tri-County Weeds perform essential services to monitor and control noxious weeds, educate people about noxious weeds and Nevada laws regarding noxious weeds, pursue funding and manage grants on behalf of nine cooperative weed management areas (CWMA), and work on landscape rehabilitation projects across property boundaries such as BLM, private, state or tribal lands. These are essential activities for the people and lands of eastern Nevada. Our small parcels of private land are surrounded by BLM; working across property lines is the only effective means to control weeds or manage the landscape.

ENLC and Tri-County Weeds were both established in 2001; they have worked tirelessly to protect our lands from the threat of noxious weeds. But both of these entities are dependent on funding they receive from BLM; if Tri-County Weed were to lose their BLM Cooperative Agreement it is unlikely any contractor would be able to consistently inventory, monitor and treat the weeds in the Ely BLM District, which encompasses both White Pine and Lincoln Counties, to the level that Tri-County has. ENLC could also potentially fail due to lack of funding and have to shut its doors. This would have a negative impact on all of the CWMA's ENLC currently manages. The two entities work hand in hand and both are essential.

Wildfires and noxious weeds are the two greatest threats to sage grouse and lands of the West. If the BLM is unable to get the work accomplished that is currently done through cooperative agreements, we should expect the health of our western lands to continue to decline. Cooperative agreements create more of a partnership between the recipient and the agency than a contract does. Under an agreement the recipient works closely with the awarding agency to achieve the targets outlined in the agreement.

Cooperative agreements generally keep the money local; they are usually for work within a given area and the people working on the agreements and sometimes the organization that received the agreement are all based within that area so the funds benefit our local communities. In 2017 ENLC had a payroll of \$750,000, over half of which came from work done under BLM Emergency and Stabilization (ESR) agreements. This is a significant payroll for a non-mining or gaming business in rural Nevada.

Both ENLC and Tri-County Weed are based out of Ely, Nevada, a small rural town of 5,000. The loss of both of these entities would result in approximately 30-40 jobs being lost in Ely.

While the two entities are based in Ely, their impact is felt in Lincoln County as they do the majority of the weed control, support the three CWMA's in Lincoln County and bring training and an overall awareness of natural resource problems and solutions to our area as well. Lincoln County Conservation District has hired Tri-County Weeds to spray noxious weeds on our sage grouse project on private land along Wilson Creek.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of ENLC and Tri-County Weeds to the landscape and economy of Lincoln and White Pine Counties. Without their vigilance and support to control noxious weeds, provide training and certifications so others can fight noxious weeds, and help the BLM with their priorities of land management, we would be losing the battle against weeds and wildfires in eastern Nevada.

Please help Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition and Tri-County Weeds to continue to do the work they do so well and support the small communities in White Pine and Lincoln Counties and the people that live here. Please work to ensure the BLM continues to work with these entities by the effective means of Cooperative Agreements. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Maggie Orr
Vice-Chair
Lincoln County Conservation District
PO Box 445
Caliente, NV 89008

Cc: Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
Senator Dean Heller
US Representative Ruben Kihuen
Senator Pete Goicoechea
Assemblyman John Ellison
Governor Brian Sandoval



BLUE LIZARD FARM

Rodney D. Mehring Jr.
HC34 Box 52 Caliente NV 89008
775-962-2438

March 15 2018

To: Maggie Orr
Lincoln County Conservation District

On behalf of the small farms in our area and the new beekeepers, I would like to thank the LCCD for the use of your building meeting areas. I have taught a beekeeping class and set up a meeting with Las Vegas distributors for our new local small farms. I appreciate the support the LCCD has been to our local farms.

I would also like to thank you for allowing local farmers to run and maintain our farmers market at your location as well. The Caliente farmers market just might be the longest running farmers market in Southern Nevada.

We look forward to continuing our productive relationship with you and the LCCD, and the continued use of your offices for meeting space.

Thank you,
Rodney D. Mehring Jr.
Blue Lizard Farm

**FINAL YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT
LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS**

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018

RECEIPT SOURCE	AMOUNT
State Funds	\$4,542.86
County Funds	
City Funds	
Other Government Funds (specify)	
NRCS Signups	\$1,000.00
Administrative Income (specify)	
Interest - CD, Savings and Checking	\$27.06
Grants for projects (specify): Sage Grouse	
Sage Grouse: Fry Ranch	\$17,413.49
Rental Income (equipment, etc.)	
Contributions	
Building/Property Rental Fees	\$22,920.00
Other Sources of Income	
TOTAL INCOME	\$45,903.41

YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT DUE SEPT. 30TH
TO: CONSERVATION DISTRICTS PROGRAM
NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES
201 SOUTH ROOP STREET, STE 101, CARSON CITY, NV 89701
PHONE (775) 684-8600 FAX-(775) 684-8604

**FINAL YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT
LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES**

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT
Custodial Contract Services	\$6,860.00
Fringe Benefit Expense	\$0.00
Other Contract Services (RNA, ect)	\$755.00
Building Expenses (maintenance, repair, operation)	\$652.72
Telephone	\$0.00
Insurance - Building	\$1,253.00
Postage	\$85.06
Copying Expense	
Operating Supplies	\$1,904.48
Education & Information Expenses	\$1,648.74
Equipment Purchase (specify)	
Equipment Expenses (maintenance, repair, operation)	\$0.00
Dues - NvACD	\$600.00
Dues - NACD	\$274.67
Dues - Other	
Support of State President Travel & Activities	\$173.98
Investments (specify)	
Internet	
Bond and Insurance Expenses (General Liability)	\$689.99
Project Costs:	
Grant #1 - Sage Grouse - Fry Ranch	\$26,421.85
Grant #2	
Grant #3	
Other Expenses (specify):	
Utilities	\$5,295.38
Annual Dinner	\$326.06
NvACD Annual Meeting Attendance Reimbursement	\$1,835.35
Building Upgrades	\$0.00
Property Lease	\$10.00
Sponsorship/Support	\$200.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$48,986.28

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LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FINAL FINANCIAL SUMMARY
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018

1. BEGINNING OF YEAR FUND BALANCE:

(Must Equal Funds Reported From End of Previous Fiscal Year)

a. List all bank accounts:

Certificate of Deposit.....	\$ -
Checking Account #1.....	\$ 14,943.75
Checking Account #2.....	\$ 19,191.83
Savings Account.....	\$ 27,034.67

b. Cash on Hand.....	\$ 150.00
c. Total fund balance.....	\$ 61,320.25
d. Accounts receivable other.....	\$ -
e. Accounts payable.....	\$ -
f. Total funds available.....	<u>\$ 61,320.25</u>

2. END OF YEAR FUND BALANCE;

a. List all bank accounts:

Checking Account #1.....	\$ 20,842.18
Checking Account #2.....	\$ 10,183.47
Savings Account.....	\$ 27,061.73

b. Cash on hand.....	\$ 150.00
c. Total fund balance.....	\$ 58,237.38
d. Accounts receivable - other	\$ -
1. Grant #1 :	\$ -
2. Grant #2.....	\$ -
e. Accounts payable.....	\$ -
1. Grant #2:	\$ -
2. Item #2.....	\$ -
f. Total funds available.....	<u>\$ 58,237.38</u>

3. SUMMARY:

a. Beginning of year fund balance (1.c. above).....	\$ 61,320.25
b. Plus total receipts (from Receipt Summary).....	\$ 45,903.41
c. Less total expenditures (from Expense Summary).....	\$ 48,986.28
d. Must equal end-of-year fund balance (2.c. above).....	<u>\$ 58,237.38</u>

4. ASSETS: List all assets (equipment, land, buildings, etc.) and estimate their value:

a. Building.....	\$ 116,626.00
b. Auto Folder (Available for Surplus).....	<u>\$ 501.95</u>

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LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018

FINAL USE OF STATE APPROPRIATED MONEY

Amount of State Appropriated Money: \$ 4,542.86

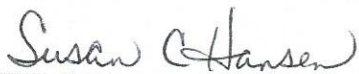
Money spent:

Category (specify)		
Attorney General - General Liability	\$	689.99
LCCD Annual Dinner	\$	-
Poster Contest/Range Camp/Junior Livestock Show	\$	1,537.74
Information Workshops	\$	-
Dues: NACD (\$274.67)/NvACD (\$600)	\$	874.67
Custodial Services	\$	1,440.46
Total of Category	\$	<u>4,542.86</u>

Matching Funds Spent:

Category (specify)		
LCCD Annual Dinner	\$	326.06
Custodial Services	\$	4,216.80
Total Matching	\$	<u>4,542.86</u>

Balance Remaining: \$ -



Authorized Signature:

Name and Title: Susan C Hansen, Treasurer

Date: 09/18/2018

LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT DUE SEPT. 30TH
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