

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 – 2015 / 2016

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 between private property owners and state and federal agencies.
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.

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. 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

Lee Mathews 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 Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- 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 Work Groups and encourage local citizens groups to support activities in relation to agriculture 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 ongoing 4-H programs in Lincoln County including the 4-H Fair and livestock entries in the Clark County Fair. This topic also applies under the Information and Education Committee.
- L. 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 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.

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 the Public Health Nurse 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; range, 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 a school poster contest in the county.

E. Support ongoing 4-H programs in Lincoln County including the 4-H Fair and livestock entries in the Clark County Fair. This topic also applies under the Agriculture Committee.

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 Pahrangat Valley and Lincoln County High Schools are encouraged to attend.

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, Pahrangat 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 Pahrangat 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.

B. Participate on local Technical Review Teams and the Lincoln County CRM Steering Committee. Explore grant opportunities as necessary.

C. Monitor Southeast Lincoln County Habitat Conservation Plan. (SLCHCP)

D. Convene Pahrangat Valley and North Lincoln Local 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 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 finding economic uses for the biomass produced.

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. Support activities and develop cooperative alliances to encourage and accomplish Sage grouse habitat improvement. Be involved in the effort to reduce raven predation.

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 May 19, 2015.

Lee Mathews, Chairman

Date: May 19, 2015

Susan Hansen, Treasurer
Lincoln County Conservation District

Date: May 19, 2015

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

Lincoln County Conservation District Supervisors, Employees, and Cooperating Agency Personnel:

LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Chairman, Lee R. Mathews / Dry Valley / 775 962-1263

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

Secretary, Kelly Miller / Hiko / 775 725-3502

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 / 775 726-3101 ext. 104

Program Assistance-Farm Bill, Dylan Graham / 775 726-3101 ext. 109

Range Conservationist, vacant / Caliente / 775 726-3101 ext. 104

UNIVERSARY OF NEVADA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION:

Lincoln County Extension Educator, Holly Gatzke / Caliente / 775 726-3109 ext 106

Secretary, Launa Chouquer / Caliente / 775 726-3109 ext 107

4-H Coordinator, Hayley Gloeckner / Caliente / 775 726-3109 ext 105

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

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016

RECEIPT SOURCE	AMOUNT
State Funds	\$ 3,500.00
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	\$ 26,430.00

(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, 2016

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT
Employee Salary/Contract Labor	\$ 7,350.00
Fringe Benefit Expense	
Travel	\$ 1,400.00
Property Lease	\$ 10.00
Telephone	
Insurance - Building	\$ 1,200.00
Postage	\$ 100.00
Copying Expense	
Office Supplies	\$ 50.00
Education & Information Expenses	\$ 800.00
Equipment Purchase (specify)	
Building Expenses (maintenance, repair, operation)	\$ 3,165.00
Dues - NvACD	\$ 600.00
Dues - NACD	\$ 255.00
Dues - Other	
Mileage	
Investments (specify)	
Internet	
Bond and Insurance Expenses	\$ 850.00
Project Costs:	
Support of State Vice President Travel & Activities	\$ 750.00
Support of Lincoln County Youth	\$ 1,500.00
Support of Local Work Groups	\$ 1,000.00
Other Expenses (specify):	
Utilities	\$ 6,000.00
Annual Dinner	\$ 600.00
Conference Registration Fees	\$ 300.00
Building Upgrades	\$ 500.00
Staff Support	\$ -
	\$ -
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 26,430.00
Projected Receipts	\$ 26,430.00
Extra for Additional Expenses	\$ -

(INCOME ESTIMATE MUST EQUAL EXPENSE ESTIMATE)

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PHONE (775) 684-2764 FAX-(775) 684-2715

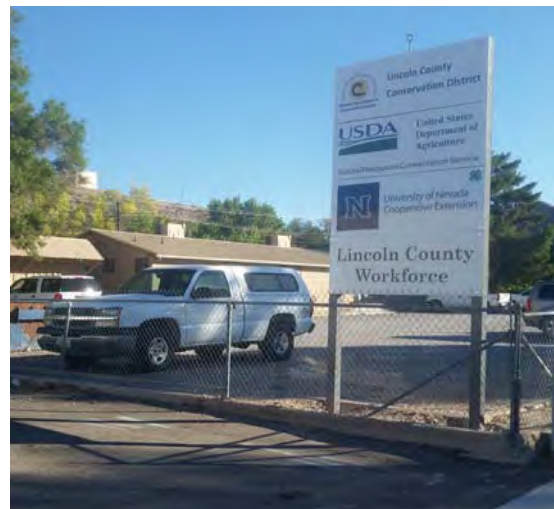
Lincoln County Conservation District
360 Lincoln St. PO Box 445
Caliente, NV 89008
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"Conserving our Resources for Future Generations"

ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2015 to JUNE 30, 2016

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 is 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 believe in partnerships and participate and coordinate accordingly between state, private and federal interests at the local and state level.



PARTNERING / COLLABORATION

The following entities participate regularly 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. This finally actually happened at the January 19, 2016 meeting where the BLM Field Office Manager suggested the NDF Honor Camp Supervisor come by the BLM office to ascertain if BLM could assist NDF with the pile burning on the Brown Springs project.

For the first time in years support by or the opinion of LCCD was requested. The BLM Caliente Fire Ecologist asked us to submit a support letter for the Caliente office to receive Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act funds for a sage grouse project near our Winz Creek project and funds to get the Hamblin/South Spring Valley watershed plan completed. This is an area of high Sage-grouse use in Lincoln County and prime for joint projects between public and private lands; the completion of NEPA in this area will greatly enhance CD Sage-grouse project activity. LCCD also made recommendations to BLM for the Wilson Creek Allotment Term Permit Renewal which is how they are trying to get some NEPA done there, also an important area for partnerships for Sage-grouse. The Board passed a motion to approve Chair-appointed Ad hoc committees to respond or support in a timely manner if no time or money resources are required from the CD for such opportunities to participate as these. See attached.

The CD wrote a letter of support for alternate route signs near the head of SR 317 and at the railroad crossing in town to Kershaw-Ryan State Park Supervisor Andrew Porter. The Firefighter Suggestions the CD previously submitted to BLM for how to protect and work around range improvements were offered to Caliente BLM for inclusion in the new mountain bike trail management and the new Basin and Range Monument plans. LCCD continued involvement with the Southern Nevada Cooperative Weed Management Area and also participates with the Pahranaagat Valley CWMA; a Supervisor works closely with Tri-County Weed Control in the Valley. The CD sought confirmation of opinion from Tri-County Weeds and Nevada Department of Agriculture and then sent a comment letter on a draft BLM EIS to allow BLM to use three more herbicides than now allowed.

Management of fires and wild horses and other resource concerns across the Nevada/Utah border could be improved with coordination between the BLM Districts and the Dixie National Forest. The CD discussed the idea with the Caliente BLM Field Office Manager to promote communication between the Districts and the Forest to allow better management of fire and other concerns such as wild horses, elk and PJ encroachment etc; he took the information forward and the CD later learned the matter had been approached by the two Fire Management Officers at the Tanker 11 Memorial this spring. This is a means of doing business and better management the CD will continue to push forward.

LCCD continued its effort to address the negative impact of wild horses on Nevada's rangelands. The CD discovered the "Go Wild Horse and Burro Watching" brochure at the BLM office and complained to BLM State Wild Horse and Burro Specialist Alan Shepherd; he asked for a letter listing concerns. Shepherd stated that no one else has complained about the brochure so the CD wrote a letter and shared it with Nevada Cattlemen's, Nevada Farm Bureau, the Mojave-Southern Great Basin RAC, and Nevada Section Society for Range Management. See attached. The CD received an inadequate reply from the BLM State Office so LCCD submitted that response to the State Conservation Commission; they wrote the BLM a rebuttal as did Nevada Section of Society for Range Management.

Chris Carlton, Caliente BLM Field Office Manager, stated one of the reasons he requested the emergency gather of horses near Pioche last December was due to the ongoing expressed concerns of LCCD.

When the State Conservation Commission and Nevada Association of Conservation Districts were working on a Regional Conservation Partnership Program application to NRCS, LCCD voted to approve a letter of support and committed \$1500 toward the project that will be the first result of the Coordinated Resource Management plan developed.

The CD voted to purchase a banner for the annual Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited dinner attended by 500+ people; it will help make our presence known and show our support as they have supported us. It will say, "Lincoln County Conservation District – locally led conservation proud to partner with MVWU."

The CD brought a Resolution to NvACD to bring to the 2016 NACD meeting in Reno: *"Nevada Association of Conservation Districts recommends NACD pursue the science, policy, and financial solutions necessary to overcome challenges to properly manage landscapes affected by expansion and overstocked established woodlands and the effective utilization of biomass from those lands to assist CD involvement with these issues on their landscapes and open policy doors to allow proactive action beginning immediately and continuing until solutions are found and challenges met."* The Resolution was adopted.

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

- Lincoln County Sage grouse Local Area Work Group regular meetings
- NDOW / USFWS Meadow Valley Wash and Pahranaagat Valley Recovery Implementation Teams in spring and fall
- NRCS State Technical Committee meeting in Ely in November
- Two Supervisors attended the Annual meeting of Nevada Association of Conservation Districts in Ely in November
- Nevada Section Society for Range Management's Winter Meeting on Greater Sage-grouse Management in Elko in January
- Restoring Lincoln County High School's Agriculture Education (FFA) Program
- Pahranaagat Valley Local Work Group addressing the Central Valley Drain issue
- Southern Nevada and Pahranaagat Valley Cooperative Weed Management Areas
- Continuing work in Rainbow Canyon and Caliente from the Meadow Valley Report regular meetings
- Caliente BLM Town Hall meeting in July
- Panaca Farmstead proposal to offer lease agreements for their water for irrigation to prove additional beneficial use; a CD Supervisor now sits on the Panaca Farmstead board
- National Association of Conservation Districts' Southwest Region meeting in Park City in October
- National Association of Conservation Districts' National meeting in Reno and Nevada issues tour leader in February discussing wild horses and PJ encroachment and other Nevada issues with NACD attendees from across the US
- 2015 Summit on Public Lands in Nevada, 9/29/15
- Planning for the newly created Basin and Range National Monument
- Commitment to support of travel for NvACD President

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. Two programs were held; Rick Lattin of Lattin Farms in Fallon brought his wealth of experience and ideas to Lincoln County to share at the CD Workshop November 12 in Caliente. He shared photos and spoke on how agri-tourism works, his hoop houses, processing plant and markets, production issues he has experienced, and what has worked and what did not work for him to over 50 people, and in March John Ashworth of Tri-County Weeds spoke on common weeds and their control methods to people in Alamo.

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, supporting the education that is offered in the schools by Cooperative Extension in conjunction with the contest; Extension was not able to provide the service so the CD will assist a retired teacher to do the education for the poster contest. We encourage participation in FFA and 4-H Soils and Range Judging. We support 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, and provide the location for educational classes and meetings via video conferencing for no charge.

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 a community demonstration garden in the space by our office. We purchase from local stores and hire local contractors to support our rural community. NRCS generously arranged and paid for the street-side signage for the offices in our building. See photo at beginning of this report.

We submitted two articles that were printed in the local newspaper, the *Lincoln County Record*, advertising our Conservation District Workshops. All articles contain basic history and information on conservation districts.

Two LCCD Supervisors volunteered at the Fish and Weed booth at the Pioche Labor Day celebration which included people from the following organizations: Caliente BLM, Pahrnagat NWR, USFWS Las Vegas, Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition, Pahrnagat Valley CWMA, Lincoln County HCP, NDOW, and Lincoln County Conservation District. Over Saturday and Sunday approximately 411 people visited the booth including 150 adults and 261 children. The highlights were the fishing game where kids got to cast, catch, and ID plastic fish, the fish printing station, and the live animals where kids got to touch crayfish and on Saturday toads. Once the children were having fun it gave the opportunity to talk to the adults. There were local visitors from Lincoln County, as well as visitors from Utah, Las Vegas, and Pahrump.

GREATER SAGE-GROUSE

LCCD took 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. A Supervisor met with a knowledgeable local resident to get ideas and maps for the DCNR Conservation Specialist to use to plan future Sage-grouse projects and provided introductions and local expertise to the new DCNR Conservation Specialist in Ely.

A Supervisor, the Conservation Specialist and the Caliente BLM Fire Ecologist met with an influential local rancher to discuss possible Sage-grouse projects on his private ground in the Table Mountain area; he also recommended an area on BLM southeast of Bradshaw Spring over to the Wood-McCullough area which is a polygon already identified in the South Spring Valley – Hamlin Valley Watershed Plan.

LCCD forged ahead on two State Conservation Commission-funded Sage-grouse projects using funds from the second and third rounds of Habitat Grants and other sources: implementing the

Brown Springs Rehabilitation Project and conceiving and planning the Winz Creek Wildlife Corridor Project. Both will remove pinyon-juniper encroachment from private property in the important habitat around Table Mountain northeast of Pioche. The CD has high expectations that success of these projects will allow us to continue and expand work in the area across private and public lands to improve rangeland conditions for the betterment of all resources.

Brown Springs Rehabilitation Project – Final Report findings

2015 SAGE GROUSE HABITAT GRANT PROGRAM LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT FINAL REPORT – May 6th, 2016

Contact Person: Ben Bolton Conservation Specialist
Project Submitted: 6/16/2015

Project Location:

The Brown Springs project site can be found in Lincoln County NV, Township 5N, Range 67E, within portions of sections 15 and 16. The APPN # for this property is 005-17-107 at an elevation of approximately 6,602 feet. The site is approximately 8.25 airline miles southeast of the junction of Hwy 93 and Pony Springs. The coordinates for this site are: 38°17'27.85"N 114°27'33.72"W

Objective and Planning:

This project was designed to rehabilitate the springs and associated meadows of the Brown Springs area, for the purpose of creating high quality habitat for the Greater Sage-grouse. Through collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management and Nevada Department of Wildlife, it was determined that the Brown Springs site had high potential to provide habitat to Greater Sage-grouse due to its close proximity to two active leks, known as Tub Peak and Tub Peak 2. Initial site visits included representatives of the Lincoln County Conservation District (LCCD), Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and a representative of Lincoln County Building and Planning. Through much discussion and exploration of the proposed area, it was determined that pinyon pine and Utah juniper had encroached into what had previously been a rangeland ecosystem, resulting in suppressed sagebrush, grass, and forb plant communities, as well as a decrease in available surface and ground water. The site could be characterized as a Phase II level pinyon-juniper encroached ecosystem. Based on these conditions, it was proposed to the LCCD and the property owners that all of the trees within the 35 acre treatment area be removed. The CD approved the proposition, and permission to proceed was granted through a written proposal drafted by Ben Bolton, Conservation Staff Specialist, which was sent to each landowner, and returned with signatures of approval.

After grant application submittal, the Lincoln County Conservation District was awarded \$3,636.36 from the Nevada Conservation Commission. \$1,500.00 of additional funding was also donated by Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited (MVWU), an organization based in Lincoln County which advocates conservation practices for wildlife. LCCD also approved a donation of \$1,500.00 to the selected contractor (NDF) for chainsaw supplies.

Implementation:

The LCCD approved a motion to hire NDF Conservation Crews from the Pioche Conservation Camp to provide the labor for implementation. The treatment area was flagged with orange flagging and recorded via a GPS device by Ben Bolton. This data was spatially drawn using GIS technology and projected on a map which can be found on page 3 of this document. Before and after photos were taken by Maggie Orr and Ben Bolton for future monitoring which are also

available in this report. Water flows of the three springs inside the treatment area were measured by Maggie Orr, Nicole and Ben Bolton on October 15th, 2015 before any tree cutting activity began, and this data is available on page 4. Tree removal began on October 15th; all trees within the flagged area were felled at the ground level with chainsaws, leaving no greater than a 4 inch stump. Large tree portions were bucked into firewood, and the slash was chipped where accessible, or piled for burning. It is estimated that 800 burn piles were constructed during the course of this project, and at the time this report was written, approximately 600 piles had been disposed of. The remaining piles will be burned in the fall of 2016 or spring of 2017, and NDF has agreed to perform this work at no charge to the LCCD. The reason for the delay in burning of the piles can be attributed to poor environmental conditions during burn periods primarily caused by high winds, which put the burn out of prescription of the burn plan, and by heavy snowfall which made the area inaccessible to the burn team. The firewood produced as a result of this project was first offered to a local contractor who declined to accept due to the distance and associated transportation costs he would be faced with in hauling to his yard in Caliente, so a large portion of the firewood generated was loaded into a dump truck provided by Lee Mathews (LCCD Chairman) and hauled away to a nearby church, where it was made available to local residents in need. Some firewood was left on site for use by the landowners.

The original project was expected to encompass 10 acres of tree removal based on this grant award; however NDF provided \$20,000 of in-kind donation, which enabled the project to encompass a full 35 acres. In exchange for this generous amount of match, the LCCD agreed to purchase chainsaw parts for NDF totaling \$ 1,340.88 (A list of this equipment is available on page 4). Lastly, Palmer penstemon seed, a native forb, was provided by Maggie Orr, and was broadcasted by hand on site to further increase vegetative regeneration.

Conclusion:

During the course of this project 35 acres of Phase II Pinyon-juniper encroachment were removed. Spring flow will be measured again in October of 2016 and be submitted to the office of the CD Program Manager. It is anticipated that the efforts of this project has and will continue to result in enhanced Sage-grouse habitat. This is attributed to an expected increase in water resources which will lead to a proliferation of grasses, forbs and shrubs which will benefit the bird. Also, the removal of trees in this location has resulted in a decrease of perch points for ravens and raptors which devastate Sage- grouse.

Cooper Munson, the local NDOW Biologist for the area has visited the project site on the ground, and via airplane, and has expressed his support and expectation that the treatment will unquestionably benefit multiple species of wildlife. However, because of the scale of this project, more work in the area will be necessary to see an increase in the number of birds. Furthermore, Cooper illustrated the need to install fences to protect the springs from the damage caused by feral horses and elk which frequent the area. This idea was proposed to landowners by Ben Bolton but was roundly rejected. The landowners viewed the idea as "closing off" their own water resources or as potential wildlife "traps." This topic will undoubtedly come up again and will be discussed at a later time. During discussion about the project with BLM Fire Ecology Manager, and President of Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited, Kyle Teel, it was determined that the project will align well with the ongoing BLM projects in the area which are designed to create wildlife corridors and mitigate catastrophic fires.

Lincoln County Conservation District sees this project as the successful initiation of many projects in the Table Mountain area and we look forward to a growing sharing of ideas and resources with federal and state agencies and local groups such as Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited. Momentum is building in Lincoln County to coordinate and share resources to expand

opportunities of applied management; the Conservation District is right in the middle of it by funding this and future projects, participating in the Lincoln County Local Area Work Group, and providing an opportunity for agencies to come together at our meetings and offer help to each other. This project has also attracted interest on behalf of the Nevada Division of Forestry to pursue additional landscape scale restoration projects within the Brown Springs parcel as well as other private lands in the Table Mountain area which are expected to begin in the fall of 2016.

Grant Supported Activities	Funds From Sage Grouse	Non-Federal Partner Funding	Federal Partner Funding	Total In-Kind	Total
NDF Crew Labor	\$3,273.00			\$20,000.00	\$23,273.36
Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited		\$1,500.00			\$1,500.00
LCCD Contribution for Chainsaw Parts		\$1,496.73			\$1,496.73
Mileage: @ \$0.57/Mile 481.2 (Bolton)				\$274.28	\$274.28
Mileage: 414 (Engle)				\$235.98	\$235.98
Administrative Costs (10%)	\$363.36				\$363.36
Volunteer Labor (\$18/Hr)					
Total	\$3,636.36	\$2,996.73		\$20,510.26	\$27,143.71



Brown Springs Project before and after

Winz Creek Wildlife Corridor Project – planning and project application

1. Purpose, Objectives, and Relevance:

This project will enhance the riparian corridor and uplands of the Winz Creek drainage area of the Wilson Creek Mountain range of Lincoln County, Nevada, owned by the Harrison family. The treatment area will become a critical component in a holistic approach to create large scale wildlife corridors in the most important Sage-grouse habitat area in Lincoln County, which are lands including and surrounding Table Mountain. Private parcels in the area support many of the available riparian areas but these and the surrounding uplands exhibit significant Single-leaf Pinyon and Utah Juniper (PJ) encroachment into rangelands. This project will clear trees on either side of a drainage which still supports varied and healthy grass, forb and shrub components and from three upland locations approved by the landowner. Tree removal work on adjacent properties nearby, which has been completed by other landowners and the BLM will experience greater connectivity upon completion of treatment on the Harrison property.

The project area is located in what the Nevada Department of Wildlife has determined to be Priority Habitat, and is also immediately adjacent to Core Habitat; approximately 2 miles from the Tub Peak 2 lek and 2.5 miles from the Tub Peak 3 lek.

The Lincoln County Greater Sage-grouse Local Area Work Group (LAWG) has worked for over a decade to promote habitat improvement for Sage-grouse; their about-to-be approved Lincoln County Sage-grouse Conservation Plan Addendum identifies three Projects the group feels most important. Project 1 is, “Rehabilitation of sagebrush communities where pinyon/juniper has become established,” and Project 3 is, “Riparian and Meadow Rehabilitation.” Because the objectives of this project are to remove PJ from both the drainage corridor and three upland areas, both goals of the LAWG will be met. While there is no live water at present on the Harrison property, the removal of trees may alter that situation, and as stated, there is a surviving grass, forb and shrub component already established, and awaiting release by tree removal.

A site visit on March 12, 2016 with the landowner, Candace Harrison and her son, Jeff; Ben Bolton, CD Program; Cooper Munson, NDOW biologist; Maggie Orr, Lincoln County Conservation District; and Connie Simkins, local resident interested in biochar projects, with a follow-up phone call from Ben to Mrs. Harrison on March 14, produced the following objectives: Open the drainage for improved connectivity of habitat by clearing trees; protect existing understory; reduce fire hazard in the area for protection of both residences and habitat; and produce material for a possible biochar project.

This project will complement other efforts of private landowners as well as state and federal agencies that have already, or are currently treating vegetation in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project area. BLM is currently implementing several thousand acres of the Cave and Lake Valley Restoration Project and USDA NRCS has cooperated with other landowners to clear trees for habitat improvement with Sage-Grouse Initiative funding. The Conservation District began to be a player in the area with their participation in the Lincoln County LAWG. Ben Bolton was hired and he began to investigate private properties in the Table Mountain area which would complement federal work with Kyle Teel, Fire Ecologist for Caliente BLM and Lincoln County Planner Cory Lytle. The first fruit of this tour was the 2015 Sage-grouse Habitat Grant, which provided funding for the Brown Springs Project. With its success, Cayenne Engel

of NDF asked if the CD could assist with implementation of a USFS Landscape Scale Restoration grant, and the CD realized it was a great opportunity. The Brown Springs project was also the beginning of a partnership between the CD and Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited (MVWU), an effective local wildlife group, and the CD and NDOW's local biologist, Cooper Munson. The Harrison property became a primary contender for the 2016 SCC grant application when lifelong local resident, Connie Simkins, became interested in promoting a biochar project in Lincoln County and consulted with Jeremy Drew of the Pinyon Juniper Partnership, Eric Roussel of NDF, the landowner, Candace Harrison, Ben Bolton and the CD. This resulted in the site visit of March 12 where an open dialogue with landowner concerns and expectations expressed and suggestions offered from specialists together produced a level of trust and cooperation to allow the original idea to expand to include opening the corridor in the drainage bottom and shrinking the potential biochar production to a more realistic possibility. The same day of the Harrison site visit, the group toured the nearby Fry Ranch property which has excellent potential for a future project and from the top of the hill the exciting evidence of the developing connections of corridors was clearly apparent.

The potential biochar production will be conducted and funded separately from this Winz Creek Wildlife Corridor project. Slash from 10 acres will be left to provide material for biochar production. Fencing to protect the existing understory will be funded from the Jim Tennille Foundation through Connie Simkins and possibly N-4 Grazing Board funds. Fencing is also a separate project not included in this application.

This project has the ability to be completed in multiple phases based on funding availability and to serve as match to leverage additional funding sources and partnerships. NDOW participated in planning and seeks funding for assistance in implementation. Nevada Division of Forestry is willing to supply the labor and equipment for implementation, as well as matching funds through their Landscape Scale Restoration grant and Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited, has verbally agreed to continue their financial assistance. In conclusion, it is clearly evident that this is a much needed and highly valuable component to landscape scale wildlife improvement efforts in the region as evidenced by the broad scale support from other entities to clear PJ encroachment and open wildlife corridors along Winz Creek.

2. Technical Approach:

Prior to implementation, the estimated 90 acre treatment areas will be flagged and recorded using a GPS device for GIS mapping and reporting purposes. The Conservation Staff Specialist in cooperation with a NRCS Range Technician will perform an analysis and inventory of baseline conditions via transect plot method for grasses, forbs and shrubs, upon which analysis of achievement of goals will be based. The Monitoring will be done at the peak of the growing season, (prior to seed dispersal) 1 year post treatment, 3 years post treatment, and 5 years post treatment. Photo points will be taken for documentation as well.

The PJ removal treatment areas are indicated as follows: A - Drainage, B - South Plot, C - Northeast, D - Northwest (please see aerial map for clarification). If the project must be completed in phases, it will proceed in alphabetical order to allow the project to meet the objectives in order of importance: Open the drainage for improved connectivity of habitat by clearing trees; protect existing understory; reduce fire hazard in the area for both residences and

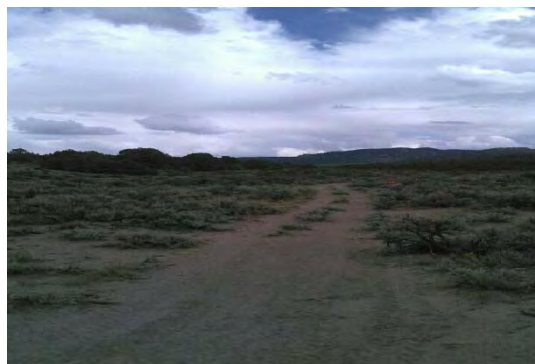
wildlife habitat; and produce material for a possible biochar project. The CD expects a high probability of success to meet these goals as they are all dependent on PJ removal for which NDF crews have proven track records of excellence on previous projects.

The anticipated time frame for tree removal will begin in July of 2016 so that Sage-grouse breeding activities will not be disturbed. Because NDF crews will be contracted for implementation, delays due to wildfire suppression activity may occur. However, it is anticipated that all tree cutting will be completed by March 1st, 2017, and burning of slash piles will commence thereafter and be completed by mid-May. Ten acres of this project may be treated via lop and scatter to provide the biomass to make biochar. However, any awards from this grant will not be used to make biochar; funding will only be utilized to remove PJ from the site. After the slash piles have been disposed of, monitoring of understory regeneration will begin following guidelines noted above.

3. Detailed Description of Project:

This project will involve the removal of encroaching Pinyon and juniper trees from a landscape which is highly suitable for Sage-grouse. This will be accomplished via hand crew labor using chainsaws as well as slash pile burning. Because this project is located on private property, NEPA is not a requirement. However, due to the funding contribution by NDOW which came from a Federal source, a cultural resource consultation with SHPO will take place before tree cutting activities begin. This will most likely require a physical inventory on site so that any cultural resources can be sited and protected from disturbance.

During implementation, multiple 12 person hand crews from NDF will be deployed on site to fell all pinyon and juniper trees within the polygons identified for treatment on the provided map using chainsaws. This is the chosen method of treatment because mechanized treatment would be very difficult due to the slopes that occur in the treatment areas, as well as the fact that the project is relatively small (90 acres). It is also the landowner's preference and she gave permission for use of inmate crews on her property. Trees will be felled leaving a short (less than 4 inch) stump. Tree portions measuring greater than 5 inches in diameter will be cut into firewood length pieces or fence posts and stacked neatly on site for local utilization. Tree portions less than 5 inches in diameter will be considered slash, and be piled for future burning by NDF under a State approved burn plan provided by the NDF Fire Protection Officer. Although desirable grasses, forbs and shrubs have been suppressed by tree encroachment, it is believed that there is still a viable understory seed bed, and upon tree removal, grasses, forbs and shrubs are expected to dominate the site. Therefore, seeding will not be a component of this project.



Contractor Name, Type, etc.	Cost	Matching Funds (if applicable)	SCC Grant Funds
NDF Honor Crews (20% in-kind of SCC Grant)	\$77,000	\$4,000	\$20,000
Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW)		\$30,000	
Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF grant)		\$20,000	
Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited (MVWU)		\$1,500	
LCCD		\$1,500	
C) CONTRACTUAL COST TOTAL:		\$57,000	\$20,000

G) TOTALS The sum total of Direct and Indirect Costs applicable to this agreement.		
Total Project Costs	Matching Funds (if applicable)	SCC Grant Funds
G) TOTAL COSTS:	\$57,000.00	\$23,230.87

MEADOW VALLEY WASH PROJECT

LCCD continued 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. Because of the ongoing partnership between LCCD and the County, the CD voted to make recommendations to the Commission to use in their decision making process of which alternative to pursue from those described in the Preliminary Engineering Report from Sunrise Engineering. The CD recommends the most fiscally prudent alternative and to request the County not select Alternative 4, gabion drop.

The CD continued to seek funding for implementation. A Supervisor met with Alan Tinney of Nevada Department of Transportation to seek \$200,000 of EPA funds from the Union Pacific violations in the Meadow Valley drainage in 2005. The CD thanks Mr. Tinney for his valiant effort to obtain the funding; sadly the funding went elsewhere though it should have been poetic justice to have it return to assist the drainage it came from. The County has put \$10,000 in their budget to leverage for other funding. Connie Lee of Nevada Department of Wildlife, Supervisor Maggie Orr and Cory Lytle, Lincoln County Planner, spoke with Birgit Henson and Jon Paul Kiel of Nevada Department of Environmental Protection who said they might have limited funds to assist with restoration work at the end of the project but nothing else from 319 funds. The CD requested the landowner apply to NRCS for funding; the match can come from NDOW. The CD contacted Representative Crescent Hardy after receiving an email from his office stating the possibility of "infrastructure work" stemming from H.R. 1815; a further conversation with a staffer in Las Vegas confirmed the Mathews Drop Structure would not be a candidate for any help from H.R. 1815. We will keep working to seek funding for this worthy project.

PAHRANAGAT VALLEY DRAIN PROJECT

LCCD Supervisors worked to maintain momentum on the Drain project. USFWS Partners in Wildlife program provided funding twice; \$900 that Supervisor Steve Meldrum and Commissioner Varlin Higbee decided to spend on herbicide/Tri-County Weed Control work along the Drain, using a water-friendly product along the edge and working 15-20 feet out. USFWS' additional \$25,000 will be used to continue work on the Drain below the previous work area. They hope to use the City track hoe; this will be a basic clean-out and not digging deep. They will coordinate with Varlin Higbee to arrange transport for the track hoe; it is exciting to see the coordination of equipment between entities in Lincoln County that was initiated last year now coming to fruition.

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. Five new conservation plans have been developed on private and public range allotments, with five new contracts worth over \$314,000 for high tunnel systems, conservation activity plans, and PJ removal.

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. Work completed by NRCS included obstruction removal on 20 acres, brush management on 684 acres, an irrigation pipeline of 2210 feet, and a livestock pipeline of 1163 feet.

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.

Lincoln County Conservation District is in the business of helping all concerned with conservation to find ways to SAY YES to work that needs to be done, attitudes that need to be addressed, partnerships that need to be built.

Attachments:

1. Support letter for BLM Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act grants
2. Recommendation letter for the Wilson Creek Allotment Term Permit Renewal
3. Comment letter to BLM on wild horse brochure

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

“Conserving our Resources for Future Generations”

Kyle Teel
BLM – Ely District
P.O. Box 237
Caliente, NV 89008

April 9, 2016

Dear Mr. Teel,

Lincoln County Conservation District extends its support for Round 16 Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) – Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Projects:

- Atlanta Road Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement Continuation Project, and
- South Spring Valley and Hamblin Valley Watershed Restoration Plan.

Conservation Districts (CDs) are entities of state government with the specific charge of locally led conservation. Lincoln County Conservation District participates in the Lincoln County Sage-grouse Local Area Working Group (LAWG) process, bringing a private land perspective and connection to the group. With the involvement of partners, Lincoln County CD has completed two Sage-grouse projects: fence-marking in South Spring Valley and Pinyon-Juniper encroachment removal at Brown Springs. The CD just received full funding from the State Conservation Commission’s latest Sage-grouse Habitat Grant for the Winz Creek Wildlife Corridor Project, located adjacent to the Atlanta Road Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement Continuation Project. The CD project and the BLM work in the Atlanta Road area complement each other and we appreciate your effort to continue the good work for Sage-grouse and other wildlife already begun.

The CD has connected with BLM grazing permit holders in the area and other agencies such as Nevada Department of Wildlife who have suggested projects on public lands within the area covered by the South Spring Valley and Hamblin Valley Watershed Restoration Plan. Completion of the Plan will allow for habitat improvement projects to begin in these locations and other areas outlined in the Lincoln County Sage Grouse Conservation Plan written by the Lincoln County Sage-grouse LAWG. The areas included in the Plan are those identified as most critical to Sage-grouse in Lincoln County; we must have NEPA completed for the growing work of BLM and partners in Lincoln County to proceed.

Thank you very much; we fully support your effort to seek SNPLMA funds for this needed work.

Lee R. Mathews, 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”

April 28, 2016

Mr. Ryan Kay
Bureau of Land Management – Ely District
702 North Industrial Way, HC 33 Box 33500
Ely, NV 89301

Dear Mr. Kay,

Thank you for the chance to make recommendations for the WILSON CREEK ALLOTMENT TERM PERMIT RENEWAL. We are an entity of state government that serves to promote locally led conservation, part of the national system of Conservation Districts. Our suggestions include input from Pete Tony Delmue, allotment permittee, Cooper Munson of Nevada Department of Wildlife, and Cory Lytle of Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited.

FIRST, HIGHEST AND CONTINUING PRIORITY: Reduce wild horse numbers to lowest end of AML range and maintain numbers within AML

(From the Lincoln County Sage-grouse LAWG Plan Addendum Project 1: Rehabilitation of sagebrush communities where PJ has become established; not in any priority order below)

2. Upper and lower Patterson Wash benches (Pony Springs area to just north of Bevan Lister property) –
West bench up to US 93, east bench to the foothills
PJ removal by appropriate means (same as Kyle Teel’s Atlanta Road projects)
3. Little Spring Valley –
West bench: Pierson Summit to Parsnip Wash – PJ removal and brush treatment
Particularly to west of leks in Valley bottom per Cooper Munson
East Bench: Stateline Wash to Burnt Canyon Wash – Seedings maintenance, new chainings / PJ removal, brush treatment
Bull Field use area – brush treatment
4. Bradshaw Spring (southeast of Atlanta Mine) to Wood McCullough Creek - PJ removal
(also suggested by Pete Tony Delmue)
5. Fry Ranch area across from Mount Wilson Landing Strip on the Mount Wilson Byway in T6N R67E Sec 35/36
PJ Removal on BLM to tie with private ground plan of PJ removal to connect to fire scar north of the Mount Wilson Byway in the Tunnel Spring to Mahogany Spring area and a corridor along the road indicated from the Winz Creek private property to the Landing Strip in Sec 30/36

(suggested by Cooper Munson). The Conservation District will begin the Winz Creek Wildlife Corridor Project in May 2016, adjacent to this area. This Fry Ranch area idea will expand corridors in the area to enhance wildlife movement opportunities.

6. Silver Park and Tub Peak / White Rock Bailey Tree Removal for riparian treatment/enhancement
These projects would be located in areas that aren't necessarily used by the grazers as they are a little removed from normal operations; they would be helpful to the overall condition of the allotment but are probably a lower priority in terms of grazing.

We feel we must reiterate that the key to all these projects is maintaining horse numbers and managing them properly. The benefits of the enhancement projects will never be realized if the horses continue to be unmanaged. The evidence in favor of this argument is to be seen on the ground.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our recommendations. Please do not hesitate to contact our Vice-Chair, Maggie Orr, at sideoatg@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lee R. Mathews
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”

August 1, 2015

John Ruhs, State Director
Alan Shepherd, State Wild Horse and Burro Specialist
BLM Nevada State Office
1340 Financial Blvd.
Reno, NV 89502

Dear Messrs. Ruhs and Shepherd,

The Lincoln County Conservation District would like to comment on the BLM Nevada brochure “Go Wild Horse and Burro Watching!” (GPO: 2013 – 671-963 / P1471). This brochure deals with an emotionally charged situation that has serious consequences which are not revealed. We voted at our July 21, 2015 regular business meeting to submit a letter to you to express our concerns and ask for action from you.

We thoroughly object to the copy on the opening pages just inside the cover with the blue-green banner at the top. As a whole the statements are inflammatory and do not accurately reflect the factual situation to be found on public lands and in the BLM budget. We see visual evidence in Lincoln County that things are not as wonderfully exciting as this brochure implies, rather, there is harm to our rangelands and danger on our highways.

The map on the inside suggests that these Herd Management Areas (HMAs) are the only places wild horses or burros are found in Nevada; yet horses can be found in many places in Lincoln County outside the Silver King HMA. In fact, most of those horses are not supposed to be there at all as 16 herd management areas were “dropped” in the Ely Resource Management Plan, yet Ely BLM WH&B specialist Ben Noyes stated in a January 12, 2015 email that there were 1090 horses counted in 2012 and 2013 in these dropped HMA’s. By not showing the total area of Nevada affected by horses it downplays the size of the problem.

The “Federal Management” segment would better serve to use information from the wild horse sections of the National and/or Nevada BLM websites. The material there is balanced and to the point; such information as copied here from various spots on those websites would be more honest:

- *“Wild horses and burros can quickly overpopulate an area. They have long life spans and are not very susceptible to predation or disease. Left unchecked, wild horse and burro numbers can double in four years. That can severely impact desert rangelands with scattered, small water sources like we have in Nevada.”*
- *Or, “Much of the West is suffering ongoing severe drought. In the areas hardest hit by drought and where wildfires have resulted in reduced forage, the health of wild horses and burros will likely decline. Many livestock permittees have already taken voluntary steps to significantly*

reduce the number of cattle grazing on public lands as a result of drought. Limits on the Wild Horse and Burro Program's budget and on the number of additional horses and burros that can be accommodated in off-range holding space means that fewer animals will be removed than in previous years."

- *Or, "The BLM estimates that 49,209 wild horses and burros are roaming on BLM-managed rangelands in 10 Western states, based on the latest data available, compiled as of March 1, 2014. Wild horses and burros have virtually no natural predators and their herd sizes can double about every four years. As a result, the BLM, as part of its management of public rangeland resources, must remove thousands of animals from the range each year to control herd sizes."*

The Lincoln County Conservation District believes the American public deserves to have accurate, balanced information to make decisions for when they vote or advise agencies or representatives of their opinions. They need to know the reality of the costs involved and damage caused to Nevada's rangelands by the numbers of wild horses and burros present. We believe they should receive this information from the BLM and not just hear emotional and inaccurate appeals from the wild horse interest groups. This brochure glamorizes a situation that has many problems associated with it. The reality is not as pretty as this brochure implies. Our rangelands in Lincoln County and around the state are at stake; the BLM has management authority over much of Nevada's rangelands, it is important for the BLM to send a consistent message concerning proper management of those rangelands.

One brochure in and of itself is not a big deal, but what does this one say about the BLM approach to managing wild horses and burros, your charge and your charge alone? The argument for BLM should always be about conservation and management of rangelands. Proper management positively affects all multiple uses of those lands and does not or should not allow one use to so negatively affect others.

We ask that you pull this brochure from your offices and website now and create one that presents the complete picture. We feel that the overriding issues we have raised concerning this brochure and wild horse and burro management as a whole, which we discuss in this letter and presented to the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council at their April meeting in Las Vegas, are important enough for your immediate consideration.

Sincerely,

Lee Mathews
Chair, Lincoln County Conservation District

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

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016

RECEIPT SOURCE	AMOUNT
State Funds	\$4,105.82
County Funds	
City Funds	
Other Government Funds (specify)	
Administrative Income (specify)	
Interest - CD, Savings and Checking	\$9.69
Grants for projects (specify): Sage Grouse	
Sage Grouse: Brown Springs	\$3,636.36
Additional Funding from (MVWU): Brown Springs	\$1,500.00
Sage Grouse: Winz Creek	\$23,230.87
Rental Income (equipment, etc.)	
Contributions	
Building/Property Rental Fees	\$22,920.00
Other Sources of Income	
TOTAL INCOME	\$55,402.74

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, 2016

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT
Custodial Contract Services	\$7,230.00
Fringe Benefit Expense	\$0.00
Building Expenses (maintenance, repair, operation)	\$1,226.26
Telephone	\$18.00
Insurance - Building	\$1,563.00
Postage	\$110.79
Copying Expense	
Operating Supplies	\$977.81
Education & Information Expenses	\$1,338.04
Equipment Purchase (specify)	
Equipment Expenses (maintenance, repair, operation)	\$0.00
Dues - NvACD	\$600.00
Dues - NACD	\$274.67
Dues - Other	
Mileage	
Investments (specify)	
Internet	
Bond and Insurance Expenses (General Liability)	\$809.69
Project Costs:	
Grant #1 - Sage Grouse - Brown Springs	\$4,772.72
Grant #2 - Sage Grouse - Winz Creek	\$124.65
Grant #3	
Other Expenses (specify):	
Utilities	\$5,243.62
Annual Dinner	\$109.85
NvACD Annual Meeting Attendance Reimbursement	\$1,114.91
Building Upgrades	\$0.00
Property Lease	\$10.00
LCCD contribution to Brown Springs Project	\$1,496.73
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$27,020.74

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT DUE SEPT. 30TH
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LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FINAL FINANCIAL SUMMARY
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016

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.....	\$ 12,535.95
Checking Account #2.....	\$ 3,153.75
Savings Account.....	\$ 9,665.23
b. Cash on Hand.....	\$ 7,047.65
c. Total fund balance.....	<u>\$ 32,402.58</u>
d. Accounts receivable other.....	\$ -
e. Accounts payable.....	\$ -
f. Total funds available.....	<u>\$ 32,402.58</u>

2. END OF YEAR FUND BALANCE;

a. List all bank accounts:	
Checking Account #1.....	\$ 25,982.78
Checking Account #2.....	\$ 25,126.88
Savings Account.....	\$ 9,674.92
b. Cash on hand.....	\$ -
c. Total fund balance.....	<u>\$ 60,784.58</u>
d. Accounts receivable - other	\$ -
1. Grant #1 :	\$ -
2. Grant #2.....	\$ -
e. Accounts payable.....	\$ -
1. Grant #2: Sage Grouse Funds committed (Winz Creek Project).....	\$ 23,106.22
2. Item #2.....	\$ -
f. Total funds available.....	<u>\$ 37,678.36</u>

3. SUMMARY:

a. Beginning of year fund balance (1.c. above).....	<u>\$ 32,402.58</u>
b. Plus total receipts (from Receipt Summary).....	<u>\$ 55,402.74</u>
c. Less total expenditures (from Expense Summary).....	<u>\$ 27,020.74</u>
d. Must equal end-of-year fund balance (2.c. above).....	<u>\$ 60,784.58</u>

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

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

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT DUE SEPT. 30TH
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PHONE (775) 684-8600 FAX-(775) 684-8604

LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016

FINAL USE OF STATE APPROPRIATED MONEY

Amount of State Appropriated Money: \$ 4,105.82

Money spent:

Category (specify)		
Attorney General - General Liability	\$	809.69
LCCD Annual Dinner	\$	-
Poster Contest/Range Camp/Junior Livestock Show	\$	875.00
Information Workshops	\$	463.04
Dues: NACD (\$274.67)/NvACD (\$600)	\$	874.67
Custodial Services	\$	1,083.42
Total of Category	\$	4,105.82

Matching Funds Spent:

Category (specify)		
LCCD Annual Dinner	\$	109.85
Custodial Services	\$	3,995.97
Total Matching	\$	4,105.82

Balance Remaining: \$ -



Authorized Signature:

Name and Title: Susan C Hansen, Treasurer

Date: 09/19/2016

LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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