

Vya Conservation District

Annual Work Plan

Fiscal Year 2015/16

- Vya Conservation District will continue to work with local farmers and ranchers on conservation issues including sage grouse habitat improvement, other wildlife habitat, soil health, and weed eradication, pending state funding.
- Vya Conservation District will continue to work with county, state and federal partners pending state funding.
- Vya Conservation District will continue to support local events such as the Modoc County Fair.
- Vya Conservation District will continue to pursue educational opportunities such as the annual scholarship.
- Vya Conservation District will continue to educate the public in natural resources through activities such as an annual tour or workshop.
- Vya Conservation District will support cooperative agreements with other conservation projects.

Vya Conservation District

Annual Budget

Fiscal Year 2015/16

Income

State of NV \$3,500

Estimated Expenditures

Conservation Work: Weed Eradication \$600

Conservation Work: NRCS Partnership 0

Dues \$700

Insurance \$700

Administration \$700

Education \$800

Office/postal supplies \$ 0

Total \$3,500



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Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2015/2016

The Vya Conservation District fosters and supports natural resource conservation through leadership, education, technical, and financial assistance to implement and ensure sustainable use of Northwestern Nevada's natural resources.

Overview

The Vya Conservation District has had an exciting year! With the help of NRCS, we have successfully undertaken some new endeavors and have been able to expand our ability to help local landowners. Our supervisors took advantage of training opportunities, and we added a new board member. A boundary change was approved, and the CD now includes a larger service area. As the year has progressed and we have gained momentum, we have begun the process of creating a website, logo, and mission statement. We are looking forward to what the coming year will bring as we continue our work in Northern Washoe County.

- **Boundary Change:**

In September of 2015, the boundaries of the Vya CD were officially changed to incorporate a portion of what was previously the Washoe-Storey Conservation District. With the assistance of Tim Rubald from the Conservation Districts program, and a legal description drawn up by the Division of State Lands, and the Nevada State Conservation Commission approved the boundary change to the following:

*All that portion of Washoe County, Nevada, described by the following townships:
T30N, Ranges 18-23 East, inclusive; T30½N, Range 23 East; T31N, Ranges 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 22½ and 23 East; T31½N, Range 22 East; T32N, Ranges 17-23 East, inclusive; T32½N, Ranges 17-18 East, inclusive; T33N, Ranges 18-23 East, inclusive; T33½N, Range 18 East; T34N, Ranges 18, 18½, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23 East; T35N, Ranges 18-23 East, inclusive; T35½N, Range 18 East; T36N-39N, Ranges 18-23 East, inclusive; T39½N, Ranges 20 and 21 East; T40N, Ranges 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 22½ and 23 East; T40½N, Range 22 East; and T41N-47N, Ranges 18-23 East, inclusive.*

- **Community Outreach/Education**

As with many counties in CA, Modoc County has experienced extensive reductions in funds for our County Fair. The Modoc Heritage Foundation was formed as a grass roots effort to keep the Modoc County Fair viable. The VCD supported their efforts with a financial donation of \$500.

In March of 2016, the Modoc Heritage Foundation sponsored a Farm and Garden Expo in Cedarville, CA. Vya Conservation District participated in the event and set up a table providing information about the CD, applications for our conservation project funding program, and pictures of recent projects we have completed in partnership with NRCS. Tim Rubald was able to attend the expo and represent the Nevada Conservation Districts Program.

When the board decided it was time to have a logo to represent the VCD, we asked local students to contribute their own logo designs and offered a \$100 prize for the winning logo. We opened the contest to Gerlach and Surprise Valley schools and homeschooled students, and although we did not receive any submissions, we are hoping that our efforts increased the awareness of the CD and its work in these areas.

This year we awarded one \$500 scholarship to a Surprise Valley high school student who is attending college with the intention of becoming an Ag teacher. We have offered scholarships for many years, and it is something we plan to continue for as long as funds are available.

- **Conservation Project Funding**

The district has funds set aside to help landowners with sage grouse habitat improvement, water development, or other conservation projects. We are continuing to solicit applications for projects through the NRCS field office in Alturas. Projects we approved in the 2015/2016 fiscal year include:

1. The board approved a landowner request for funding to assist with an NRCS approved fencing project. This allowed the landowner to fence and protect a newly seeded pasture. This project was successfully completed in March of 2016.
2. A local landowner requested funds for a fencing project to replace a fence that is no longer usable in order to protect annual crops from damage from open range cattle. The fence will improve the effectiveness of an NRCS cross-fencing/planned grazing/native grass project. The board approved this project pending a signed application from NRCS.

- **Mission & Vision Statements and Website Creation**

As the district has taken on more projects and we see the potential for growth, the board felt a need to create an online presence and formalize our direction through the creation of a website, mission and vision statements, and a logo. In the spring of 2016 work began on each of these items, and at the present time we have launched a website (vyacd.org), and are in the process of finalizing a logo and our mission and vision statements.

- **Project Oversight**

The district was able to enter into an agreement to provide oversight to an NRCS project in our area. This was an exciting opportunity for us, as it allowed us to receive an oversight fee, thus bringing in additional income which we can now use to fund more conservation projects in Northern Washoe County.

The project was a Wetland Reserve Project (WRP) and consisted of approximately 400 acres of juniper eradication and boundary fence maintenance. The fencing portion of the project was completed in October of 2015, with the remainder to be completed in the fall of 2016.

- **Supervisors**

In March of 2016, Washoe County Commissioner Jeanne Herman designated Diane Hagelthorn-Stobiecki to be her representative to our board. This is the first time we have had a Washoe County representative, and we appreciate the opportunity to have a stronger connection with the county.

Three of our supervisors attended the Conservation District Leadership Workshop on June 3 at the University of Nevada, Reno. They enjoyed the workshop and brought back materials and information to the rest of the board.

- **Weed Control Funding**

As in recent years, the Vya Conservation District continued to support the public/private partnership weed abatement program in Northern Washoe County. In fiscal year 2015/2016, we contributed \$2,500 to the BLM Applegate Field Office in Surprise Valley which was used to spray weeds.

SUMMARY

The past year has provided our district with many opportunities for growth and public outreach. We are looking forward to the coming year and the new opportunities it will bring as we continue conservation work in Northern Washoe County.

VYA Conservation District: Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016

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| Use of State Appropriated Money | | | | Year ending June 30, 2016 | | | |
| Amount of State Appropriated Money | | | | \$8,041.40 | | | |
| Money Spent | | | | | | | |
| Category (specify) | | | | | | | |
| Education | | | | \$500.00 | | | |
| Modoc Heritage Foundation | | | | | | | |
| Expo fees | | | | \$300.00 | | | |
| Dues | | | | \$40.00 | | | |
| Admin/Bank Fees | | | | \$60.09 | | | |
| Weed Spraying | | | | \$2,500.00 | | | |
| Insurance | | | | \$691.00 | | | |
| Total | | | | \$4,091.09 | | | |
| Matching Funds spent | | | | | | | |
| Category (specify) | | | | | | | |
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| Balance Remaining | | | | \$3,950.31 | | | |
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| Authorized signature | | | | Date | | | |
| Name and Title | | | | | | | |
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| VYA Conservation District | | | | | | | |