

BIG MEADOW

Conservation District

ANNUAL Report & Financial Summary

2021 – 2022

PERSHING COUNTY NEVADA

BIG MEADOW CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Po Box 771
Lovelock, NV 89419

Annual Report

July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

Date Approved by the Board: ***Sept 23rd 2022***

INTRODUCTION

Big Meadow Conservation District Supervisors, Staff and Cooperating Agency Personnel

Big Meadow Conservation District Supervisors, Staff:

Chairperson	Carl Clinger
Vice Chairperson City Representative	Mac Moezzi
Supervisor	Paul Schlehr
Supervisor	Elizabeth Uhart
Supervisor	Gloria Montero
Supervisor County Representative	Steve Foster
Supervisor	Melissa Jones
Secretary/Treasurer	Elizabeth Blondheim

Cooperating Agency Personnel:

NRCS District Conservationist	Christie Scilacci
FSA	Ali Philips
FSA	Audrey Hultenschmidt,
DCNR	Melany Aten

BMCD worked to address and advance conservation concerns and programs relevant to the district's goals and objectives, being mindful of the original mission of the conservation district while meeting the challenges of new realities.

BMCD still has a full complement of supervisors. This is Supervisor Melissa Jones's first year with BMCD and as the FFA Advisor and Ag Science Teacher at Pershing County High School and therefore has had limited available time. BMCD is Excited to have Melissa onboard as one of her passions is Ag Literacy and BMCD is looking forward to improved FFA interaction with the board.

BMCD remains in good standing with all State Conservation Commission requirements and continues to grow as a voice in Pershing County, the state of Nevada and the West.

CONSERVATION:

The District continued to provide technical assistance to cooperators in order to improve irrigation water management and erosion control. The District encouraged District cooperators to participate in the NRCS Conservation Programs.

A Local Work Group meeting was held this year.

Liaison was maintained with NRCS, NDOW, Division of Forestry, Nevada Department of Ag, FSA, Pershing County Water Conservation District, Humboldt Weed Management Association, Nevada Weed Management Association, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada Cooperative Extension, and the Nevada Farm Bureau.

The Board periodically reviews the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreements that it has with the aforementioned agencies.

BMCD Supervisors Participated and Contributed to many Public meetings in Pershing County and beyond.

- A Supervisor is an Alternate of the Humboldt River Basin Water Authority Board and in regular attendance.
- A Supervisor is a Member of the Pershing County Regional Planning Commission and contributes to Land and water Use issues throughout the County
- A Supervisor attends all Monthly Pershing County Water Conservation District Board Meetings and provides feedback to the BMCD Board.
- A Supervisor attends the Pershing County Commission Meetings to comment on Land Use and Water related Issues when appropriate.
- A Supervisor is a member of the Pershing County Natural Resources Advisory Board.
- A Supervisor attends the Lovelock Valley Weed District Meetings and provides feedback to the BMCD Board.
- Supervisor Schlehr who is a member of the Grass Valley Advisory Board attends the Advisory Board Meetings.

Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act:

Current Status: Recently the Bill has been merged with the Navy's Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization Bill in hopes that this was a Must Pass Bill and the Pershing bill would be passed. Unfortunately, the Navy Expansion Bill was not part of the Defense authorization Act when it came out of committee.

BMCD has been a Major contributor to the Development and Approval of this Act by the Citizens of Pershing County, the Wilderness Coalition and the County Commission. Beginning over a decade ago Pershing County has sought to resolve the status of checkerboard lands,

wilderness study areas, and other public lands issues within the county. Seventy-five percent (75%) of Pershing County is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (the “BLM”). Much of this ownership is in a checkerboard pattern. The goal of these efforts has been to provide new opportunities for economic development and protect areas of significant ecological value.

BMCD worked closely with Friends Of Nevada Wilderness to Assure that Pershing County Producer’s Grazing Rights and Existing Mining rights would be protected and garnered Mining and Producer support for this Bill.

Feral Horse & Burro Issues:

BMCD continues to educate the public about the degraded Range Ecosystems. BMCD Has written several letters about the Feral Horse and Burro issues, the latest was in support of C Punch Ranch and their Bluewing allotment. The horse population was 100 times over the HMA Max. This is an ongoing issue.

Annual Work Plan:

The District’s Annual Work Plan was reviewed and updated. BMCD has also submitted several newspaper articles to Winnemucca Publishing for the Lovelock Review Miner.

Agriculture Literacy

Ag Literacy is an important concern for the district. Supervisors have encouraged and facilitated 4H, FFA and Grange Youth to participate in numerous Statewide Livestock Shows.

The District hosted the NACD Poster Contest for the Lovelock Elementary, Imlay Elementary, and Middle School. In efforts to garner increased interest and participation Gift Certificates were given by the District for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places for all participating grades and classes. The District also elected to provide financial awards to all participating teachers. Entries were also sent to NvACD

The District planned to continue with the Annual Arbor day tree-planting program in Lovelock Elementary School, Imlay Elementary School, Stepping Stone Academy, and Imlay Preschool. Due to COVID 19 Pershing County Schools were Closed to non-school personnel and the Arbor Day Conservation training was canceled. In lieu of the tree planting, BMCD decided to provide Ag Literacy Books to the Schools. Four books were provided per grade level, for a total of 24 books. The books were age and grade level appropriate plus an Educator Guide. The Educator’s Guide provides background information and standards-based instructional strategies for introducing these agricultural topics to young learners. The Board coordinated efforts with Supervisor Melissa Jones, Pershing County FFA instructor. Melissa Jones has developed a committee within the school to enhance the local Ag Literacy project. She has planned to have the Nile Valley FFA students assist the teaching staff by reading the books to the young learners and assist with lesson plans. The Nevada Farm Bureau,NFB, has assumed the distribution of Ag Literacy supplies that Nevada Department of Agriculture discontinued to support. NFB also provided the District with the red carry bags to store the Ag Literacy materials.



Ag Literacy materials provided to Pershing County Schools



Red Storage/Carry Bags for Ag Literacy materials

Range Camp:

No Youth attended Range Camp from Pershing County this year.

Pershing County Water Management Plan:

The Pershing County Water Management Plan was finalized and approved by the Pershing County Commission in June 2018. BMCD was involved with reviewing and making suggestions for inclusion in the Plan. Proposed Policies relating to conservation of water resources in Pershing County include working with, and supporting, the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Pershing County Water Conservation District, the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority, Big Meadow Conservation District and other regional groups, to establish conservation and best management practices for a regional water resource. BMCD expects to be heavily involved in the remaining work to be done to implement the Water Management Plan, especially in the Area of over allocated water Basins.

Conservation Demonstrations and other Projects

Water Management/Measurement

In Support of the Water Management issues in Pershing County, BMCD Purchased a Well Sounder 2010 PRO, which is a highly accurate yet easy to use instrument designed for portable non-contact well water level monitoring. This unit also allows the user to perform unsupervised drawdown testing. The unit can be set to take measurements at intervals between 1-60 minutes. It also has a power save function, which will put the unit to sleep between

measurements to save battery life. It is capable of logging, storing, and downloading over 13,000 data points.

It is BMCD's goal to perform semi-annual well level and quality measurements on several wells in Hydrologic basins that have decreasing water tables. This data will aid Pershing County Land Use decisions and Water Management Planning.

Plant Health/Vigor Issues (High Water Table)

There are several areas across Lovelock Valley where Plant health is degraded or Non-existent due to a High Water table from large distribution canals conveying water for most of the growing season. BMCD plans to Quantify the amount of seepage from the canal by measuring the water amount/duration in the canal, the amount of seepage at the top of the field near the canal and the water table midway down the field. Soil Profile measurements will be made near the distribution canal. Different mitigation possibilities will be evaluated, such as Canal lining, water barriers, drainage tiles to name a few.

Lovelock Valley received a ZeroWater Allocation for the 2022 Irrigation Season so a Major Portion of this effort has been on Hold. Some difficulty in Obtaining a Soil Profile has been experienced, so some work has continued in this area.

Using the same Water Level sensors to report Stream Flow Measurements Remotely is also being evaluated.

Fugitive Dust Issue Grass Valley

BMCD was contacted about a significant Fugitive Dust problem in Grass Valley near Winnemucca by the Pershing County Commission. Two Supervisors have made over three trips to the location and have held discussions with the Parties involved. The concern is regarding over-tilling of land in the Grass Valley area causing a Dust nuisance to near-by landowners.

After extensive investigation into the issues in Grass Valley, BMCD presented a comprehensive report to the Grass Valley Advisory Board and Community Residents. The Report explained that Agriculture often creates a nuisance situation for the surrounding Community, but as long as the Producers are following Standard Agricultural practices they are exempt from Nuisance complaints. Since the Producer in Question was converting from producing Alfalfa Hay to Producing Organic Vegetables it required him to perform extensive cultivation to remove the surface and subsurface Rocks from the area before he could produce lettuce and spinach and also these crops required significant night time equipment operation.

Dried Up Spring East of Rye Patch

BMCD was contacted by a landowner East of the Rye Patch area who has raised concern over a long standing spring that appears to have disappeared due to Mine drilling wells near the Spring. Chairman Clinger confirmed the spring's existence with Bennie Hodges, Pershing County Water Conservation District Consultant. Chairman Clinger will work to gather information as to when

the spring was there and attempt to pinpoint when it disappeared. Discussions have been held with the Division of Water Resources local Water Commissioner. This is an ongoing issue that is complicated due to the complainant not owning the land where the Spring is located.

Technical Assistance Request for the Imlay area

In Response to a NRCS request to help a small producer in the Imlay area with seeds for a cover crop on a 25 acre pivot, three Supervisors visited the producer's field. Although the field had produced some winter wheat the previous year, and was currently planted to Spring Wheat, it was currently about 88% bare ground. The producer had deep ripped the field the previous winter which he believed had brought up the salts and prevented Plant growth. The Supervisors recommended a Soil Test as a first step before any attempt to plant any of the NRCS recommended Cover Crop mixes. The producer was provided with Soil test procedures. A couple of weeks later another Supervisor visited the producer, and provided more Soil test information. At the last inspection the Producer had greatly increased the speed of the Pivot to reduce runoff and had Kocia, Green Manure, growing on over 85% of the field. He had received the results of the Soil test but did not understand it.

Navy Expansion Effects on Pershing County

This effort has been worked on by BMCD since 2016, the Northern Nevada Economic Development portion is described above in the Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act this effort now is regarding Road closures at the South end of Lovelock Valley which restricts the movement of Large Farm Equipment between Lovelock and Fallon. Also this Proposed Expansion affects several Producers Grazing Allotments.

BMCD has submitted a Letter of Recommendation for alternative road routes over the mountains to the South and East of Lovelock Valley area to both the Pershing County Commission as well as the Navy Fallon Range Training Complex.

The current Navy request includes a withdrawal of an additional 604,789 acres of additional public land and an acquisition of about 65,160 acres of non-federal land for the range modernization and expansion. Congressman Amodei previously introduced the Northern Nevada Economic Development, Conservation, and Military Modernization Act in the 116th Congress as H.R. 6889.

Congress, though, didn't take action on any modernization or expansion of the Fallon Range Training Complex in the waning days of the last session except to approve the status quo extension of land already used for training. The current FRTC consist of more than 234,124 acres of land within the training areas Bravo-16, southwest of Fallon; Bravo-17 east near Fairview Peak; Bravo-19, 30 miles south off U.S. Highway 95; Bravo-20, northeast of Fallon; and the Dixie Valley and Shoal Site training areas.

Amodei, who represents Congressional District 2 including the lands affected by any modernization, said this bill seeks to modernize the FRTC by responsibly addressing the gaps between current training capabilities and current and future training requirements. He said the act is paying respect to environmental, tribal and military concerns. According to Amodei's office, he has spent time talking to the various stakeholders affected by his act and the NDAA.

“This bill addresses the United States Navy’s warfighter training capability so that it continues to rival that of our adversaries, like China and Russia, while also addressing the needs of surrounding counties, Walker River Paiute Tribe, Washoe Tribe, conservation groups, and sportsmen communities,” Amodei said in a statement.

Regenerative Grazing Demonstration

Our most pressing and complex contemporary agricultural challenge is restoring the soil. Gabe Brown’s Ranch model developed over twenty years of experimentation and refinement, focuses on regenerating resources by continuously enhancing the living biology in the soil. Using regenerative agricultural principles, Brown’s Ranch has grown several inches of new topsoil in only twenty years! BMCD intends to demonstrate Regenerative Grazing using simulated grazing techniques on approximately 10 acres in Grass Valley. This project has been Delayed due health problems in the supervisor's family. Recommended references:

<https://www.thelunaticfarmer.com/> and ALL of his books

Jim Gerrish "Kick the hay habit" "Management-Intensive Grazing"

"The Stockman Grass Farmer" newspaper

The Savory Institute Allan Savory

Gabe Brown <https://soilhealthacademy.org/team/gabe-brown/>

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BMCD was Awarded an NACD Grant for Resource Needs Assessment

Big Meadow Conservation District was awarded a \$25,000 grant by NACD to develop a Resource Needs Assessment, RNA for the entire county. BMCD covers all of Pershing County. Pershing County is about 6,067 sq. Miles, (3.9 Million Acres) with a Population of 6,616..

Four of the seven District Supervisors on the Board are on their first four-year term so the NRCS terminology and conservation practices are quite new to them. The ability to hire Tracy Jean Wolf, a Technical Range land Specialist to write, train/guide district supervisors through the RNA process has been critical to the development of an RNA baseline for BMCD.

For the purpose of this Resource Assessment, the District has been divided into six Areas. These Areas were designated to better direct specific conservation efforts based on resource concerns. The boundaries of the Areas are based on existing hydro-logical basins. The six areas are Listed below

District Area	Rough Estimate	Acres	%
Lovelock Valley	437,000		11%
Imlay Area	487,000		13%

Grass Valley	248,000	6%
South East Area	1,000,000	28%
West Area	1,500,000	41%
Hualapai Flat	25,000	1%
Community Pasture*	30,000	

*(the Community Pasture is located in Lander County but is owned by Lovelock Valley constituents, so it was added to the RNA area)

This assessment describes the general condition of these resources and highlights additional concerns in each category. As opportunities become available to address these issues, and as circumstances change, their emphasis can change. When the Resource Assessment is completed then Conservation Action Plans will be developed.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

The District scheduled and held monthly meetings throughout the year at the Pershing County Community Center. BMCD held eight business meetings during this fiscal year. Correspondence was reviewed at all regular meetings.

Full dues were paid to NvACD and 45% to NACD

District funds were prudently invested; personnel and equipment remained insured. Financial reports were updated regularly and reviewed at each regular meeting.

BMCD's Total income for the year was \$4068.26. Total Expenses for the year was \$4240.40. The Expected expenditures for next year are anticipated to increase therefore BMCD will be researching ways to increase their funding beyond current levels.

The Financial Report and Draft Annual Report were reviewed And Approved by the Board at the regular September 23 rd Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carl Clinger

Carl Clinger
BMCD Chairman

EGB/CC

Summary of Receipts

RECEIPT SOURCE	AMOUNT
State Funds	4,068.26
County Funds	
City Funds	
Other Government Funds (specify)	0.00
Administrative Income (specify)	
Interest – CD, Savings and Checking	3.14
Grants for projects (specify)	20,000.00
Rental Income (equipment, etc.)(Trencher inoperable)	0.00
Refund	
Contributions Donation of Raffle Items for NvACD	
Bank Maintenance Fee Return	
Other Sources of Income –Donation	0.00
	0.00
Tree Sales	
TOTAL INCOME	24,071.40

Summary of Expenditures

Employee Salary	428.00
Fringe Benefit Expense	0.00
NvACD Convention Expenses	0.00
Audit	0.00
Bank Maintenance Fee	0.00
W/C. Insurance. (Over paid Last yeat Credit)	0.00
Postage	60.00
NvACD Convention Raffle Items/Snack Donation	0.00
Office Supplles- poster & printer/ink	0.00
Education & Information Expenses (Poster Contest)	300.00
Equip Purchase (Water Level Sensors & Soil Profile	2,060.28
Equipment Expenses (maintenance, repair, operation) (0.00
Dues – NvACD	600.00
Dues – NACD	250.00
Dues - Other	
Mileage	42.12
Conference expenses (NVCAA & CA alfalfa symposium)	0.00
Sponsorship of NRCS CSP Workshop lunch	
Annual Dinner/	
Bond and Insurance Expenses Workers Comp.	0.00
Project Costs:	
RNA Grant CONTRACTOR	7,300.00
RNA Grant IN-KIND	3,754.26
Other Expenses (specify) News Ad	0.00
2022 Ag Literature project Ag Books for Schools	500.00
Tree Planting Lunch for Staff	
Range Camp Sponsorship	
TOTAL EXPENSES	15,294.66

Financial Summary

1 BEGINNING OF YEAR FUND BALANCE:

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

a. List all bank accounts:

Certificate of Deposit	\$0.00
Checking Account	<u>\$12,059.26</u>
Savings Account	0

b. Cash on hand

0

c. Total fund balance

\$12,059.26

d. Accounts receivable grants

\$0.00

e. Accounts payable

\$0.00

f. Total funds available

\$0.00

2 END OF YEAR FUND BALANCE:

a. List all bank accounts:

Checking Account	\$20,836.00
Savings Account	<u>\$0.00</u>

b. Cash on hand

\$0.00

c. Total fund balance

\$20,836.00

d. Accounts receivable grants

\$0.00

e. Accounts payable

\$0.00

f. Total funds available

\$12,079.15

3 SUMMARY:

a. Beginning of year fund balance (1.c. above)	\$12,059.26
b. Plus total receipts (from Receipt Summary)	<u>\$24,071.40</u>
c. Less total expenditures (from Expense Summary)	<u>\$15,294.66</u>
1. Less adjustment.....\$	
d. Must equal end-of-year fund balance (2.c. above).....	<u>\$20,836.00</u>

4 ASSETS: List all assets (equipment, land, buildings,

a. Trencher	<u>\$3,500.00</u>
b. PC_CWMA Equipment	<u>\$750.00</u>
c. Well Sounder Equipment	\$1,028.00
d. Data Logger Water Level Measuring Equipment	\$1,660.00

FINAL USE OF STATE APPROPRIATED MONEY

Amount of State Appropriated Money: \$4,068.00

Money Spent:

Category (specify)

- Insurance	
Poster Contest	\$300.00
Mileage	\$42.12
Equipment	\$2,060.28
Ag Literacy Ag Books for schools	\$500.00
Local Workgroup	
Dues	\$850.00
Office Supplies	\$60.00
Salary	\$428.00
Total Amount Spent	\$4,240.40

Balance Remaining -\$172.40



Authorized Signature:

Name and Title: Elizabeth Blondheim, Treasurer

Date

9/29/22

BIG MEADOW CONSERVATION DISTRICT