

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Eureka Conservation District

Conserving Natural Resources

For Our Future



Eureka Conservation District

Mission

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

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Introduction:

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

The principal goal of the ECD is to conserve natural resources – soil, water and related resources – for current and future wise-use and enjoyment. Conservation assistance is made available free of charge, to district landowners and operators through coordination of working agreements and pursuit of partnerships and project funding with the USDA-NRCS and other federal agencies, state agencies, local agencies such as the Eureka County Natural Resources Department, and many private entities such as the mining industry and wildlife groups.

➤ District Supervisors:

Vickie Buchanan	Chairman
Jim Gallagher	Vice-Chair
Carl Olsen	Member
Gary McCuin	Member
Denise Moyle	Member
Jake Tibbitts	Eureka County Representative

➤ District Clerk:

Magee Braswell

➤ Meetings Held:

The ECD met eight times from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 and hosted the Landowner Appreciation Dinner on November 21, 2019. The ECD supervisors also, individually, attended numerous meetings and workshops throughout the year.

➤ Outcomes:

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

Projects and Services

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

Youth Education

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

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

The ECD presented at the Eureka Elementary School, Crescent Valley Elementary School and to the Pine Valley students in September 2019. The theme presented was "Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper" which was provided by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). Students were educated on what the theme meant in order to help them depict/draw the theme on their poster. Once all posters were submitted, they were judged by the ECD, and the top three posters in each category were awarded. All of the poster winners were presented with cash prizes and certificates at the ECD Annual Dinner on November 21, 2019. Nevada Gold Mines graciously sponsored the contest including the cash prizes. The winning posters from the local competition were forwarded onto the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts (NvACD) state poster contest.

Winners

Category: Kindergarten through 1st Grade

- 1st Place- Jazmin Martinez
- 2nd Place- Mae Rowley
- 3rd Place- Audrey Goettle

Category: 2nd Grade through 3rd Grade

- 1st Place- Evelyn Santoyo
- 2nd Place- Lyric Czantske
- 3rd Place- Forrest Pizzamiglin

Category 4th Grade through 6th Grade

- 1st Place– Annie Tibbitts
- 2nd Place– Jenna Rosener
- 3rd Place– Jayde Rosener



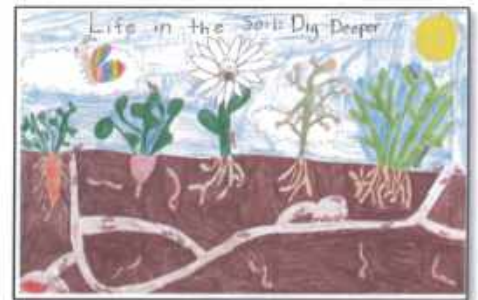
Category 7th Grade through 9th Grade

- 1st Place– Jada Sam
- 2nd Place– Hannah Bliss

Category 10th Grade through 12th Grade

- 1st Place– Ayla Cross
- 2nd Place- Samiah Calton





- Eureka County Juvenile Probation Office Duck Stamp Contest:
The ECD helped sponsor the Junior Duck Stamp Program that is coordinated through the Eureka County Juvenile Probation Office. The Junior Duck Stamp Program is presented at the Eureka Elementary School, the Crescent Valley Elementary School, and to Pine Valley students on an annual basis. Students were educated on waterfowl habits and related conservation efforts. The ECD provided a sponsorship to the Junior Duck Stamp Program for expenses on materials and educational information.

Winners

1st Grade – Jaxon Kiechler

2nd Grade – Braylen Hubbard

3rd Grade – Ladd Rowley

4th Grade – Annie Tibbitts

5th Grade – Thomas Schweble

6th Grade – Scarlett Buchanan



- Eureka Conservation District Education Scholarships:
The ECD made continuing education scholarships available to Eureka High School students who were interested in continuing their education in an agricultural and/or natural resource related field (this area of study is preferred, it is not mandatory). The scholarships were made available in April 2020. In June, three scholarships were awarded.

Eureka High School College Scholarship Recipients

Breyana Miller- Health and Exercise

Delaney Mears- Marketing

Skylar Merritt- Physics

The ECD also made college scholarships available to any and all current college students from Eureka County, Nevada to continue to further their education in an

agricultural and/or natural resources related field (this area of study is preferred, it is not mandatory). In July, one college scholarships were awarded.

College Scholarship Recipients
Katie Damele- Human Movement Science

On-the-Ground Projects

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

The ECD has been participating in and facilitating the development of the DVGMP in order to better understand alternatives for the water issues being faced in Diamond Valley (DV). DV is over pumped resulting in a water table decline and unsustainable use. Two-thirds of the population of Eureka County derives their water from DV and DV hosts roughly 200 center-pivots and contributes millions of dollars to the local economy. The ECD strives to participate in public meetings that may impact the district. The ECD has been providing facilitation, administrative assistance, and sponsoring lunch at the DVGMP workshops. The DVGMP is now completed and approved by the State Engineer but has been overturned by the District Court. ECD anticipates continuing, where appropriate, to assist on conservation-related matters under the DVGMP and potential development of a revised, or new, GMP and helping Diamond Valley water rights holders find solutions.

DVGMP Meeting held at the Eureka Opera House. Discussion lead by Jake Tibbitts, Eureka County appointed supervisor.



➤ **ECD Rangeland Drills:**

The ECD owns three rangeland drills that continue to be leased and used by local landowners. By cooperating with individuals, groups and local officials in having the rangeland drills available, the county is advancing in conservation goals and objectives. The use of the drills by local landowners has proven beneficial for post-fire rehabilitations, pasture restorations, and noxious weed control. Having this service available not only benefits the local landowner but helps improve long term conservation planning. The drills were rented out a handful of times over this past year. Due to their heavy use the last couple of years, the ECD invested substantial funding for their maintenance and upgrade.

➤ Weed Control:

The Eureka County Board of Commissioners, through the authority granted in SB 276, designated the ECD Board of Supervisors to become the Weed Control District Board of Directors in January 2016. While the budgeting for the Weed District falls under the Board of Commissioners, ECD has directed the work completed under the Weed District and continued partnerships with landowners to control noxious weeds. Many thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours were devoted to weed control since ECD took the helm over the Weed District; mostly through contract spraying, herbicide distribution to landowners, and provided technical assistance. Recently, they entered into a new multi-year agreement with Battle Mountain BLM and a new agreement with Elko BLM.

➤ Pinion-Juniper (PJ) Removal:

Over the last few years, the ECD participated financially and administratively in a continued effort to cut PJ trees down on privately owned lands in important wildlife habitats. The project focuses on improving wildlife habitat, primarily for Greater Sage Grouse, increasing water availability, and providing additional forage for livestock operations. The ECD was successful in receiving an additional \$25,000 in funding through the Conservation District Program Sage Grouse Habitat Grant. ECD contracted out to Quicksilver Contracting to remove PJ trees from prioritized treatment areas. Between October 28 and November 3, 2019, a total of 572 acres were maintained and/or cleared.

➤ PJ Compost and Biochar:

The ECD has been involved and continued in this project to find a use for the PJ biomass removed for the above habitat projects. There is also a focus on the potential of locally sourced PJ biochar and PJ compost being used as soil amendments to increase soil moisture holding capacity in Diamond Valley and for local mining reclamation and yards with lead-contaminated soil being removed and replaced in order to reduce irrigation needs and increase vegetation establishment. This year, more PJ compost and PJ biochar compost was created (through Full Circle Compost), using PJ from our habitat projects. The compost was applied on yards in Eureka where lead-contaminated soil had been removed (project involving US EPA and NDEP) and replaced with top soil. There is still continued interest to continue to produce additional compost utilizing local PJ chips. There are ongoing efforts to continue to apply and test PJ biochar and compost to fields and mine reclamation. There are also efforts to partner with NDOW on other field trials using the biochar still on hand.

Community Outreach

The ECD reaches out to the community by providing educational material, publications, projects, services, other workshops, and hosts an annual Landowner Appreciation Dinner and elections on election years. Providing community outreach helps the community know that the ECD has resources available to benefit them as landowners and Eureka County. By working with the community the ECD has advanced their conservation goals and objectives for the present day and the future.

➤ **Resource Needs Assessment:**

The ECD committed to be one of the seven Conservation Districts in NV to complete a resource needs assessment. The Resource Needs Assessment was created to identify the resource concerns in the area. By determining those concerns they are able to create plans for the resource needs in the area and also use that information to apply for funding. All of this will help develop a follow up conservation action plan with an updated set of issues, potential solutions, and projects. This will also help with funding opportunities and with leverage when collaborating with federal agencies. The process was be open for community involvement and allowed them to express their resource concerns and ideas as well. There were a handful of discussions held by ECD throughout year to move forward with a Conservation Action Plan (CAP) to address the RNA resource needs identified.

➤ **Annual Meeting/Landowner Appreciation Dinner:**

The ECD hosted an annual meeting, dinner, and presentation of Conservation Awards on November 21, 2019 at the Eureka Opera House. The annual meeting and dinner was open to the public, the poster contest winners and their families and all of the ECD's community partners. The poster contest winners received their certificate and prizes during the dinner. The dinner is very well attended by district cooperators, community individuals, and students.



Partner Recognition

The ECD greatly appreciates the generous support that is received from partners every year in hosting the Annual Dinner. Partnerships with these entities helps further locally-led conservation in Eureka County.

- ❖ Eureka County Board of Commissioners
- ❖ 4J Fabrication – Tim Rosener
- ❖ Eureka South Fork Hardware
- ❖ Pony Express Deli
- ❖ Nevada Gold Mines
- ❖ Raine’s Market & Ace Hardware
- ❖ Lisa & Keith Hoehne
- ❖ Abby Sweet, EES Art Teacher
- ❖ Annesa Ashcroft, CVES Art Teacher
- ❖ Diva Farms
- ❖ Parts City Auto Parts
- ❖ NV State Bank
- ❖ Carter Agri- Systems
- ❖ Ruby Hill Mine
- ❖ Urban Cowboy
- ❖ Sacha’s Sugar Shack
- ❖ Glow by G Photography
- ❖ American Ag. Credit
- ❖ Eureka Restoration
- ❖ B F E
- ❖ Blue Skies Wine
- ❖ Owl Club Roadhouse
- ❖ Mt. Wheeler Power



Silent Auction

The ECD also held a silent auction which brought in \$849.00 in revenue. The silent auction is organized and put together by Denise Moyle, ECD Supervisor. The silent auction has been very successful over the years. A huge thank you for all of the silent auction donations.

Annual Budget-Summary of Receipts

FINAL YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT	
EUREKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT	
Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020	
SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS	
RECEIPT SOURCE	AMOUNT
State Funds-Annual Distribution	\$ 5,000.00
Resource Needs Assessment	\$ 6,000.00
Interest – CD, Savings, and Checking	\$ 55.85
State Funds: CD Program Sage-Grouse Habitat Grant	\$ 29,740.10
Project: Workshops/Meeting Fees (Refunds)	\$ 90.00
Project: Biomass Handling/Compost Processing	\$ 23,250.00
Other Income: Annual Dinner and Meeting	\$ 3,697.00
Other Income: Barrick Gives, You Give	\$ 425.00
Scholarship Return	\$ 250.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 68,507.95

Annual Budget- Summary of Expenses

FINAL YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT	
EUREKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT	
Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020	
SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES	
EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT
Registration and Travel Expenses for Meetings	\$ 495.18
Office Expenses: Postal Fees (Postage, Mailbox, and Bulk Mailing)	\$ 199.59
Office Expenses: Office Supplies/Copying Costs	\$ 27.50
Membership Dues: Nevada Association of Conservation Districts	\$ 600.00
Membership Dues: National Association of Conservation Districts	\$ 800.00
Project: Poster Contest	\$ 720.46
Project: Juvenile Probation Duck Stamp Contest	\$ 350.00
Project: Pinyon- Juniper Removal	\$ 30,404.80
Project: College Scholarships	\$ 1,750.00
Project: Research, Education, and Outreach (Includes Annual Dinner)	\$ 4,760.89
Project: Biochar/Biomass Projects	\$ 19,135.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 59,243.42

The Eureka Conservation District approved the July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 Final Annual Report on August 28, 2020.

By: *Vickie Buchanan*
Vickie Buchanan, Chairman

Attest: *Magee Braswell*
Magee Braswell, ECD Clerk



FINAL YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT

EUREKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS

RECEIPT SOURCE	AMOUNT
Transfer from ECA to MMA	\$ -
State Funds-Annual Distribution	\$ 5,000.00
County Funds-Eureka County Grant	\$ -
City Funds	\$ -
Other Government Funds	\$ -
Administrative Income	\$ -
Interest – CD, Savings, and Checking	\$ 55.85
State Funds: Sage-Grouse Habitat Grant	\$ 29,740.10
Project: BLM Weed Spraying Projects	\$ -
Projects: US Forest Service (Biochar Grant)	\$ -
Project: Workshops/Meeting Fees (Refunds)	\$ 90.00
Project: Biomass Handling/Compost Processing	\$ 23,250.00
Project: CD Program Sage-Grouse Grant	\$ -
Project: Diamond Valley Groundwater Management Grant	\$ -
Resource Needs Assessment	\$ 6,000.00
Contributions	\$ -
Building/Property Rental Fees	\$ -
Other Income: Annual Dinner and Meeting	\$ 3,697.00
Other Income: Scholarship Return	\$ 250.00
Other Income: Donations from DonateWell.org	\$ 425.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 68,507.95

FINAL YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT

EUREKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT
Employee Salary/Eureka Conservation District Clerk	\$ -
Fringe Benefit Expense	\$ -
Supervisor Travel and Training	\$ -
Registration and Travel Expenses for Meetings	\$ 495.18
Building Rent	\$ -
Telephone	\$ -
Insurance: Rangeland Drill and Worker's Compensation	\$ -
Rangeland Drills: Maintenance/Repairs	\$ -
Office Expenses: Postal Fees (Postage, Mailbox, and Bulk Mailing)	\$ 199.59
Office Expenses: Office Supplies/Copying Costs	\$ 27.50
Membership Dues: Nevada Association of Conservation Districts	\$ 600.00
Membership Dues: National Association of Conservation Districts	\$ 800.00
Project: Pinyon-Juniper Removal	\$ 30,404.80
Project: Biochar/Biomass Projects (CIG, WIG, mine reclamation, composting)	\$ 19,135.00
Project: Diamond Valley Groundwater Conservation	\$ -
Project: Weed Control	\$ -
Project: Poster Contest	\$ 720.46
Project: Juvenile Probation Duck Stamp Contest	\$ 350.00
Project: Range Camp Sponsorships	\$ -
Project: College Scholarships	\$ 1,750.00
Project: Research, Education, and Outreach (Includes Annual Dinner)	\$ 4,760.89
Project: Irrigation Efficiency Education and Assistance	\$ -
Project: Resource Management Planning	\$ -
Project: Tree Planting	\$ -
Project: Riparian Restoration/Protection	\$ -
Project: Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Improvement	\$ -
Project: Habitat and Grazing Improvement	\$ -
Project: Other Requested Conservation Assistance	\$ -
Project: Sponsorship/Funding Requests	\$ -
Other: Elections	\$ -
Internal Transfer from ECA to MMA	\$ -
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 59,243.42