

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 – 2016 / 2017

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. LCCD meetings are a place for agencies to come together to work toward solutions.
2. Provide support for education programs that help increase knowledge of agriculture, Ag science and resource management issues that affect Lincoln County.
3. Actively influence the use and management of water, water quality, soils and other natural resources for all users.
4. Use our ability to act as grantees or subgrantees to administer conservation funding as made available.
5. Participate with Nevada Association of Conservation Districts and National Association of Conservation Districts.
6. Take advantage of opportunities as they come along, to adapt to the needs of the community. We intend to be nimble, intend to see what is needed and want to take advantage of it. We like broad strokes.

LCCD Supervisors are volunteers and the District has no paid staff. Therefore, not all elements of the long range plan are able to be addressed each year. Conservation assistance is made available, free of charge, to district landowners in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. 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.
- F. Lead effort to coordinate wildland fire suppression and presuppression activity between Ely and Color Country BLM Districts across the Nevada-Utah line.
- G. Support activities and develop cooperative alliances to assist in methods of reducing pinyon-juniper cover with the intent of improving rangelands and the resulting enhancement to wildlife habitat for all species including Greater Sage-grouse and finding economic uses for the biomass produced. This topic also applies under the Natural Resources Committee.

PRIORITY: INFORMATION & EDUCATION

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

Objectives: Carry out active public and government awareness and education. Provide an upgraded facility for the improvement of the community; the building also co-locates NRCS, UNR Cooperative Extension and Workforce who pay rent to the Conservation District. It also provides meeting space and long distance learning space for the community which is unavailable elsewhere.

Concentrate on environmental education programs for youth and adults.

- A. Provide environmental education programs for the public schools in Lincoln County including; 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 and coordinate a school Conservation 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 Pahranaagat 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, Pahranaagat Valley, Penoyer Valley and Lake Valley.
- D. Promote high efficiency of irrigation through on-farm studies and Irrigation Water Management.
- E. Carry out an active water resource program.
- F. Provide active leadership to Pahranaagat Valley efforts to improve the condition of The Drain and other water related issues in the Valley, including encouraging landowner participation, equipment acquisition to accomplish tasks, actual work, coordination with federal, state, and county partners, and ongoing maintenance. This topic also applies under the Agriculture Committee.

PRIORITY: NATURAL RESOURCES

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

Objective: Through wise land-use planning and conservation management, the Lincoln County Conservation District is helping shape the present and future needs of Lincoln County, faced with greater demands on the area's natural resources. Concentrate on environmental concerns of farmers and ranchers in Lincoln County and innovative ways to use biomass present as pinyon-juniper on Lincoln County rangelands.

Support state-wide efforts to protect the Greater Sage-grouse.

Be a vehicle for groups and citizens to come together to solve problems.

- A. Continue to review environmental assessments in Lincoln County and surrounding areas, as they become available.
- 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 and other work in Meadow Valley Wash.

F. Provide assistance to Lincoln County on natural resource issues. Review current Memorandums of Understanding and discuss opportunities for assistance with County Commissioners.

G. Support activities to promote soil health for sustainability of cropped lands and rangelands in Lincoln County. This topic also applies under the Agriculture Committee.

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

I. Support the state-wide effort to restore and protect the Greater Sage-grouse by participation with the Sage-grouse Local Area Work Group efforts and producing and placing fence markers on identified fences to reduce Sage grouse mortality and other projects to improve Sage-grouse habitat or populations. Support activities and develop cooperative alliances to encourage and accomplish Sage-grouse populations and 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 March 15, 2016.

Lee Mathews, Chairman

Date: March 15, 2016

Susan Hansen, Treasurer
Lincoln County Conservation District

Date: March 15, 2016

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, Maggie 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

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

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION:

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

Secretary, Keith Larson / 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, 2017

RECEIPT SOURCE	AMOUNT
State Funds	\$ 4,000.00
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	\$ 26,930.00

(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, 2017

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT
Employee Salary/Contract Labor	\$ 7,350.00
Fringe Benefit Expense	
Travel	\$ 1,400.00
Property Lease	\$ 10.00
Telephone	\$ 50.00
Insurance - Building	\$ 1,600.00
Postage	\$ 125.00
Copying Expense	
Office Supplies	\$ 50.00
Education & Information Expenses	\$ 800.00
Equipment Purchase (specify)	
Building Expenses (maintenance, repair, operation)	\$ 3,025.00
Dues - NvACD	\$ 600.00
Dues - NACD	\$ 275.00
Dues - Other	
Mileage	\$ 120.00
Investments (specify)	
Internet	
Bond and Insurance Expenses	\$ 825.00
Project Costs:	
Support of State 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	\$ 550.00
Staff Support	\$ -
	\$ -
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 26,930.00
Projected Receipts	\$ 26,930.00
Extra for Additional Expenses	\$ -

(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
360 Lincoln St. PO Box 445
Caliente, NV 89008
775 726-3101

"Conserving our Resources for Future Generations"

ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2016 to JUNE 30, 2017

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. We hold regular meetings every other month and special ones if needed for any decisions required for our projects. LCCD remains in good standing with all State Conservation Commission requirements.

LCCD continues to grow as a voice in Lincoln County, the state of Nevada and the West. The CD wrote another letter to support the efforts of the BLM Caliente Fire Ecologist for Round 17 of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act funds for the Atlanta Road Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement Completion Project. This project will connect with the sage grouse work planned by LCCD along Wilson Creek to improve the wildlife corridor connecting the already improved ground below with the important sage grouse area on Table Mountain. The work will cross property ownership lines to particularly enhance early brood-rearing habitat critical to our sage grouse populations. LCCD has been the impetus to forge strong ties between multiple landowners and entities for this important topic which will create partnership opportunities for other issues. See attached letter.

LCCD wrote a letter to Governor Sandoval requesting he veto AB 407; we believe in a strong University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) program and expressed that the recent reorganization of UNCE should be allowed to prove itself before opening the door to changes Nevada may not be able to retreat from through AB 407. See attached letter.

LCCD continued its effort to address the negative impact of wild horses on Nevada's rangelands. A Supervisor offered public comment at the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board meeting in Elko in September and was very pleased with their recommendation to BLM to allow sale without limitation and euthanasia, but extremely disappointed the BLM Director told Congress three days later the BLM would not use those methods to get to AML. Chris Carlton, Caliente BLM Field Office Manager, requested another emergency gather of horses near Pioche last winter partly due to the ongoing expressed concerns of LCCD.

The BLM Basin and Range National Monument Manager requested LCCD decide if we want to be a cooperator on the Resource Management Plan for the Monument. The CD had a spirited discussion with many points of view expressed such as making sure we were clear about deciding if we wanted our name on a BLM document where they might not have listened to our input; which side of the fence did we want to be on?; we want to be part of taking the fence down; we want to take a chance to get a seat at the table and our input would be part of the record even if BLM disagreed. LCCD returned the form in March after checking the box, "Our agency has decision making authority or special expertise and would like to become a cooperator with BLM;" there has been no response from the BLM to date.

LCCD continued involvement with the Southern Nevada Cooperative Weed Management Area and also participates with the Pahrangat Valley CWMA; a Supervisor works closely with Tri-County Weed Control who has provided him equipment to spray in 40 foot swaths with a lap top to track strips for best efficiency. His work allowed Betsy Macfarlan to get a \$3000 grant because of the records he kept for in-kind work; they are doing a lot of broadleaf work in the Valley where he does the spraying rather than giving chemical out so he can conserve the amount of spray available. Johnny Jones of Southern Nevada Cooperative Weed Management Area made a presentation at our May meeting to update us on their work and see if we can help each other do more and coordinate across boundary lines.

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. A Supervisor also approached the subject with the Color Country BLM Fire Management Officer, the BLM Cedar City Fuels Specialist, and the Dixie National Forest Fuels Planner. All are willing to move

forward. The CD will encourage the Lincoln LAWG to coordinate with Lorien Belton of Utah State University who is managing the Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative Southern Region work group to plan a project across the border now that players know there is interest.

LCCD reviewed the 2016 Lincoln County Sage Grouse Conservation Plan Addendum put together by the Lincoln Local Area Work Group (LAWG); before it had been mostly about public land work, now there are private lands included due to the participation of LCCD on the LAWG. The CD is pleased with the wording of Table 1 as it identifies sacred cows. The Board voted to sign the Plan Addendum and continue to participate with the LAWG.

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

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

- Lincoln County Sage grouse Local Area Work Group regular meetings
- NDOW / USFWS Meadow Valley Wash and Pahrangat Valley Recovery Implementation Teams in spring and fall
- NRCS State Technical Committee meeting in Las Vegas in November
- Two Supervisors attended the Annual meeting of Nevada Association of Conservation Districts in Las Vegas in November and provided a bronze sponsorship
- Nevada Section Society for Range Management's Winter Meeting on plant materials and methodologies for successfully restoring/rehabilitating Great Basin rangelands in Reno in January
- Society for Range Management International Annual meeting in St. George, Utah
- Restoring Lincoln County High School's Agriculture Education (FFA) Program
- Pahrangat Valley Local Work Group addressing the Central Valley Drain issue
- Southern Nevada and Pahrangat Valley Cooperative Weed Management Areas
- Continuing work in Rainbow Canyon and Caliente from the Meadow Valley Report regular meetings
- Panaca Farmstead board meetings
- Planning for the newly created Basin and Range National Monument
- Commitment to support of travel for NvACD President
- Nevada Collaborative Conservation Network (NCCN) planning meetings
- NRCS Conservation Client Gateway promotion
- Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited annual banquet and planning
- Conservation District Day at the Nevada State Legislature, March 28, 2017

LCCD began an ongoing discussion to identify our resource concerns and support for a Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) process in Lincoln County. The CD was informed about the exciting developments in the Nevada Collaborative Conservation Network which pursues locally led conservation. LCCD has developed relationships already that can be expanded that are sage grouse driven; "crisitunities" are usually the starting point for discussion and implementation. The Supervisors expressed their thoughts on Lincoln County's resource concerns; their responses supported the idea of CRM from the ground up to resolve the concerns.

- ❖ Access for ATV use
- ❖ PJ encroachment

- ❖ When BLM locks resources up and removes them from use, i.e. in Monuments.
- ❖ BLM Range Conservationist's requirement to rewrite Term Permit Renewals so the ability to manage is put in a little box because it is easier to defend in court
- ❖ Water quality – perhaps salty soils could have pistachio trees planted
- ❖ Weeds – a bigger job than we have resources to handle
- ❖ Cleaning and maintaining the Pahranaagat Valley Drain
- ❖ Management of Pahranaagat NWR; it is a weed patch and though the manager is doing all he can birds land on the Refuge, pick up weed seeds and spread them to private ground because that is where the best food for them is. The manager is required to use only native plants and not to allow grazing which could accomplish with a fee provided to the government what is being done by prescribed fire at a high cost.
- ❖ Meadow Valley Wash and the Mathews Drop Structure.

The Board concluded they are interested in CRM if the concern is brought by the people with the problem; hopes it can find ways to allow flexibility in management and local decision making, and that it will be good for agency staff as well to encourage their personal investment in the local community.

EDUCATION

Lincoln County CD continued a seminar series titled "Conservation District Workshop." The intent is to provide an ongoing series of informative presentations on a variety of topics of interest to people in Lincoln County with an emphasis toward agriculture and natural resources. One program was held; Holly Gatzke, Extension Educator/Associate Professor for Cooperative Extension in Lincoln County spoke at the Annual Meeting on What Does Organic Matter Do for Your Soils? The promotion stated, "Have you ever wondered how you can improve your soils to stabilize and improve your yields? By exploring what organic matter is and its role in soils we can learn how to greatly improve production. Organic matter can impact water and nutrient availability. Desert soils are usually very low in organic matter and so we will discuss how to build it."

LCCD continues its strong support of education by automatically sponsoring two students to attend the Nevada Youth Range Camp in June whether they are from Lincoln County or not. One of our Supervisors is a regular cook at Range Camp and provides logistical support. If additional Lincoln County students wish to attend they are sponsored as well. We offer cash prizes for the NACD National Poster Contest at the County level and bring the winning posters to the NvACD Annual Meeting for the state competition. The local poster contest will happen in fall of 2017 at the request of the schools when LCCD will hire the County 4-H Coordinator to teach and organize the contest, paying a stipend and mileage. We encourage participation in FFA and 4-H Soils and Range Judging. We supply add-on money for kids showing animals at Clark County Fair Junior Livestock Show as we believe the program teaches the American dream of how to work and see results; sometimes you profit and sometimes you don't. We also offer our building meeting space to local groups such as 4-H, Lincoln Communities Action Team and many others such as mountain bike trail planning, RSVP, Homecoming, and provide the location for educational classes and meetings via video conferencing for no charge.

The CD continued to maintain and improve the building and grounds so as to provide for the conference room space and offices for NRCS, UNCE, Workforce and the Farmer's Market. We further enriched the wildflower garden along the front fence. LCCD approved continuing a community demonstration garden in the space by our office. Providing for increased safety for our customers, we improved the concrete sidewalk and restored the metal railings on the

handicap-access ramp as well as built a concrete ramp from the parking lot to the Farmer's Market area. LCCD pays the power bill for the cooler used by the Farmer's Market. We purchase from local stores and hire local contractors to support our rural community.

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

LCCD has a website! Courtesy of Lincoln County UNCE, it is www.lcextension.org. LCCD has its own section on the website and there will be a calendar, subscribe section, and email blast once a month; it will automatically feed to Facebook and Twitter etc. It is hard to keep lists updated and hard to reach people; the website will help with that. The CD receives information but doesn't have an email list for people in the County to pass the information along to. LCCD has been working on what information to supply to make the website useful to local folks. The CD will pay for the annual website fee of \$500 to support the endeavor.

GREATER SAGE-GROUSE

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

LCCD forged ahead on two State Conservation Commission (SCC) funded Sage-grouse projects using funds from the third and fourth rounds of Habitat Grants and other sources: implementing the Winz Creek Wildlife Corridor Project and planning the Fry Ranch Area Wildlife Corridor that will expand the work done in Winz Creek into the Wilson Creek drainage, further connecting sage grouse lek areas with early and late brood rearing habitat in the uplands. Both will remove pinyon-juniper encroachment from private property with the addition of Beaver Dam Analogs, weed control, sage brush thinning, and seeding on the Fry Ranch Area project. The CD also kept their sights on the Brown Springs Rehabilitation Project to make sure it is completed. Many people who needed firewood in Pioche were helped when a CD Supervisor transported the wood to town.

Brown Springs and Winz Creek projects were not able to be completed by NDF due to the ban on prescribed burning put in place after the Little Creek prescribed fire near Washoe Valley in the fall of 2016. The CD has asked NDF to hold off on chipping due to equipment and more importantly, not to create a favorable environment for cheatgrass establishment. We will continue to monitor the situation carefully and keep in consultation with experts in the field such as Tracy Shane of UNR and Dan Harmon of Agricultural Research Service in Reno. LCCD has high hopes that great work can be done in the area when NDF signs a Good Neighbor Agreement with BLM and USFS allowing NDF and BLM fire crews to work together to carry out pile burning. NDF crews were also delayed on the work due to the deep snowpack last winter and their commitment to the flooding aftermath in the Reno area.

Fry Ranch Area Wildlife Corridor – project application

LCCD competed successfully for the 2016 SCC Sage grouse Habitat Grant, receiving \$33,884.46 to match with year one of NDF's USFS Landscape Scale Restoration grant for \$50,000 to continue to enhance wildlife corridors from the lek areas below to the early and late

brood-rearing habitat on the mountain. All nine landowners along Wilson Creek were contacted and a field tour with multiple landowners attending showed a willingness to participate in the concept with the exception of one landowner. It was decided to proceed from the lower elevation and negotiations began with the Fry Ranch, owned by the Association of Southern Baptist Churches of Southern Nevada. The CD worked hard with the Conservation Staff Specialist, the landowner and NDF, while consulting with subject matter experts from University of Nevada Reno and UNCE, USDA Agricultural Research Service and the Smith Creek Ranch in central Nevada, to develop a plan that will remove, burn, or lop and scatter pinyon, juniper and decadent sagebrush by NDF Honor Camp crews, control Russian knapweed with Tri-County Weeds, seed with a recommended mix to promote functionality of the site using Standard crested wheatgrass and Russian wild rye, and create Beaver Dam Analogs in Wilson Creek to begin the process to regain meadow areas by slowing the flow of water and trapping sediment.



The driving thought and whole theory behind Beaver Dam Analogs is to keep water as long as possible on a piece of ground. This is done by making the stream longer – increasing meanders, making the stream channel move back and forth like an “S,” and, increasing bank storage – keeping the landscape from draining by holding sediment to grow more plants that stabilize and protect the channel allowing the groundwater to remain in the adjoining ground. This will be a many year project, but the CD is excited to begin the work in one of the few perennial streams in Lincoln County with the

potential to regain its riparian meadows and offer better food and cover opportunities for sage grouse and other wildlife while improving the private lands and ultimately adjacent BLM ground. The photo is from the Smith Creek Ranch in central Nevada where the practice is being employed with outstanding results.

BLM applied for Round 17 of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act funds for the Atlanta Road Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement Completion Project to coordinate with the CD’s vision. Their project will connect BLM ground higher up along Wilson Creek to the CD work on the private land which is between what the BLM has already done in the flats to future projects at the higher elevations. The work will cross property ownership lines to particularly enhance early brood-rearing habitat critical to our sage grouse populations and extend the corridor up to the fire scars on the mountain on BLM that provide summer habitat for the grouse.

B) CONTRACTUAL

The cost of contracted services. Provide names if possible, or the type of contractor if not. Explain the details and purpose of the costs in the Narrative box below.

Contractor Name, Type, etc.	Cost	Matching Funds (if applicable)	SCC Grant Funds
Nevada Department of Forestry Hand Crews (20% in-kind)	\$80,000	\$6,000	\$30,000
Tri-County Weeds	\$1,145		
Nevada Department of Forestry, LSR Grant (USFS)		\$50,000	
B) CONTRACTUAL COST TOTAL:	\$81,145	\$56,000	\$30,000

Narrative:
 Matching funds from NDF hand crews and the NDF Landscape Scale Restoration grant will be provided and letters of verification are included with this application. Also, letters of support from Nevada Department of Wildlife, Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited, and BLM are attached.

Winz Creek Wildlife Corridor Project – one year report

Objectives and Planning: This project was designed to enhance the riparian corridor and uplands of the Winz Creek drainage in the Wilson Creek Mountain range. The treatment area was determined to be a critical component in a holistic approach to create large-scale wildlife corridors in the most important sage-grouse habitat in Lincoln County, the 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 cleared trees on either side of a drainage and from three upland locations, which still supported varied and healthy grass, forb and shrub components, an area of about 90 acres. An additional 80 acres on adjacent BLM public lands financed by leftover NDOW funding greatly enhanced and enlarged the project. This is part of ongoing coordination and cooperation between the CD and the BLM.

The original site visit with the landowners produced the following objectives: open the drainage for improved connectivity of habitat by clearing trees, protect existing understory, and reduce fire hazard in the area for both residences and wildlife habitat. This project was designed to 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.

After grant application submittal, the Lincoln County Conservation District was awarded \$23,230.87 from the Nevada Conservation Commission. The Nevada Department of Wildlife provided \$30,000 in matching funds, with NDF contributing \$20,000, and the Conservation

District and Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited each contributing \$1,500. NDF also provided \$4,000 in-kind match in the form of hand crew labor.

Implementation: Multiple 12-person hand crews from NDF were deployed on site to fell all pinyon and juniper trees within the polygons identified for treatment using chainsaws. This treatment method was chosen because mechanized treatment would have been very difficult due to the steep slopes that occurred in the treatment areas. Trees were felled leaving a short (less than 4 inch) stump. Tree portions measuring greater than 5 inches in diameter were cut into firewood length pieces or fence posts and stacked neatly on site for local utilization. Tree portions less than 5 inches in diameter were considered slash, and piled for future burning by NDF. Ninety acres of tree removal began in July of 2016 in order to avoid sage-grouse breeding activities. Tree cutting was completed at the end of May 2017.

After the submittal of this project application, NDF activities were restricted due to a burn moratorium and NDF has been forbidden to burn any slash piles. We excluded all contractor possibilities due to lack of availability and/or cost. It has been decided that we will wait to dispose of the slash piles in the event that NDF will be allowed to burn in the fall. A possible biochar project was not completed due to NDF constraints on funding. We anticipate the functional and diverse understory will multiply with the removal of the pinyon and juniper.

MEADOW VALLEY WASH PROJECT

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



PAHRANAGAT VALLEY DRAIN PROJECT

LCCD Supervisors worked to maintain momentum on the Drain project; the coordination of equipment between entities in Lincoln County that was initiated last year with CD encouragement and inspiration came to fruition. Lincoln County Road Department transported the City track hoe and a Supervisor who took heavy equipment operation training offered by USFWS and another experienced volunteer utilized it to clear The Drain to the south of the previous project area. USFWS' Partners in Conservation's \$25,000 was run through the County so their insurance could cover the project; it was set up so funds not totally expended in one category were used in another. Landowners were emphatically told that their 25% was cleaning up the mess and they need to do so or write a check. The total project is \$31,000 with \$25,000 from USFWS and \$6000 from landowner in-kind. NDF crews moved fast; the project started at the same point as the first section done and moved south instead of north; they are hoping to have enough funding and not too many challenges to be able to work all the way to the Refuge boundary; they want to do the work pulling the material out now while the ground is dry and will burn what the landowners don't cut into firewood in the spring when the ground is wet. Teri Knight of NRCS has received calls from landowners wanting to have work done on the Drain on their property so word is spreading.

This work is spawning further collaboration between entities working on The Drain. A plan for an idea to purchase a track hoe for ongoing work in Pahranaagat Valley – Lincoln County and USFWS will look for grant funding, the Alamo CD Supervisor will look on the government surplus equipment website, Pahranaagat National Wildlife Refuge will purchase/own the track hoe, experienced staff will fly to inspect the equipment prior to purchase, if it is not too far away the County may transport it here or the Refuge will pick it up. The track hoe will stay in the Valley and must be operated by a USFWS employee or volunteer that has been cleared through the Heavy Equipment Operator class. The Refuge will maintain it and also allow use of their dump truck and other equipment as needed. At this point it is not known who will pay for fuel and maintenance in the future. The CD suggests the costs should be cooperatively shared; from the Refuge because they will receive more water due to a properly maintained Ditch, the County because it is their responsibility and LCCD since we work for proper conservation in the County.

COMMITTEES

The Lincoln County Conservation District organizes its work by five committees: Agriculture, Range, Information and Education, Water Resources, and Environmental. The Pahranaagat Valley and Meadow Valley Work Groups, under the Agriculture Committee, will continue to consult with NRCS. Four new conservation plans have been developed on private and public range allotments, with five new contracts worth over \$428,000 for high tunnel systems, PJ removal, brush management, fence, livestock pipeline, stock watering facilities.

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: brush management - 437 acres, fence installed - 1693 feet, irrigation pipeline - 680 feet, pumping plants installed - 1, and livestock pipeline installed – 30,650 feet.

LCCD applied for Workers' Compensation Volunteer/Board Member Insurance Coverage through the State and submitted all the required forms; they felt it was important because the Supervisors drive such long distances to attend meetings and perform heavy equipment work and other project work. It also provides liability coverage for Supervisors working within the scope of the Annual Work Plan.

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 grant application
2. Request letter to Governor Sandoval to veto AB 407

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

February 13, 2017

Dear Mr. Teel,

Lincoln County Conservation District extends its support for Round 17 Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) – Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project:

- Atlanta Road Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement Completion Project

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 habitat projects: Pinyon-Juniper encroachment removal at Brown Springs and the Winz Creek Wildlife Corridor project, both located adjacent to the Atlanta Road Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement Continuation Project.

This Completion Project will coordinate with the 2017 CD project: Fry Ranch Area Wildlife Corridor along Wilson Creek. The CD will work with partners to clear Pinyon-Juniper trees and do meadow rehabilitation on the private land along the Creek; this application from BLM will continue the wildlife corridor up the drainage to connect to fire scars on the mountain as well as other areas around the CD projects. The CD projects 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.

Thank you very much; we fully support your effort to seek SNPLMA funds for this needed project that will enhance our work for Sage-grouse.

Sincerely,

Kelly Miller
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”

June 4, 2017

Dear Governor Sandoval,

We ask that you not sign AB 407 into law.

Lincoln County Conservation District works hand in hand with our Cooperative Extension office in Caliente. We appreciate the work they do to promote niche market agriculture as well as traditional ranching enterprises. Extension was a primary promoter of our Farmer’s Market and they provide extra support to the area with the Workforce program that helps those who need additional assistance to prepare for jobs. Our 4-H program is one of the most active in the state; we are very proud of it.

We applaud Assemblyman Oscarson’s Amendment and work to mitigate the most onerous elements of the Bill, but the fact still remains that the legal opinion on the amended version states that adding UNLV and DRI to UNR as land grant by definition means that they may be able to go after not only the federal money but the state and county too. The small Extension budget gets fractionated after legal confusion and problems because this Bill doesn't match federal Morrill Act stipulations so Nevada may lose their federal funds because of it.

Previous Nevada Attorney Generals have stated that UNLV and DRI are part of the University of Nevada system, but Nevada needs to ask USDA, who provides these funds, if they support the intent of AB 407.

Nevada needs Nevada Cooperative Extension. Extension outreach across the United States was initiated to educate and lift up those areas that had little access to such services; Las Vegas has a university and several community colleges. Just months ago, Cooperative Extension was reorganized with the vision of making it more efficient and responsive to Nevadans. Please let the reorganization prove itself before opening the door to changes we may not be able to retreat from through AB 407.

Governor Sandoval, please veto AB 407. Nevada needs Cooperative Extension to continue its work to improve Nevada and not get lost in a funding struggle between UNLV and UNR.

Sincerely,

Lincoln County Conservation District Supervisors – Kelly Miller, Maggie Orr, Susan Hansen, Jessica Mathews, John Sanders, Justin Frehner and Steve Meldrum

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

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017

RECEIPT SOURCE	AMOUNT
State Funds	\$4,000.00
County Funds	
City Funds	
Other Government Funds (specify)	
Administrative Income (specify)	
Interest - CD, Savings and Checking	\$13.57
Grants for projects (specify): Sage Grouse	
Sage Grouse: Fry Ranch	\$16,470.97
Rental Income (equipment, etc.)	
Contributions	
Building/Property Rental Fees	\$22,920.00
Other Sources of Income	
TOTAL INCOME	\$43,404.54

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, 2017

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT
Custodial Contract Services	\$7,808.00
Fringe Benefit Expense	\$0.00
Building Expenses (maintenance, repair, operation)	\$1,190.05
Telephone	\$0.00
Insurance - Building	\$1,586.00
Postage	\$141.04
Copying Expense	
Operating Supplies	\$422.09
Education & Information Expenses	\$1,569.98
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 - Winz Creek	\$22,406.02
Grant #2	
Grant #3	
Other Expenses (specify):	
Utilities	\$5,300.02
Annual Dinner	\$109.95
NvACD Annual Meeting Attendance Reimbursement	\$641.36
Building Upgrades	\$0.00
Property Lease	\$10.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$42,868.87

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

LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FINAL FINANCIAL SUMMARY
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017

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.....	\$ 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.....	\$ -
e. Accounts payable.....	\$ -
f. Total funds available.....	<u>\$ 60,784.58</u>

2. END OF YEAR FUND BALANCE;

a. List all bank accounts:	
Checking Account #1.....	\$ 14,943.75
Checking Account #2.....	\$ 19,191.83
Savings Account.....	\$ 27,034.67
b. Cash on hand.....	\$ 150.00
c. Total fund balance.....	<u>\$ 61,320.25</u>
d. Accounts receivable - other	\$ -
1. Grant #1 :	\$ -
2. Grant #2.....	\$ -
e. Accounts payable.....	\$ -
1. Grant #2: Sage Grouse Funds committed (Fry Ranch Project).....	\$ 16,470.97
2. Item #2.....	\$ -
f. Total funds available.....	<u>\$ 44,849.28</u>

3. SUMMARY:

a. Beginning of year fund balance (1.c. above).....	\$ 60,784.58
b. Plus total receipts (from Receipt Summary).....	\$ 43,404.54
c. Less total expenditures (from Expense Summary).....	\$ 42,868.87
d. Must equal end-of-year fund balance (2.c. above).....	<u>\$ 61,320.25</u>

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

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

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

LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017

FINAL USE OF STATE APPROPRIATED MONEY

Amount of State Appropriated Money: \$ 4,000.00

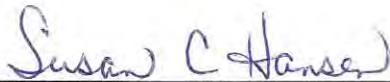
Money spent:

Category (specify)		
Attorney General - General Liability	\$	809.69
LCCD Annual Dinner	\$	-
Poster Contest/Range Camp/Junior Livestock Show	\$	1,069.98
Information Workshops	\$	-
Dues: NACD (\$274.67)/NvACD (\$600)	\$	874.67
Custodial Services	\$	1,245.66
Total of Category	\$	<u>4,000.00</u>

Matching Funds Spent:

Category (specify)		
LCCD Annual Dinner	\$	109.95
Custodial Services	\$	3,890.05
Total Matching	\$	<u>4,000.00</u>

Balance Remaining: \$ -



Authorized Signature:

Name and Title: Susan C Hansen, Treasurer

Date: 09/19/2017

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