

Annual Report
Smith Valley Conservation District
2021-2022 Fiscal Year
August 30, 2022

Conservation District Information:

- Please identify the Conservation District board members, their positions, and seated terms.

Richard Huntsberger Chairman
Cub Wolfe Vice-Chairman
Denise Hunewill Supervisor
Pete Anderson Supervisor
Annette Blackwood Supervisor
Dave Hockaday Lyon County Commissioner

- Briefly describe your Conservation Districts mission:
 - Improve natural resources and reduce soil erosion
 - Invasive and noxious weed inventory and treatment
 - Education/Public Outreach
 - Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement
 - Wildland urban interface fuels management
- Describe the Conservation Districts major achieves for the FY.
 - Smith Valley Fuels Treatment
 - Nevada Department of Agriculture Medusahead Treatment
 - Bureau of Land Management Noxious Weeds
 - Nevada Division of Forestry Landscape Scale Restoration
 - Weeds for Hire

Goals:

- Briefly describe your Conservation Districts goals:
 - Complete Financial Report, Annual Work Plan, Budget, and other reporting as necessary
 - Inventory, map, and treat noxious weeds on private lands within District Boundaries; implement noxious weed treatment on federally managed lands within the basin
 - Treat weeds on private property as requested by landowners and agencies
 - Use the Local Working Group to establish priorities for the State Technical Advisory Committee
 - Attend the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting
 - Cut and treat tamarisk along the Walker River

- Submit Proposed Budget and Annual Work Plan to State Conservation Commission
- Conduct “normal” year to year business including:
 - Hold regular board meetings
 - Pay annual dues (NvACD, Nevada Weed Management Assoc.)
 - Clerical administration
 - Promotion of conservation
 - Attend applicable meetings
 - Expand public relations
 - Apply for and administer grants
 - Nominate local conservation leaders for awards
 - Participate as president on the Nevada Weed Management Association
 - Attend State Technical Committee and Local Work Group meetings
- What goals did your Conservation District accomplish this year?
 - NDF Landscape Scale Restoration Noxious Weed Project
 - NDOW Cheatgrass Treatment Project
 - BLM Noxious Weed Control
 - Local Working Group Meeting
 - Weeds for Hire
- What goals did the CD struggle to accomplish and why?
 - Local Working Group Participation is poor. The producers here don’t see the value.

Meetings:

- Please list all meetings dates for the Conservation Districts of the last fiscal year:
 - SVCD held regular business meetings on: September 28, 2021, December 7, 2021, February 22, 2022, May 3, 2022
- Identify needs, if any, to help your meetings be more effective, efficient, and collaborative.
 - We have found locations to hold our meetings that have internet wifi access, so we have a zoom component to every meeting.
- List meeting material needs if any.
 - Zoom Subscription, WiFi hotspot
- List meeting guest speakers or guest presentations which helped the Conservation District meet its goals and mission statement.
 - Due to Covid, we didn’t have any guest speakers or presentations.
- Describe any training needs related to holding public meetings.
 - District Manager is current with open meeting training.

Outreach and Education:

- What outreach methods did the Conservation District use in the fiscal year?
 - Other than our business meetings, we held a Local Working Group meeting. The District Manager attends the Walker River Irrigation District monthly meetings and has made a presentation to the Lyon County Commission.
 - The District designed, purchased, and placed signs identifying the Smith Valley Conservation District along the two State highways that traverse the District.
- Were the outreach methods successful? Why or Why not?

- No, there doesn't seem to be much interest in our activities, and we consistently get one or two participants in the Local Working Group meeting. The people in Mason and Smith Valley don't see any value added by their participation in the Local Working Group meetings.
- What education opportunities did the Conservation District participate in?
 - The District prepared and published a local information booklet titled "Living in Smith Valley". It is planned to be distributed at local public events, and many were distributed at the annual Smith Valley Fire Protection District Barbecue in July. The District has reached out to Yerington, Smith Valley, and Mineral County High Schools to solicit attendees to Range Camp. The information was sent to each school principal who then forwarded it to their counselors. Mineral County requested a clarification on the minimum age for attendees, but there were no requests for the money the District has set aside for scholarship to the camp.
- What is needed for the Conservation District to provide more outreach and education?
 - Personnel, time, and money.

Natural Resources:

- What natural resource concerns did the Conservation District address?
 - Noxious Weeds, Wildland Urban interface fuels, Sage grouse habitat
- What natural resources concerns were brought forward but not addressed? And why were they not addressed by the Conservation District?
 - All current natural resource concerns brought to the District this year were addressed.
- What natural resource concerns does the Conservation District need addressing or need more information on?
 - At this time, the District is addressing all concerns that have been brought to it.
- What natural resource concerns did the Conservation Districts Local Work Group with NRCS identify as the top priority?
 1. Water quantity – Irrigation Water efficiency = BMPs Sprinkler System, Irrigation Pipeline, IWM, Pumping Plant, Structure for water control
 2. Water quality – Sediment in surface water = BMPs Structure for water control, stream habitat improvement and Management, Streambank and shoreline protection, stream crossing, access control, Channel bed stabilization, critical area planting, riparian herbaceous cover etc.
 3. Water quality – flooding = BMPs Structure for water control, stream habitat improvement and Management, Streambank and shoreline protection, stream crossing, access control, Channel bed stabilization, critical area planting, riparian herbaceous cover, wetland enhancement and creation, etc.



4. Plants – Wildfire Hazard = BMPs Brush Management IPM, Herbaceous Weed Treatment, Sprinkler System, Irrigation Pipeline, IWM, Pumping Plant, Structure for water control
 5. Soil Erosion – Streambanks = BMPs Structure for water control, stream habitat improvement and Management, Streambank and shoreline protection, stream crossing, access control, Channel bed stabilization, critical area planting, riparian herbaceous cover etc.
 6. Plants - Noxious Weeds = BMPs IPM, Herbaceous Weed Treatment, Sprinkler System, Irrigation Pipeline, IWM, Pumping Plant, Structure for water control
- What technical assistance did the Conservation District or staff provide for NRCS?
 - Currently, the NRCS is using in-house staff for all their technical efforts. The District personnel provide assistance in plant identification to walk-in customers, and answers phone requests for information.

Projects:

- List any projects and give a brief description of the project and the Conservation Districts' role.
 - Smith Valley Fuels Treatment - In 2017, the Smith Valley Conservation District (SVCD) applied for a Western States Fire Managers grant with the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF). Beginning in February of 2021, SVCD was told the grant had been awarded. The award was finalized January 10, 2022, for \$80,575.00.

The grant will allow SVCD to perform fuels mitigation on 380 acres in the Upper Colony Road and Artesia Road areas of Smith Valley. We hope to address 170 homes, masticate 60 acres, remove 50 dead trees apply preemergent herbicide on 300 acres to create green strips, perform 25 defensible space inspections, and perform fire awareness outreach in the valley.

- With a grant from the Nevada Department of Agriculture the Smith Valley Conservation District was able to continue with the medusahead treatment & control project located in the Desert Creek corridor. The ability of the landowner to move his cattle to another grazing area, and the timing of the fall moisture did not allow us to apply the herbicide this year.

The moisture of the winter and spring of the last three years has resulted in increased germination of desirable perennial grasses. Perennial vegetation has increased to the point that there is very limited bare ground in the pasture.

Medusahead has been named as one of the highest priority noxious weed species for the State of Nevada due to its imminent threat to rangelands across the west. Medusahead is extremely competitive and invasive which can contribute to the loss of native habitat and displacement of many native species. The presence of Medusahead leads to reduction of rangeland forage productivity, decrease of overall biodiversity and an increase of fire fuels, and spread of wildfires as well as degrade essential sage grouse habitat.



- The Smith Valley Conservation District received a grant to inventory, map, and treat noxious weeds in the Walker River Watershed including the East Fork, West Fork, and Main stems within the Mason and Smith Valley Conservation District Boundaries. This grant was awarded November 1, 2021, for \$279,091 for a three-year period. This grant will be used in conjunction with grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and US Forest Service Resource Advisory Council awarded to the Mason Valley Conservation District for the same purpose.
- In 2020, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) renewed their cooperative agreement with Smith Valley Conservation District and funded it with \$10,000. BLM sent a map with the funding showing the weed infestations on BLM land they wanted us to treat. The District couldn't navigate from the BLM map, and requested they provide GIS files instead, but they didn't respond until June. As a result, no money was spent in the 2021-2022 year. The map issue has been resolved now, so work on this grant will proceed in the coming year.
- The Smith Valley Conservation District began a weeds for hire program in 2017, since there are no commercial weed treatment businesses in southern Lyon County. The program started slowly, but since 2019 Smith Valley Conservation District (SVCD) has been treating supply ditches and drains for the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) and several ditch companies to reduce the transportation losses in the canals and enable more efficient movement of the water due to fewer obstructions. This year, word has spread, and we have treated a dozen private properties in Mason and Smith Valley. This program increases in popularity every year through word-of-mouth advertising.

- The Smith Valley Conservation District began looking into signs to be placed at the entrance to the Conservation District on the State Route 208 on the east and west boundary and on State Route 338 on the south boundary. Through our research we found that placement on the highway right-of-way required an involved process with an uncertain outcome, so it was decided to place them on private land. We also found that there was no consistent design or vendor for the signs, so we designed our own, and found someone to make them. The three signs cost \$755.00 to purchase including the setup fee, the donated pipe, sackcrete, paint, and labor was valued at an additional \$2,346.47 for a total cost of \$3,101.47. Two of the three signs have been installed, and we are awaiting landowner permission for the last one.



- The Smith Valley Conservation District prepared and published a local information booklet titled “Living in Smith Valley”. It is planned to be distributed at local public events, and many were distributed at the annual Smith Valley Fire Protection District Barbecue in July.

Grants:

- What new grant/s were awarded to the CD? Describe the grant work and goals, the amount awarded and any partners on the grant.
 - The Smith Valley Fuels grant was awarded this year.
- What grant/s were closed out this fiscal year?
 - No grants were closed out this year.
- Describe the grant work and goals accomplished.
 - See projects section above.
- What was the final amount of grant money spent and amount matched by the CD?
 - \$119,300.71 grant funds expended, and \$11,360.00 in matching funds.
- What grant/s are ongoing, and describe the work done this year?
 - See projects section above.
- What is the current amount spent under the grant and the amount of match provided by the CD?
 - \$119,300.71 grant funds expended, and \$11,360.00 in matching funds.
- What overall grant needs were identified by the Conservation District?
 - Noxious weed control, creation of defensible space, Bi-State Sage Grouse habitat improvement, and riverbank stabilization.

Partners:

- What Partners did the Conservation District work within the FY?

- Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Nevada Department of Agriculture, Nevada Division of Forestry, Walker River Irrigation District, Bureau of Land Management, and US Forest Service. Mason Valley, Washoe-Storey, and Carson Valley CDs.
- What Partners would the Conservation District like to collaborate with in the future?
 - Mono County Resource Conservation District

Needs:

- Identify some of the needs that came up for the CD in the fiscal year and please identify them as on the following: 1. Ongoing need 2. Specific to FY 3. Addressed in FY 4: Other(explain)
 - 1. Personnel to accomplish the field work and computer mapping
 - 2. Vehicles and UTVs
- What strategy is the CD taking to address those needs identified?
 - 1. We have hired high school students this year. They are good workers if supervised daily.
 - 2. We are looking at GSA excess property working through State Purchasing to acquire vehicles.

Signed by:

MC JT chairman

Date:

8/30/22

SMITH VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022

<u>RECEIPT SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
State Funds	\$4,068.27
Additional State Funds	\$0.00
County Funds	\$10,000.00
City Funds	\$0.00
Other Government Funds (SBA)	\$15,000.00
Administrative Income (specify)	\$0.00
Interest – CD, Savings and Checking	\$583.81
TOTAL	\$29,652.08
Grants	
NDA Medusahead	\$1,650.34
NDF LSR 2021	\$83,394.39
NDOW Task Order #1	\$8,080.00
RAC Desert Creek	\$3,906.09
Sage Grouse Fence Markers	\$1,645.00
Weeds for Hire	\$20,624.89
TOTAL	\$119,300.71
Donations	\$0.00
Other Sources of Income-Reimbursement	
TOTAL INCOME	\$148,952.79

**SMITH VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022**


EXPENDITURE AMOUNT

Spending Categories	
Electric Service	\$132.40
Bookkeeping (Quickbooks)	\$715.06
Postage	\$27.50
Office Supplies	
Employee Health Insurance	\$4,652.10
Payroll Taxes	\$6,245.27
Equipment Purchase-Hardware/Software	
Equipment Expenses (maintenance, repair, operation)	\$1,028.96
Dues – NvACD	\$600.00
Administrative (Report Preparation, Holidays, Vacation)	\$9,617.60
Internet-website	
Bond and Insurance Expenses	\$4,513.82
Vehicle Maintenance	\$5,791.04
Bank Service Charge	\$1,020.00
Boundary Signs	\$755.00
Ron Melen Retirement Gift	\$50.00
Total	\$35,148.75
TRAVEL Expenditures	
Registrations	\$0.00
Hotel/Motel	\$0.00
Mileage/Airfare	\$0.00
Per Diem	\$0.00
Total	\$0.00
Grant Expenditures	
BLM Weeds	\$2,077.15
NDA Medusahead 2021	\$1,862.50
NDF LSR 2021	\$68,687.01
NDOW (Desert Creek Herbicide)	\$8,037.00
RAC Desert Creek	\$2,585.75
Sage Grouse Fence Markers	\$1,169.59
Smith Valley Fuels	\$24,312.13
Weeds for Hire	
Total	\$108,731.13
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$143,879.88

SMITH VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022

BEGINNING OF YEAR FUND BALANCE:	
List all bank accounts:	
Checking Account.....	\$59,633.28
Joint Account	\$14,326.90
Savings Account.....	\$24,808.20
Total funds carried forward.....	\$98,768.38
END OF YEAR INCOME:	
Total from Receipts this fiscal year:	\$148,952.79
Total funds available.....	\$148,952.79
END OF YEAR EXPENDITURES:	
Total from expenditures page (automatically populates)	\$143,879.88
Any Pending expenditures	
Total expenditures:	\$143,879.88
SUMMARY: (these will populate as you fill out sheets)	
Carried over total from previous FY	\$98,768.38
Total of Receipts	\$148,952.79
Total of Expenditures	\$143,879.88
Current Balance based off reported numbers	\$103,841.29
Authorized Signature: 	

SMITH VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

USE OF STATE APPROPRIATED FUNDS

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022

Amount State Appropriated Funds	\$4,068.27
ROA:	
Funds Expended:	
Staff Funds	\$4,068.27
Memberships	
Insurance	
Balance Remaining:	\$ -
Matching Funds Spent:	\$5,549.33

Authorized Signature:

[Handwritten Signature] Chairman