

Tonopah Conservation District Annual Report September 30, 2020

As in years past, the Tonopah Conservation District ("TCD") continues to coordinate with and support Bureau of Land Management ("BLM"), USFS, FSA, USDA, NDOW, NRCS, DCNR and other agencies to disseminate program information and development to producers via personal contact, email and meetings. The TCD together with the Northern Nye Cooperative Weed Management Area (NNCWMA) supports and helps coordinate weed abatement projects on both public and private lands, with treatments administered by Tri-County Weed Control and funded by the BLM, with a cost share provided by TCD as budget permits.

Current staffing of the TCD is comprised of:

Lorinda Wichman, Chairman of the TCD and Nye County Commissioner
Anthony Perchetti, Vice Chairman
Richard Reason, Supervisor
Tom Seley, Supervisor
Jerry Elliston, Supervisor
Jacob Holloway, Supervisor
Sherry Harrison, Administrative Assistant

Each of the above listed members and staff also reside as members of the NNCWMA.

From the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 the TCD/NNCWMA Board of Supervisors conducted five (5) meetings. All meetings were properly posted, advertised, minutes recorded and transcribed in accordance with the open meeting law. All required financial reports were completed and offered to NRCS, DCNR and the BLM as required by the State and BLM Weed Grant program. Due to COVID-19 restrictions mandated by Governor Steve Sisolak, by State of Nevada Executive Department, Declaration of Emergency Directive 006, the April 2020 and June 2020 meetings were held by teleconference.

Guest attendees at meetings throughout the year included: Lauren Williams (DCNR), Lance Brown (USFS), John Ashworth (Tri-County Weed), Brandon Crosby (BLM), Christian Stephenson (NDF), Anna O'Brien (BLM), Perry Wickham (BLM), Jonah Blustein (BLM) and Duane Dory (NDF).

The fourth quarter of the 2019-2020 fiscal year brought many adjustments and challenges to everyone. Board meetings have been conducted telephonically to process critical items, while other issues have been placed on hold. Our business partners have experienced modifications to their operations, and everyone is judiciously working to slowly move forward, while complying with the restrictions placed on all communities and citizens.

December 2019 the TCD submitted an Agenda Item to the Nye County Board of County Commissioners and sought an amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding with Nye County, to include additional funding. Supervisor Jerry Elliston attended the County Commissioners' Meeting and spoke on behalf of TCD and in favor of additional funding. It should be noted that annual

funding from Nye County has not been increased for approximately 20 years, so the additional funds are long overdue. Such funds will allow TCD to apply for and receive more competitive grants, which may require matching funds. In years past, the budget would not allow TCD to receive grants requiring a financial match, so it is our hope that with the broader scope of grants available, TCD may increase contributions and assistance to local producers, continue to support youth projects throughout Nye County, while engaging in conservation, habitat and weed management programs in critical areas. By vote of the Nye County Commissioners, an additional \$10,000 annually was awarded to TCD beginning with the 2020-2021 funding payment in March 2021.

Mr. Duane Dory of the NDF is working with the grants specialist at NDF to obtain Living With Fire grants to assist communities within Nye County in preparing defensible space on their properties, and creating sufficient firebreaks. Due to staffing shortages in Carson City, the project has been paused until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Once awarded, TCD will be partnering with NDF for such work and project completion.

The USDA/USFS Secure Rural Schools RAC Grant, Phase III, provided for restoration and improvement of approximately 276 acres of wildlife habitat in Monitor Valley adjacent to Pasco Canyon. The grant was awarded for \$11,000.00, with activities beginning July 2019 and concluding December 2019. The project involved removal of nuisance pinion and juniper trees by NDF hand-crew labor, as well as eliminating problematic brush and weeds.

In June 2020, BLM awarded TCD an additional \$25,000 grant modification for additional weed treatment, inventory, monitoring and site rehabilitation in the Nevada Battle Mountain District. Grant documents are being finalized by the BLM and funding will occur in early August 2020, with project activities being performed by July 31, 2022.

TCD encourages opportunities to assist landowners with weed control and other conservation issues. In June 2020, TCD partnered with Tri-County Weed Control to assist eight (8) landowners in the Belmont area by providing much appreciated weed control measures on their property.

Work is nearly complete on the Sage Grouse / Pasco Canyon project, with funding from previous Competitive Sage Grouse grants awarded through the State Conservation Commission. The final segment of the project work has included purchase through Comstock Seed of a split mix of seed, which was broadcast on approximately 45 acres of Sage Grouse habitat. Tri-County Weed Control conducted an additional treatment in June for especially stubborn hoary cress in the Pasco Canyon pasture. TCD continues to seek grant funding from other sources to support the Sage Grouse Initiative efforts, as well as weed treatment, inventory, monitoring and site rehabilitation within our District.

The Barley Creek/Monitor Valley project is still in the beginning stage, and the TCD hopes to make progress in the coming months. Due to COVID-19 restrictions imposed by Governor Steve Sisolak, public lands access has been restricted and outdoor group activities have been prohibited. As soon as possible, work on this project will continue.

The TCD voted to provide sponsorships for up to three (3) Nevada Youth Range Camp participants from Nye County to attend the June 2020 Camp. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Camp was cancelled. Funds earmarked for the 2020 Camp will be utilized to sponsor additional students for the June 2021 Youth Range Camp. This camp is important not only to the youth in Nye County who learn valuable skills while attending, but to the TCD. The TCD supports this camp each year through sponsorships, budget permitting, and is part of its continuing effort to reach the youth through conservation and agriculture.

In 2019, the TCD provided financial assistance to the Smoky Valley FFA for the purchase of approximately six (6) rabbit cages, as well as assistance building the FFA school farm in Round Mountain, NV. These cages will be used with the FFA's new program raising and showing rabbits at the FFA school farm. To further support local youth organizations, and in light of the anticipated increase in funding from Nye County, the budget has been modified to include flexibility to support additional youth projects and events in the coming year.

The TCD and CWMA meeting information, agendas and minutes are included on the Nye County Website for ease of access by the public and producers who wish to obtain past meeting information as well as the next meeting information and location. A Facebook page was recently created and is being finalized. TCD has secured permission from an accomplished wildlife photographer, Noppadol Paothong Photography, to utilize his amazing sage grouse photos on the Facebook page. Such page will be used to provide relevant information to the community, communicate events and deadlines for potential grant projects, and encourage conservation in the District.

All operations have been conducted within the district budget and outreach to producers and community is ongoing.

APPROVED this Sep 13, 2020 day of _____, 2020

Lorinda Wichman

Lorinda Wichman, Chairman TCD

**TONOPAH CONSERVATION DISTRICT
YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020**

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS

RECEIPT SOURCE	AMOUNT
State Funds	\$ 5,000.00
County Funds	\$ 5,000.00
City Funds	\$ 0.00
Other Government Funds	\$ 0.00
Administrative Income	\$ 0.00
Interest, CD, Savings and Checking	\$ 0.00
Grants for projects: BLM Funding Weed Control Grant (Public Lands)	\$ 46,441.71
Grants for projects: USFS RAC Grant (Public Lands)	\$ 11,000.00
Grants for projects: NDA Funding Weed Control Grant (Public Lands)	\$ 0.00
Grants for projects: Sage Grouse	\$ 0.00
Rental Income: (Equipment etc.)	\$ 0.00
Contributions	\$ 0.00
Building/Property Rental Fees	\$ 0.00
Other Sources of Income:	\$ 0.00
Total Income: To 6/30/2020	\$ 67,441.71

**TONOPAH CONSERVATION DISTRICT
YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020**

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT
Employee Salary/ Sherry Harrison	\$ 3,110.00
Fringe Benefit Expense	\$ 0.00
Travel/S.Harrison Travel Time	\$ 0.00
Mileage/S.Harrison	\$ 0.00
Building Rent	\$ 0.00
Telephone	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 0.00
Notary Charge	\$ 0.00
Banking Charges/Check Printing/Monthly	\$ 0.00
Postage/Post Office Box	\$ 64.00
Copying Expense	\$ 89.65
Office Supplies	\$ 0.00
Publications/Newspaper/Advertising	\$ 269.00
Education/Information Expenses	\$ 0.00
Equipment Purchase	\$ 0.00
Equipment Expenses	\$ 0.00
Youth Range Camp	\$ 0.00
FFA School Farm Donations	\$ 1,100.00
Dues / NvACD	\$ 600.00
Dues / Other	\$ 0.00
 Project Costs:	
Grant BLM – Tri-County Weed Public Lands	\$ 46,441.71
Grant NDA – Funding Weed Control Grant	\$ 0.00
Grant RAC – USFS	\$ 11,000.00
Grant Sage Grouse	\$ 7,522.15
Other Expenses – TCD 25% Cost Share-Weed Control / Belmont	\$ 95.62
 Total Expenses July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020	 \$ 70,292.13

**TONOPAH CONSERVATION DISTRICT
YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

1. BEGINNING OF YEAR FUND BALANCE (*must equal funds reported from end of previous fiscal year)

A. CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE (as of 6/30/19):	\$	38,007.54
B. CASH ON HAND	\$	0.00
C. TOTAL FUND BALANCE	\$	38,007.54
D. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE/GRANTS/INCOME	\$	67,441.71
E. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE Fiscal year 2019-2020	\$	- 70,292.13
F. TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$	35,157.12

2. END OF YEAR FUND BALANCE:

A. CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$	35,157.12
B. CASH ON HAND	\$	0.00
C. TOTAL FUND BALANCE	\$	35,157.12

3. SUMMARY:

A. BEGINNING OF YEAR FUND BALANCE	\$	38,007.54
B. PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$	67,441.71
C. LESS TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	-70,292.13
D. END OF YEAR FUND BALANCE	\$	35,157.12

4. ASSETS:

A. COMPUTER/RECORDING EQUIPMENT/PRINTER	\$	800.00
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YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT
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USE OF STATE APPROPRIATED FUNDS

AMOUNT OF STATE APPROPRIATED FUNDS:	\$ 5000.00
FUNDS SPENT: OPERATING EXPENSES/PAYROLL/SUPPLIES ETC.	\$ 5000.00
MATCHING FUNDS SPENT: LISTED ABOVE	\$ 5000.00
BALANCE REMAINING:	\$ 0.00

Final to be Approved this Sep 13, 2020 day of _____ 2020

Lorinda Wichman

Lorinda Wichman, Chair/Tonopah Conservation District