



Photo by Doug Martin

NEVADA TAHOE CONSERVATION DISTRICT STRATEGIC AND LONG RANGE PLAN

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INTRODUCTION:

GENERAL NOTES

The 2003 Nevada Tahoe Conservation District (NTCD) Strategic and Long Range Plan is the culmination of many months of hard work by the NTCD Board of Supervisors and Staff. The Document has been developed to provide organizational and program direction for the District through 2010. The District would like to give a special thanks to Mr. Ray Ledgerwood (NRCS Consultant Specialist) and Ms. Jill Sarick Santos (former Public Outreach Coordinator at NTCD) who graciously served as facilitators through the strategic planning process.

When adopting the 2003 NTCD Strategic and Long Range Plan, the NTCD Board of Supervisors recognized the dynamic nature of the document and the need to review it on a timely basis. The first revision and update occurred during January through March of 2005. The current document reflects the changes made to the document in November 2007.

NEVADA TAHOE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Nevada Tahoe Conservation District (NTCD) is one of approximately 3,000 Conservation Districts functioning in all 50 States and U.S. Territories. Conservation Districts are subdivisions of State government and are unique locally led conservation agencies. Districts provide resource management and technical assistance to land occupiers (owners, renters, and producers) as well as work cooperatively with Federal, State, and Local governments in the delivery of conservation programs.

The Nevada Tahoe Conservation District is one of 28 Conservation Districts functioning under the auspices of Nevada Revised Statute, Chapter 548. The District is a governmental subdivision of the State of Nevada and a public body corporate created in 1976. Prior to July 1st, 1976 the land area that now makes up the NTCD was part of a larger Conservation District known as the Tahoe Verdi Conservation District. Local leaders realized the unique natural resource issues of the Lake Tahoe Basin and realigned District boundaries to create the NTCD. They believed the realignment would allow for more effective conservation management of Lake Tahoe's natural resources. Now the District encompasses all of the land in the Lake Tahoe Basin residing in the State of Nevada including portions of Douglas and Washoe Counties and the Carson City Rural Area.





The Nevada Tahoe Conservation District (NTCD) is Nevada Lake Tahoe's local conservation agency and source for technical assistance. The District is a non-regulatory and grant funded agency that works closely with its Federal, State, and Local partners to deliver conservation programs to the Nevada Lake Tahoe Community. The District is guided by a Board of Supervisors made up of elected and appointed community leaders. The Board of Supervisors provides direction to the District's full time staff in carrying out the District's mission statement, vision, and guiding principles. As described in our mission statement, the District seeks to provide its constituents with superior technical assistance, educational resources, and conservation leadership with the goal of protecting Lake Tahoe's natural resources.

LAKE TAHOE BASIN

Lake Tahoe and its surrounding basin are a unique and treasured natural resource. The Lake has been designated an Outstanding National Resource Water by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and at one time an effort was underway to designate the entire Basin as a National Park. Over the past 10 million years, geologic forces including volcanic activity and glaciations have combined to create the amazing Lake Tahoe Basin we know today. Tahoe is the third deepest lake in North America and the tenth deepest in the world. Its greatest measured depth is 1,645 feet and averages 1,000 feet. The Lake is 22 miles long and 12 ½ miles wide and is famed for its outstanding clarity. In addition to the Lake, the Basin consists of mountains reaching over 10,000 feet in elevation and magnificent forest stands made up primarily of pines and firs.

Although the Lake Tahoe Basin is a national treasure, it is not an alpine wilderness. The past 150 years have seen dramatic anthropogenic impacts and the associated natural resource pressures. The basin continues to be a place of developing communities and a vacation destination area. Thoughtful foresight and cooperative management will be required in order to deal with the continued pressure placed on the natural resources of the Basin. NTCD in cooperation with its partners will continue to work on developing sustainable conservation plans and implementing effective natural resource science in the Basin in a continued effort to balance anthropogenic needs with sound natural resource conservation.





MISSION STATEMENT

“TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE LAKE TAHOE BASIN’S NATURAL RESOURCES BY PROVIDING LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ALL BASIN USERS.”



VISION STATEMENTS

Organization

“TO BE A HIGHLY RESPECTED AND EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION WITH SUFFICIENT AND SUSTAINED FUNDING TO MEET OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS.”

Natural Resources

“A NEVADA LAKE TAHOE BASIN WHERE NATURAL RESOURCES AND NATURAL BEAUTY ARE PROTECTED AND ENHANCED IN HARMONY WITH THE USE AND ENJOYMENT OF RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.”



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Be accountable and responsive to constituents
2. Empower “locally led” decision making for conservation and sustainable land management
3. Ensure technical excellence in natural resource science
4. Encourage and facilitate cooperation between and among agencies and stakeholders
5. Serve with integrity



AGENCY DESCRIPTION

**“THE NEVADA TAHOE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
IS YOUR LOCAL, NON-REGULATORY,
CONSERVATION AGENCY.”**





WHO WE SERVE AND WHY

- 1. Primary-**
Land Occupiers in the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District (Owners, Renters, Users, and Visitors)

- 2. Secondary-**
Federal, State, and Local partners within the context of representing District land occupiers

- 3. Why?**
There is a need to effectively implement comprehensive and sustainable resource management and we have the authority, resources, ability, and desire to meet this need in the Nevada Lake Tahoe Basin.



NEVADA LAKE TAHOE **CRITICAL ISSUES**

1. Conservation Planning, Backyard Conservation Program
 - a. Confusion over BMPs and Defensible Space messaging
 - b. Funding comprehensive conservation planning vs. BMP Retrofit

2. Stormwater
 - a. Engaging participation of majority of stormwater implementers in SWU development
 - b. Commencing Phase II – consulting engineer, costs, matching funds
 - c. System operational and capital infrastructure upgrade, repair and maintenance

3. Water Quality
 - a. TMDL Compliance technical assistance & support
 - b. Regional stormwater quality monitoring program participation
 - c. Stream Environment Zone projects (i.e. Rosewood Creek)

4. Forest Health Management and Defensible Space
 - a. The disconnection of fuels reduction efforts and biomass opportunities region-wide
 - b. Recent perception of fire defensible space and BMPs
 - c. Angora Fire and Blue Ribbon Fire Commission outfall

5. Outreach and Education
 - a. Loss of dedicated funding source
 - b. Basin-wide recognition
 - c. Conflicting conservation messages; difficulty in outreaching to various audiences (Second-home owners, multiple jurisdictions, Latinos, seasonal workers, etc.)
 - d. Overlapping messaging with numerous agencies and organizations

6. District Operations
 - a. Establishing a statutory authority for tax or assessment
 - b. Employee retention, operational sustainability, cash-flow
 - c. Office location



DESIRED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

by 2012

1. Conservation Planning, Practice and Application
 - a. Comprehensive "5 Element" Program in full operation
 - b. Place-Based/Sub-Watershed Level Project Implementation
 - c. Integration with BMPs and Defensible Space and with Stormwater Utility
2. Stormwater
 - a. A codified, fully operational Stormwater Utility District
 - b. 100% compliance with individual BMPs and participation in the Utility District
3. Water Quality
 - a. TMDL compliance through NTCD technical assistance & support
 - b. Comprehensive water quality monitoring program
4. Forest Health Management and Defensible Space
 - a. Fuels reduction efforts conducted within a "green wastes" collection system that supply the demands of the Biomass needs region-wide
 - b. Complete implementation of fire defensible space and healthy forest practices consistent with the established guidelines (CA statute 4292 as implemented by the CA Dept. of Forestry) for 50% of the Nevada properties
5. Outreach and Education
 - a. A multi-agency cooperative (Tahoe Partnership) contracting with NTCD & TRCD for a basin-wide conservation & environmental outreach and education program with federal and other available funding and support reaching 50% of the permanent residents and 25% of the part-time residents
 - b. Seen by regional policy makers as a reliable, valuable source for conservation and environmental education via outreach and education program reaching a minimum of 2 each - county, state, federal, private and all local policy makers
6. District Operations
 - a. Statutory authority for tax or assessment based funding for the conservation district written and passed.
 - b. Sustainable, flexible, competent, trained, recruited and retained staff with continuity of key positions including an appropriate compensation program to support



NTCD STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

Conservation Planning Action Goals

- Integrate services into Stormwater Utility Planning
- Facilitate BMPs & Defensible Space Merger
 - o train BCP staff
 - o offer fire related BMP consultation services – planting , information on reduction of fire hazard, defensible space evaluations
 - o integrate planning and services with local fire protection districts
 - o Assist fire departments with the 9-point implementation plan
- Continue and Enhances Community Watershed Planning & Neighborhood Leader Programs
- Improve District Representation & Outreach Basin-wide
- Improve collaboration with NDOT, HOAs and GIDs
- Collaborate with key organizations and agencies to combine resources for enhanced education & outreach activities
- Build the relationship in the community for BMP application
- Submit grant proposals for critical work not yet funded
- Utilize our state and federal influence for funding sources



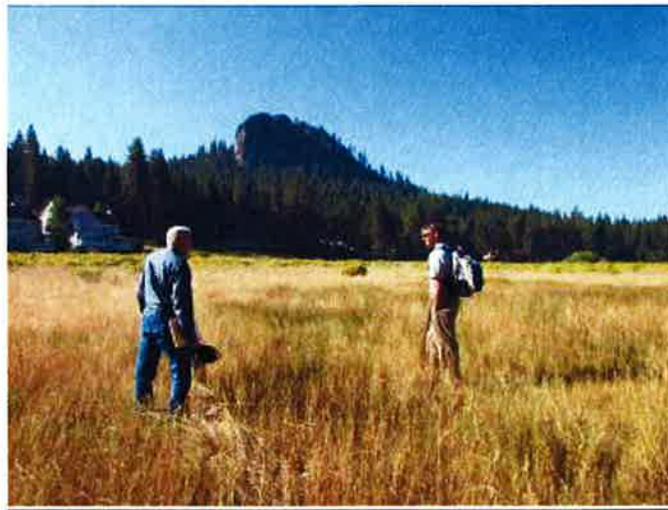
Staffing	Funding Opportunities
District Manager	NRCS
Conservation Planning Senior Program Manager	NDSL – LTLF
Conservation Planning Engineering Technician	NDEP 319
Environmental Scientists I & II serving in Conservation Planning	SNPLMA
	EPA
	BOR
	State Conservation Commission
	Army Corps of Engineers



Water Quality & Monitoring Action Goals

- Continue and expand sampling services
- Provide on-going EIP project management and oversight
- Provide on-going facilitation of EIP projects
- Recognize TMDL as a driving force for regional monitoring and build this into stormwater utility planning
- Seek to invest in new BMP systems – technologies, implementation, operation
- Participate in the regional stormwater monitoring network (RSWMP) – led by Tahoe Science Consortium – centrally directed, TMDL – focused, stormwater monitoring program for Tahoe Basin

Staffing	Funding Opportunities
District Manager	USFS
Water Resources Senior Program Manager	NDSL – LTLP
Environmental Scientists I, II and III serving in the Water Resources area	NDEP 319
	SNPLMA
	EPA
	BOR
	Counties
	GIDs, HOAs
	NDOT? FHA?





Forest Health & Biomass Action Goals

- Continue and expand relationships with fire protection districts, Nevada Firesafe Council, USFS and Nevada Division of Forestry, Washoe Tribe
- Seek funding opportunities both independently and collaboratively for biomass utilization coordination
- Participate as acting officer of the Nevada Biomass Working Group
- Seek funding opportunities to integrate with Community Wildfire Protection Plan funding (i.e. White Pine & SNPLMA)
- Develop market-based solutions (green-waste program through solid waste contractors, compost product develop, other)
- Promote Forest Health through activities that promote Fuels Reduction
- Expand Outreach opportunities that show NTCD Forest Health activities

Staffing	Funding Opportunities
District Manager	NRCS
Conservation Planning Senior Program Manager	NDSL – LTLP
Conservation Planning Conservationist I & II's	NDEP 319
	SNPLMA
	USFS
	Fire Safe Council
	Army Corps of Engineers





Outreach and Education Action Goals

- Continue and expand outreach activities – Ebitess, Enews and websites
- Collaborate with NRCS and TRCD to allocate funding for a shared FTE Public Affairs Specialist
- Continue Education of the Parasol Environmental Team
- Seek funding via Federal Partnership, EIP Update, SNPLMA and others to continue the work of the Partnership
- Identify ways to fund outreach activities from existing grants and partnerships

Staffing	Funding Opportunities
District Manager	NRCS
Environmental Scientists	NDSL – LTLP
Program Managers	NDEP 319
	SNPLMA
	EPA
	BOR
	USFS
	Compton Foundation
	University of Nevada Cooperative Extension





District Operations Action Goals

- Continue administrative support for District staff
- Increase operating cash from 1 month to 3 months
- Work with funding agencies to increase indirect cost rate to better reflect our current overhead
- Fully fund Administrator and Manager through general funds
- Encourage and Guide Board Members to become more fully active in District programs
- Maintain a sustainable, flexible, competent, trained, recruited and retained staff with continuity of key positions including an appropriate compensation program to support

Staffing	Funding Opportunities
District Manager	NRCS
District Administrator	NDSL – LTLP
Board Chair	NDEP 319
Conservation Planning Senior Program Manager	SNPLMA
Water Resources Senior Program Manager	EPA
	BOR
Future Staffing Needs	USFS
Administrative Assistant	Counties

