



**NEVADA TAHOE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**



**FY 2007 ANNUAL REPORT
July 1st, 2006 to June 30th, 2007**



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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 IN THE LAKE TAHOE BASIN WITH SUFFICIENT AND SUSTAINED FUNDING TO MEET OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS.”

Natural Resource

“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.”



DISTRICT SUPERVISORS*

SUPERVISORS – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Glen Smith, Chair

Barbara Perlman-Whyman, Vice Chair

Cary Sarnoff, Secretary/Treasurer

SUPERVISORS

Dan St. John

Brad Dorton

Chris Freeman, Representing Carson City

**Jim Galloway, Representing Washoe and
Douglas**

Guy Burge Jr. - Alternate

***NTCD Board of Supervisors as of June 30th, 2007**



KEY DISTRICT STAFF

DOUG MARTIN – DISTRICT MANAGER

MARILYN MCKENZIE – ADMINISTRATOR

**SCOTT BROWN – SR. PROGRAM MANAGER, WATER
RESOURCES GROUP**

**JASON BRAND – SR. PROGRAM MANAGER,
BACKYARD CONSERVATION GROUP**



INTRODUCTION

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 in the areas of erosion and conservation management. 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 statements, 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.



DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

Fiscal Year 2007 proved to be another very successful and busy year for the District in terms of administration and operations. Accomplishments throughout the year focused on improving the efficiency of internal procedures as well as developing and updating District policies.

Included in our accomplishments during the past year was the completion of the FY 2007 audit with an excellent rating. The audit showed a financial outlook for the District which continues to reflect a financial position of accountability. Internal controls are in place to insure the solvency of the District's funds and only two minor audit exceptions were found and correction action planned for FY 2008. These two were not receiving a report of completion from one of the GIDs and not having a back up receipt on a minor office purchase. The District also met all of its obligations to GASB 34 reporting requirements.

The District negotiated its Indirect Cost Rate with the Department of the Interior for the year 2008. The rate will remain at approximately 26% and will be applied to new grants as they are developed.

Other administration and operations accomplishments for fiscal year 2007:

- Successfully held twelve regular board meetings and one special board meetings
- Approved a number of Policy and Procedures
- Oversaw the interview process for replacements to the Sr. Program Staff
- Successfully completed three community grants from Carson City, Washoe and Douglas County
- Revised the District's organizational chart
- Successfully met the deliverable requirements of the Conservation Commission

In addition to internal administration and operations the District Staff continued to provide support for the NvACD through January 2007, when it was transferred to Elko to follow the reassignment of the president to Eureka County. District staff helped to coordinate and provide support to the November 2006 annual meeting in Elko, Nevada.



PROGRAMS:

WATER QUALITY AND EROSION CONTROL PROGRAM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

Scientists, researchers, and water quality specialists in the Lake Tahoe Basin have identified untreated storm water runoff, eroding soils, and impaired or disturbed stream environment zones (SEZ) as key threats to the water quality of Lake Tahoe. The District's Water Quality and Erosion Control (WQEC) Program is focused on identifying and correcting areas where point and non-point source pollution from stormwater runoff, eroding soils, and impaired SEZs are negatively impacting the quality of Nevada Lake Tahoe surface and ground waters.

In partnership with the Nevada Division of State Lands (NDSL) and other basin agencies, the District identifies and prioritizes critical areas and projects. Once projects have been identified, the District works diligently to assist project proponents in obtaining funding from Federal, State, and Local sources to design and construct the projects. During design, the District, NDSL, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provide technical oversight to ensure the project meets the natural resource, water quality, and community objectives of the WQEC Program.

Fiscal Year 2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS NDSL CONTRACT:

NTCD, in partnership with NDSL, has successfully implemented several projects under the WQEC Program during FY 2007. NTCD coordinated the eleventh round of funding for the State of Nevada WQEC Grants program. However, the program's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was not required because none of the pre-applications met the NDSL criteria for WQEC grant funds under the Tahoe Bond Act requirements.



Projects funded through this program focus primarily on erosion control, storm water runoff, and stream environment zone restoration. The cooperative effort between NTCD and NDSL has led to design and implementation work on the following projects:

Design Work in FY '07

Crystal Bay Phase I
Lake Village Phase 2*

Implementation Work FY '07

Hidden Woods
Lake Village Phase IB

* Lake Village Phase 2 design was funded by SNPLMA Round 7 funds from USFS with a programmatic match from NDSL and the Oliver Park/Kahle Drive effort. Construction of Lake Village Phase 2 will be co-funded by NDSL WQEC Round 12 and USFS SNPLMA Round 8 funds.

At the completion of construction each project is given a final walkthrough and signoff by the Conservation District and NDSL. The District then creates a final report highlighting the types and quantities of water quality improvements constructed as part of the project. During Fiscal Year 2007 NTCD completed final reports for:

Incline Village Fairway Phase III
Round Hill Phase III
Lincoln Park
Oliver Park/Kahle Drive
Lake Village Phase 1A



Fiscal Year 2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS USDI BUREAU OF RECLAMATION GRANTS:

The Round Hill General Improvement District Phase III WQIP was completed in FY07. An additional ~\$80,000 was granted by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) for increased costs due to construction going into the 2006 field season and of that money, all but ~\$30K was expended. BOR grant administrators intend to roll the remaining funds into future grants to support Rosewood Creek design and construction efforts.

The middle Rosewood Creek SEZ restoration project is at 50% design and environmental documentation is nearly ready for public comment. The District is working with the BOR to secure additional funds to cover the anticipated \$1M construction costs. The design consultant is Valley & Mountain Consulting who sub-contracted with Entrix and Wood Rodgers for technical work.



MONITORING PROGRAM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

NTCD's environmental monitoring program is designed to provide answers to the scientific and natural resource questions of Lake Tahoe's resource managers. The program delivers these answers by the following means:

- Evaluation of environmental restoration projects
- Field studies of BMP effectiveness
- Inventories of Basin-wide project accomplishments

NTCD's monitoring program also maintains a Basin-wide network of scientific contacts through partnerships including the Lake Tahoe Interagency Monitoring Program (LTIMP), the Tahoe Science Consortium (TSC), and Pathway 2007 Water Quality Technical Working Group (MS-TWG). In addition to answering questions for resource managers, the Monitoring Program also acts as a conduit of science-based information to NTCD's other programs and the public.

Fiscal Year 2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

A monitoring station, complete with auto-sampler and solar powered, is operating on the upper portion of middle Rosewood Creek to determine background concentrations prior to implementation of the SEZ restoration project. The station and initial sample analyses were paid for by the Bureau of Reclamation. However, beginning in FY08, SNPLMA Round 7 funding from the USFS will pay for operations and maintenance of the sampling site. The station is running well and the auto-sampling scheme has been fine-tuned for storm event sampling.

District staff has collected a year of data on a low-cost monitoring project on lower Mill Creek examining hydrology, sedimentology, and geomorphology of the creek channel and riparian zone. This monitoring was implemented in response to home owner concerns that the reintroduction of continuous flow to Mill Creek (the Mill Creek by-pass project was completed 15 Oct 2006) would increase groundwater levels and erosion. Equipment includes the ability to measure creek stage and discharge, groundwater levels in the floodplain, and bedload transport. This baseline data will provide field data for a future hydraulic model in preparation for design parameters. However, very low precipitation in FY07 resulted in limited data collection. Funding comes from the Bureau of Reclamation.

The final reports for the Village Green Pond and Cultured Ecologies are complete and available on the NTCD web site at: www.ntcd.org/documents/wrg_docs/village_green_pond_2007.pdf and www.ntcd.org/documents/wrg_docs/cultured_ecologies_2007.pdf.

Lake Village water quality monitoring is on-going with a target of collecting an additional winter of runoff samples before completing the study.

Water quality and flow measurements continue on Burke Creek adjacent to the Sierra Colina property.



Water quality sampling for storm and spring snow melt events continues for the Stateline Stormwater Association. The new contract also includes monthly sampling to ensure NDEP permit compliance.



BACKYARD CONSERVATION PROGRAM

BACKYARD CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Program Overview:

The Nevada Tahoe Conservation District, in cooperation with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provides private landowners with conservation education, technical assistance, and whole parcel conservation plans through the Backyard Conservation Program (BCP). Conservation plans for private parcels include recommendations for runoff management and stormwater treatment, slope stabilization, soil protection, noxious weed removal, re-vegetation with native and adapted plants, water and fertilizer management, pest management, wildlife habitat improvements, forest management and reduction of fire hazards. NTCD promotes the program through a Community Watershed Planning process in individual communities that include workshops, educational publications, and on-site visits with homeowners.

The Backyard Conservation Program enables property owners to implement effective land management, reducing sediment and nutrient impacts on water quality in Lake Tahoe. The program also assists landowners to comply with local ordinances and Basin-wide water quality strategic plans such as the Environmental Improvement Program's project number 16: Best Management Practices (BMP) Retrofit Program.

Fiscal Year 2007 Accomplishments:

During FY 2007 the Backyard Conservation Program continued to expand the technical assistance and services provided by the program. A number of important program goals were achieved during the year.

One of the more important accomplishments was the continued development of the North Lake Tahoe Demonstration Garden (NLTGD). During fiscal year 2007, NTCD organized many classes and events at the garden. NTCD is currently working with the NLTGD to plan next season's activities

NTCD, together with NRCS, also created several technical tip sheets to assist contractors and homeowners to install BMPs. To date six of the technical tip sheets have approval from the NRCS main office in California and are given out to homeowners. The BCP has begun using information from the new soil survey conducted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). NTCD staff is continuing to evaluate this new information and integrate data into BMP site plans.



NTCD helped with a BMP workshop in Incline Village for Spanish Speakers. John Cobourn of UNRCE coordinated the event which gave information to Spanish speakers on BMPs and instillation good attendance with about 15 present.

This summer BCP staff taught a Best Management Practices Course at Sierra Nevada College and a separate class at the Lake Tahoe Community College, both classes were full and had a waiting list. These courses examined the regulations, importance, and implementation of Best Management Practices in the Tahoe Basin. The classes were well received and with the demand being high, future classes are being looked into.

Another achievement was NTCD's BCP within the Conservation Planning Group (CPG) has begun work and planning for the National Fish and Wildlife foundation (NFWF) grant. The funds will be used for education/ outreach, training, control and eradication of invasive weeds.

The Conservation Planning Group has also begun work on Invasive Weed Abatement grant from the Nevada Division of State Lands' Lake Tahoe License Plate Program. Through this grant the NTCD has hired a private contractor to conduct the treatment and mapping of invasive weeds with in the right of way on the Nevada side of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) has mailed a total of 135 enforcement letters to residents within the priority one watershed in Incline Village. In accordance with our agreement with the TRPA, NTCD's BCP provides technical assist with enforcement properties for the 2007 field season. BCP staff has assisted 96 enforcement properties in all.

The CPG was awarded a contract with the Sierra Nevada Alliance for a grant that will provide funds to conduct non-point source control training. The CPG will organize a one two-day training event in early October of 2007. The objective is to train 30 watershed coordinators from the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range on the need, design and proper implementation of BMPs (non-point source control). Accomplishments during this period include installation of BMPs around the South Tahoe Women's Center and a separate demonstration site along Fallen Leaf Lake.

Other important accomplishments of the past year include completion of **301** BMP site evaluations (erosion control and storm water), facilitation of BMP implementations on **374** private residences, and the delivery of technical assistance to **284** homeowners on a variety of conservation issues.



During FY 2007 the program continued to emphasize the importance of multi-resource conservation planning. The following are examples of projects and priorities implemented by the District during Fiscal Year 2007:

- Community Watershed Planning in the Kingsbury General Improvement District and Glenbrook communities.
- Presentations to several homeowners associations and community groups
- Technical Assistance and Project Oversight to the Lake Village Homeowners Association conservation plan
- Implementation of the North Lake Tahoe Demonstration Garden activities
- Collaboration with the Fire Protection Districts and Fire Safe Council Chapters
- Continued expansion of Program to shift focus from stormwater BMPs to Conservation Planning



PUBLIC OUTREACH

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

Nevada Lake Tahoe's unique local political structure has a large and diverse group of local stakeholders. In order to properly plan and manage the Basin's natural resources it is critical that this diverse group of stakeholders be engaged and involved in the process. As a result of the unique political structure, Basin leaders have struggled with whom and how to involve stakeholders on the Nevada side of Lake. The Watershed Program has morphed into a more comprehensive public outreach and stakeholder involvement project known as the Nevada Tahoe Partnership (NTP) in 2005 and seeks to identify and engage Nevada Lake Tahoe stakeholders and to support the ideal of locally led conservation. The goal of the Partnership is to help improve communication, increase participation in decision-making and engage stakeholders in planning efforts. Members represent Home Owners Associations (HOAs), General Improvement Districts (GIDs), Fire Safe Councils (FSCs), neighborhoods and community organizations.

In 2007, Tahoe Resource Conservation District and NTCD began discussions on how to team up and step up communication outreach efforts, collaboratively for both Districts. In October of 2007, both districts, with TRCD's new District Manager plan to meet to discuss a schedule, product desired conditions and messaging for a uniform Conservation message for the entire basin, via the Tahoe Partnership. This goal was identified in the 5 year plan for NTP.

Fiscal Year 2007 Accomplishments:

The Partnership now is a group of over 500 members representing the many local jurisdictions within Washoe and Douglas Counties in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Since inception, NTP has outreached to over an estimated 5000 people in the form of Ebites, Enews and events.

The Partnership has been effective in achieving its goals outlined in the 2005 work plan. Outreach and leadership development has been very successful. For example: Beyond participation of many members in many environmental and public policy working groups, the Partnership has been used as a tool in developing public messaging. Also, facilitation and coordination skills have helped the Stormwater Initiative as well as the formation of the Healthy Forests Initiative. Each initiative will generate an additional \$150,000 or more in grant income for the District.

In the last year, NTCD has worked with the local GIDs, HOAs and other local jurisdictions and with both Counties to form a Stormwater Association, which will act as the umbrella group for representation in Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program, TMDL developments as well as the interface with the consultants to be hired to conduct a rate study and stormwater master plan. To date, we've got four confirmed members in the Association.



Via the Partnership, the District outreaches to over 500 members monthly in the form of Ebites and/or ENews. For more information on the Nevada Tahoe Partnership, go to <http://www.nevadatahoepartnership.org>. Other accomplishments include:

- Interactive webpage receives an average of 100 hits per month
- Easy-to-use communication tools; E-bites, E-News, flyers and fact sheets
- Urban Forestry Forums in Incline Village and Stateline with over 70 attendees
- Stormwater Decision Maker Meeting with 15 different entities represented
- Development of the Healthy Forest Initiative which will entail development of Biomass categorization, removal and utilization
- Represented Nevada Stakeholders as a member of the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee
- Represented Nevada Stakeholders as a member of the Pathway 2007 Forum
- Provided Spanish translation and assistance with BMP Contractors workshop; 13 attendees
- Wrote and distributed 3 Enews newsletters to over 2000 people
- Wrote and submitted 3 proposals for funding
- Developed new and strengthened existing relationships with:
 - o Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
 - o Natural Resource Conservation Service
 - o Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
 - o Nevada Fire Safe Council
 - o Washoe Tribe of NV and CA
 - o University of Nevada Reno
 - o University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
 - o Tahoe Resource Conservation District



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

During Fiscal Year 2006, funding was provided by each of the three local county governments within NTCD's boundaries to support NTCD's conservation efforts. The funds provided by Douglas and Washoe Counties, and Carson City has and will continue to be essential to NTCD operations.

DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

NTCD applied for a community grant from the Board of Douglas County Commissioners. This grant has been deferred to their November meeting due to internal constraints

CARSON CITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NTCD also applied for and received a community grant from the Carson City Board of Supervisors. Although there are very few developed areas within the Carson City Rural Area, the Board of Supervisors has recognized the benefits of protecting Lake Tahoe Basin natural resources, for the thousands of residents and visitors who vacation and recreate in the basin.

WASHOE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Washoe County Commissioners also granted NTCD funding. Along with a financial award Washoe County also provides NTCD with legal support through its District Attorneys office. During the past year the District worked closely with the District Attorney's office to develop cooperative agreements and contracts which were used to provide funding to many of our local partners.

THE FUNDING PROVIDED BY WASHOE AND DOUGLAS COUNTIES AND CARSON CITY IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE NEVADA TAHOE CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S ABILITY TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS AND WE CAN NOT THANK THEM ENOUGH FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

LOCAL SUPPORT

Several GIDs and HOAs provided financial support to assist with a special study regarding the creation of a stormwater district. Those supporters included Kingsbury GID, Roundhill GID, Skyland GID, Logan Creek HOA and Glenbrook HOA.



OTHER PARTNERS

NTCD is involved in several other partnerships in addition to our Community Partnerships. NTCD currently has Memorandums of Understanding with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the Nevada Division of State Lands, and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

Working groups are also an important partnership NTCD is actively involved with. Our current participation includes:

- Lake Tahoe Interagency Monitoring Program
- Lake Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition
- Lake Tahoe Weed Coordinating Group
- Stormwater Quality Improvement Committee
- Nevada Tahoe Water Suppliers Association
- Pathway 2007 Technical Working Groups
- Pathway 2007 Forum
- Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee
- Nevada Stormwater Association
- Tahoe Interagency Executive Committee



FUNDING

Nevada Tahoe Conservation District funding during FY 2006 was provided by Local, State and Federal partners including:

LOCAL

Washoe County
Douglas County
Carson City
Round Hill GID
Kingsbury GID
Lake Village HOA
Placer County, CA
Glenbrook HOA
Logan Creek, HOA

FEDERAL

USDI Bureau of Reclamation
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
USDA Forest Service
United States Environmental Protection Agency

STATE

NV Division of State Lands
NV Division of Conservation Districts
NV Division of Environmental Protection

Private

Sierra Colina
Stateline Stormwater Association
Private Agreement

A comprehensive overview of the District's finances is available in our FY – 2007 annual audit. A copy of which is available at the district or the offices of the Nevada Division of Conservation Districts