



**NEVADA TAHOE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**



**FY 2011 ANNUAL REPORT
July 1st, 2010 to June 30th, 2011**

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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

Lynn Endicott

Chris Freeman, Representing Carson City

John Breternitz, Representing Washoe County

Michael Olson, Representing Douglas County

***NTCD Board of Supervisors as of June 30th, 2011**

KEY DISTRICT STAFF

DOUG MARTIN – DISTRICT MANAGER

MARK THORPE – ADMINISTRATOR

**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 2011 proved to be another very successful and busy year for the District in terms of administration and operations. Accomplishments throughout the year focused on developing relationships with Fire Defensible Space Programs and Forest Health Programs within and outside the basin. To that end, the district assisted both Nevada Tahoe Fire Protection Districts with technical tours and assimilation of erosion and fire protection programs through enhanced communications and outreach. In addition, the district has become involved with the University of Nevada, Cooperative Extension, Living with Fire Guidelines.

Included in our accomplishments during the past year was the completion of the FY 2010 audit with an excellent rating (an unqualified or clean audit opinion). 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.

The District submitted its Indirect Cost Rate with the Department of the Interior for the year 2012. The rate was approved in June 2011.

Other administration and operations accomplishments for fiscal year 2011:

- Successfully held ten regular board meetings and a re-election of two supervisors
- Participation in national and state conservation programs
- Successfully completed two community grants from Carson City and Douglas County
- The FY 2010 audit was completed with no findings.
- Successfully met all deliverable requirements of the Conservation Commission

District Staff and Supervisors continued to provide support for the NvACD.

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 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS NDSL CONTRACT:

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:

Central Incline Village Phase 1 and 2
Lake Village Phase 2
Glenbrook Creek Restoration

Fairview/Fairway Phase 3
Third and Incline Creeks Restoration Phase 3
Middle Rosewood Creek Restoration Area A

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
- Inventory of Basin-wide project accomplishments
- Inventory of Nevada's stormwater assets
- NDEP compliance monitoring
- Stream health and water quality
- Advanced stormwater treatment analysis

Fiscal Year 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Rosewood Creek water quality monitoring: The sampling system below Northwood Blvd. is operational and is monitoring Rosewood Creek flow. Combined with an identical monitoring system operated by DRI downstream of SR28, the data collected will help determine the water quality benefit of constructing the restoration.

Stateline Stormwater Association: The SSWA contract is on a month-to-month basis until the service is re-bid.

Glenbrook surface water sampling: NTCD has completed collecting surface water quality samples for the Contract. A final report was submitted to Glenbrook HOA in February 2011. Monitoring equipment will be removed this summer.

Sweeper Study: The final report for the Incline Village Sweeper Study is undergoing revision with the assistance of Nicole Beck at 2nd Nature. The scope of the revisions will determine if additional funds for NTCD are required.

OTHER PROJECTS:

Washoe County Support Services

Description: Provide GIS, Inventory, and modeling support (time and materials) to Washoe County to help complete a series of products for the TMDL including defining and characterizing an Urban Planning Catchment, mapping all stormwater assets, running several Pollutant Load Reduction Model (PLRM) configurations.

Community Watershed Partnership

Description: Select a community/watershed in Nevada Tahoe to develop a cooperative and comprehensive approach to water quality improvement. One of the significant components is a web page to function as a repository of data and provide a forum for discussion.

Hybrid BMP Project

Description: Design, construct, and monitor several small LID infiltration features within the Washoe County right of way along Village Blvd. between Ace Ct. and Golfers Pass to augment the existing EIP conveyance and treatment system. The idea is that by adding treatment systems not constrained by the 20 year/1 hour sizing requirement (because a TRPA-approved EIP system is already in place), a substantial fraction of the stormwater can be removed from the road and infiltrated.

Washoe County Stormwater Asset Inventory

Description: Locate and map all stormwater assets in the Tahoe Basin operated by Washoe County and NDOT (including in Carson City (rural) and Douglas County). The preferred approach is to geo-locate CAD drawings in a GIS map. Next is to project PDF or TIFF files in GIS and trace the line work. Finally, we will hand-draw any other asset not found in drawings. Two additional aspects include identifying stormwater outfalls and characterizing them. The final aspect is to assess the performance of key stormwater treatment assets.

Douglas County Stormwater Asset Inventory

Description: Locate and map all stormwater treatment utilities in the Tahoe Basin operated by Douglas County, including mapping and data entry. Also assess hydraulic connectivity of County owned stormwater infrastructure to Lake Tahoe utilizing NDEP developed protocol.

BACKYARD CONSERVATION PROGRAM

BACKYARD CONSERVATION PROGRAM and CONSERVATION PLANNING GROUP

Program Overview:

The Nevada Tahoe Conservation District, in cooperation with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) 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 2011 Accomplishments:

During FY 2011 the Backyard Conservation Program continued to expand the technical assistance and services provided by the program. A number of program goals were achieved during the year.

The BCP has been successful in securing funding for the almost the entire 2011 fiscal year. Primary sources of funding include USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) and Nevada Division of State Lands (NDSL).

One of the important accomplishments was the continued development of the North Lake Tahoe Demonstration Garden (NLTDG). During the past fiscal year in 2011, NTCD organized many classes and events at the garden. NTCD continues working with the NLTDG to plan next season's activities and to finish some of the garden's development. During the FY 2011 work was completed on fire defensible space elements and demonstrations. The garden is now basically completed and offers visitors great physical examples of properly installed and maintained BMPs.

The Conservation Planning Group has completed work on deliverables for the 2009-2010 "Invasive Weed Abatement" grant from the Nevada Division of State Lands' "Lake Tahoe License Plate Program". Through this grant the NTCD hired a private contractor to conduct the treatment and mapping of invasive weeds within the right of way with in Washoe County and Nevada State Parks lands of the Lake Tahoe Basin. For Invasive Weed Treatment in Douglas County the NTCD entered into an agreement with Douglas County to pay for the work completed by their staff in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The CPG has worked with NDSL and successfully implemented this work and scope over the past six field seasons. The project

successfully treated large areas of invasive weeds within the “right of way” on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe’s basin.

The Conservation Planning Group has begun work on deliverables for the 2011-2012 “Invasive Weed Abatement” grant from the Nevada Division of State Lands’ “Lake Tahoe License Plate Program”. Through this grant the NTCD entered into an agreement with Douglas County to pay for the treatment and mapping of invasive weeds within the right of way with in Douglas County, Washoe County and Nevada State Parks lands of the Lake Tahoe Basin.



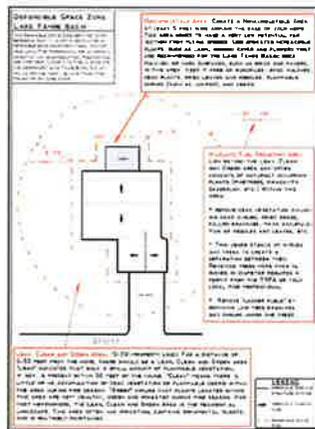
Invasive Weeds - Bull Thistle and Skeleton Weed

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection - Educational Outreach Video on TMDL Implementation, BMPs and Defensible Space (NDEP Video) is complete. This grant paid for the CPG to collaborate with other partners and plan a film and outreach video with focus on the importance of the TMDL. During the FY 2011 the TAC worked with E-Motion (the contractor) to have copies made of the video. . . During this past FY the video was distributed to partners groups and shown at several outreach events. There was very positive feedback at all viewings. In May of 2011 NDEP asked to discontinue the showing and distribution of the video and the project is now considered complete.

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection - Reducing Our Impact through Community Education and Best Management Practices (NDEP – Carson Valley) has been moving along again throughout the past year. This project provides CPG staff time to aid in the reduction of NPS pollution through the implementation of community based education, hands-on training, and implementation of best management practices (BMPs) in the Carson River Watershed. The integrated components of the program include: a) community outreach campaign utilizing local media sources; b) development of a publication with useful information on such topics as NPS pollution, floodplains, and tips on how to build on and/or landscape properties in ways that save water, reduce run-off and help protect from fire and flooding; c) technical assistance and hands-on training for permanent BMPs for property owners; and d) training for county staff and conservation districts on the design and implementation of BMPs to enable the continuation of this program and add potential funding and program opportunities to local conservation districts.

The NTCD has assisted in the planning and presentations at three separate outreach events. This past year tasks also include the implementation of BMPs at demo sites located on private properties within Carson City.

In an effort to be consistent with recommendations the NTCD, NTCD, NRCS and TRPA - BMP evaluators continued to work on collaboration with the Fire Protection Districts and Fire Safe Council Chapters. Together the groups have identified different options for working together and for delivering the same message to homeowners and public on current Fire Defensible Space recommendations. BMP Evaluators and Fire Defensible Space Evaluators continue using the current "Living with Fire" guidelines when making recommendations for Fire Defensible space and BMPs. Conservation Districts continue to hand out information with site plans about the FDS zones.



As of June 30th 2011 the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) has mailed a total of 800 enforcement letters to residents. In the past letters were sent to priority one watersheds in Incline Village. This field season letters were sent again to private property owners within lower Kingsbury. In accordance with our agreement with the TRPA, NTCD's BCP provided technical assist with enforcement properties again for the 2011 field season. The BCP staff has assisted 640 properties with full BMP Site Evaluations or other Technical Assistance. In all the NTCD has assisted 217 of these enforcement properties to gain "Certificates of Completion" from TRPA.

The CPG staff helped coordinate and present information at the 2011 Contractors Workshop at the Sierra Nevada College and the Contractors Refresher Workshop at TRPA. Presentations were given to contractors on the correct techniques and technology for proper installation of BMPs. The target audience is professionals who install BMPs. The CPG led the coordination of the outdoor session this year. The Contractors Workshop had 105 participants. The Refresher Workshop had 48 participants.



The CPG has also continued work with Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) to conduct outreach and education on forest health measures and Fire Defensible Space. The grant pays for the CPG to coordinate outreach activities and including the creation of self guided educational trails and biomass utilization.

The Nevada Tahoe Conservation District's CPG now attends the Tahoe Yellow Cress meetings. The CPG has obtained funding to lead in the outreach and education efforts to inform lake front homeowners about Tahoe Yellow Cress. Work performed toward these efforts is funded by NRCS. The current funding pays for NTCD to conduct these activities and work with the AMWG group on the goal of maintaining habitat for Tahoe Yellow Cress. Coordination activities have begun and CPG staff is planning for outreach activities this summer. The NTCD sent out letters to lakefront homeowners at the beginning of June and continues fielding calls. The letters were informative and let homeowners know that the NTCD can assist in helping interested homeowners with conservation practices on a volunteer basis.



Tahoe Yellow Cress

Another important accomplishment of the past year included completion of **125** BMP site evaluations facilitation of BMP implementations on **165** private residences resulting in a Final Certificate issued from TRPA (source control with site constraints and full storm water infiltration), **319** homeowners received technical assistance over the phone and the delivery of

technical assistance to **508** homeowners on a variety of conservation issues. The total assistance provided is over **968** contacts with homeowners.

During FY 2011 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 2011:

- Continued Community Watershed Planning in the Kingsbury General Improvement District and Glenbrook communities.
- Continued expansion of program to shift focus from stormwater BMPs to Conservation Planning and forest health.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

During Fiscal Year 2011, 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. The grant was approved, and received, for \$10,000.

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. The District supports the City's engineering department with residential BMP information.

WASHOE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Washoe County 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, Cave Rock 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. We are fortunate to have such a diverse and engaged group of partners who are dedicated to natural resource issues at Lake Tahoe.

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
- TRPA Pathway Technical Working Groups
- TRPA Pathway Forum
- Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee
- Nevada Stormwater Association
- Tahoe Interagency Executive Committee
- Nevada Fire Safe Council
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada
- UNCE
- Parasol Foundation
- Bonanza Community Meeting Forum
- Nevada Biomass Working Group

FUNDING

Nevada Tahoe Conservation District funding during FY 2011 was provided by Local, State and Federal partners including:

LOCAL

Washoe County
Douglas County
Carson City
Glenbrook HOA
Cave Rock, GID

STATE

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

FEDERAL

USDI Bureau of Reclamation
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
USDA Forest Service

Private

Stateline Stormwater Association
Private Agreement

A comprehensive overview of the District's finances is available in our FY – 2010 annual audit. A copy of which is available at the district or the offices of the Nevada Division of Conservation Districts