



**NEVADA TAHOE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**



**FY 2013 ANNUAL REPORT
July 1st, 2012 to June 30th, 2013**

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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

Maureen McCarthy, PhD

Lynn Endicott

Chris Freeman, Representing Carson City

Marsha Berkbigler, Representing Washoe County

Barry Penzel, Representing Douglas County

***NTCD Board of Supervisors as of June 30th, 2013**

KEY DISTRICT STAFF

DOUG MARTIN – DISTRICT MANAGER

MARK THORPE – ADMINISTRATOR

JASON BRAND – PROGRAM MANAGER

MEGHAN KELLY – PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

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

Included in our accomplishments during the past year was the completion of the FY 2012 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 2014. The rate was approved in June 2013.

Other administration and operations accomplishments for fiscal year 2013:

- Successfully held eleven regular board meetings and five special board meetings
- Participation in national and state conservation programs
- Successfully completed two community grants from Carson City and Douglas County
- The FY 2012 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.

EPA funded project: Stormwater Load Reduction Planning

The purpose of this project is to develop a strategic plan for the Nevada jurisdictions of Washoe County, Douglas County, and NDOT, known as the implementing agencies, to meet stormwater pollutant load reduction targets under the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program. This project is the next step toward implementation of the TMDL in Nevada. Stormwater load reduction plans (SLRPs) are adaptable plans which specify the actions and strategies for improvements that each jurisdiction will implement in order to meet TMDL load reduction requirements for urban stormwater runoff. SLRPs for each jurisdiction will describe cost-effective strategies and on-the-ground actions that will provide a 34% load reduction from the jurisdiction's October 2004 baseline stormwater loads. The results of the load reduction modeling using the PLRM (Pollutant Load Reduction Model) and SLRP protocols will become the basis of developing implementation alternatives for the agencies and will include a timeline and preliminary cost estimates.

NDSL Funded Projects:

NTCD continues working on several Erosion Control (EC) Projects with NDSL under the State of Nevada Tahoe bond act. A significant revision to the program is a change from being part of the selection process for EC projects to being able to apply directly for funding for projects. NDSL is continuing funding to NTCD to have support on existing projects for technical expertise. 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 several design and implementation projects including the Glenbrook Creek Restoration Project.

With support from NDSL, The Glenbrook Project, and the Glenbrook Homeowners Association (GHOA), the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District completed the design, permitting, and bidding for the Glenbrook Creek Restoration Project. In May 2013, construction began to restore approximately 300 linear feet of channel and remove 2 culverts, replacing one with an arch culvert. As of August 2013, project construction is complete and vegetation is growing.



View of the Glenbrook Creek Restoration Project from Old Hwy 50

Fiscal Year 2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS USDI BUREAU OF RECLAMATION GRANTS:

A Bureau grant was used to fund the final engineering for restoration of Rosewood Creek Area A (between Hwy 28 and Northwood). Additional funding support was provided by NDSL for a portion of the project. The bid was awarded to Burdick Excavating, Inc. in July 2012 and Phase 1 of construction subsequently began. Phase 1 was successfully completed in October 2012 and the project is currently in Phase 2, vegetation seasoning. Phase 3, the final phase of construction is slated for the summer of 2014.



Building Channel during Phase 1 of the Rosewood Creek Area A SEZ Restoration



New channel, culvert, and floodplain at Rosewood Creek Area A SEZ Restoration

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 2013 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.

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: (FY 2013)

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: NTCD in partnership with NRCS completed a CWP project in portions of the Kingsbury/Edgewood Creek Drainage which included a needs assessment within the communities.

Hybrid BMP Project

Description: After completion of the design and construction of the project NTCD is now conducting monitoring of the 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. Preliminary monitoring results are very promising and point to project success. Results have been presented to the Nevada Water Environment Association's 2012 annual conference and the California Stormwater Quality Association's 2013 annual conference. A final report will be prepared in FY 2014.

Washoe County Stormwater Asset Inventory

Description: Completion of work was done regarding location and mapping of 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: The Douglas-Tahoe Stormwater System Asset Inventory represents an initial effort to compile and accurately present a large amount of data on the stormwater infrastructure

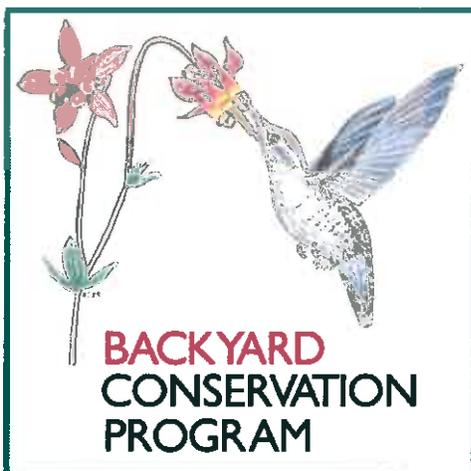
of many of the Douglas-Tahoe jurisdictions. This is Version 1 of the region's stormwater asset inventory. The Douglas County Community Development – Engineering will expand and refine the inventory database and maps in the future following a project to accurately field map all existing BMPs in the Douglas County region of Lake Tahoe (Douglas-Tahoe). The Version 1 asset inventory database, GIS map files, and report are available from Douglas County Community Development – Engineering.

The US Forest Service-Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), Nevada Division of State Lands (NDSL), Douglas County, and Kingsbury, Round Hill, and Cave Rock General Improvement Districts (GIDs) funded this work in 2008 to develop, among other tasks, an inventory of Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) projects and assets in Douglas County. The scope of work included development of an inventory of all stormwater assets (using MS Access® 2007) with estimated age, some photos, and key features as needed to provide for future development of life-cycle costs. The assets were also to be geo-referenced in a Geographic information system (GIS) (using ArcMap® 9.3.1) where Computer-Aided Design (CAD) data was available.

The purpose of this data and GIS inventory is to provide jurisdictions in Douglas-Tahoe with a listing and graphical display of the current stormwater assets they manage. This information is intended to help the jurisdictions manage their assets in conjunction with recommended inspection and maintenance practices and maintain records of such. Further, as jurisdictions assess the condition of these assets, this information should be useful in planning for replacements or improvements to meet future needs, including the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements.

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 2013 Accomplishments:

During FY 2013 the Backyard Conservation Program (BCP) continued to develop 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 most of 2014 fiscal year. Primary sources of funding include Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), Nevada Division of State Lands (NDSL) and from United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA).

One of the accomplishments was the continued assistance of the North Lake Tahoe Demonstration Garden (NLTDG). During the fiscal year in 2013, NTCD organized several classes and assisted with events at the garden. NTCD continues working with the NLTDG to plan next season's activities and continue with the garden's development. During the FY 2013 work was completed on fire defensible space elements and demonstrations. Elements of a ground cover demonstration were added with UNCE lead John Cobourn in the fall of 2012. The garden is now basically completed and offers visitors great physical examples of properly installed and maintained BMPs.

The Conservation Planning Group (CPG or BCP) made progress on completion of work on deliverables for the 2012-2013 "Invasive Weed Abatement" grant from the Nevada Division of State Lands' "Lake Tahoe License Plate Program". Through this grant the NTCD entered into an interlocal agreement with Douglas County to conduct the treatment and mapping of invasive weeds within the right of way with in Washoe County within the Lake Tahoe Basin. The CPG has worked with NDSL and successfully implemented this work and scope over the past eight 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.



Invasive Weeds - Bull Thistle and Skeleton Weed

As of June 30th 2013 the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) has mailed a total of 1004 "Accelerated Implementation" or 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 Incline Village, NV. In accordance with our agreement with the TRPA, NTCD's BCP provided technical assist with enforcement properties again for the 2013 field season. The BCP staff has assisted over 831 properties with full BMP Site Evaluations or other Technical Assistance. In all, the NTCD has assisted 324 of these "Accelerated Implementation" properties to gain "Certificates of Completion" from TRPA.

In an effort to be consistent with recommendations the 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.

funded by Nevada Division of Forestry. The 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 began in February of 2013 under these funds. During the project period NTCD will coordinate the collection of TYC seed, develop TYC conservation plans for lakefront property owners in Nevada and coordinate the planting of TYC in several areas.



Tahoe Yellow Cress

Another important accomplishment of the past year included completion of **174** BMP site evaluations facilitation of BMP implementations on **175** private residences resulting in a Final Certificate issued from TRPA (source control with site constraints and full storm water infiltration), **138** homeowners received technical assistance over the phone and the delivery of technical assistance to **239** homeowners on a variety of conservation issues. The total assistance provided is over **726** contacts with homeowners.

During FY 2013 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 2013:

- Began Community Watershed Planning in the Lake Tahoe, Nevada.
- Continued expansion of program to shift focus from Single Family Residential stormwater BMPs to Area Wide Conservation Planning and forest health.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

During Fiscal Year 2013, 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 Attorney's 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.

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
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada
- UNCE
- Parasol Foundation
- Bonanza Community Meeting Forum
- Nevada Biomass Working Group

FUNDING

Nevada Tahoe Conservation District funding during FY 2013 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
US Environmental Protection Agency

Private

Stateline Stormwater Association
Private Agreement

A comprehensive overview of the District's finances is available in our FY – 2012 annual audit. A copy of which is available at the district.