

Annual Report

Nevada Tahoe Conservation District

FY 2023

9/25/2023

Conservation District Information:

- Please identify the Conservation District board members, their positions, and seated terms.

Cary Sarnoff	Chairman	12/31/2026
Greg Felton	Vice-Chairman	12/31/2026
Bill Kelly	Secretary/Treasurer	12/31/2024
Barbara Perlman Whyman	Supervisor	12/31/2024
Maureen McCarthy	Supervisor	12/31/2024
Doug Martin	Supervisor - Carson City Representative	12/31/2024
Alexis Hill	Supervisor - Washoe County Representative	12/31/2024
Danny Tarkanian	Supervisor - Douglas County Representative	12/31/2024

- Briefly describe your Conservation Districts mission:
 - 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.
- Describe the Conservation Districts major achieves for the FY.

Meetings:

- Please list all meetings dates for the Conservation Districts of the last fiscal year:
 - 8/22/22
 - 9/29/22
 - 1/23/23
 - 2/9/23
 - 4/24/23
 - 5/22/23
 - 6/30/23
- Identify needs, if any, to help your meetings be more effective, efficient and collaborative.
- List meeting guest speakers or guest presentations which helped the Conservation District meet its goals and mission statement.
- Describe any training needs related to holding your meetings.

Goals:

- Briefly describe your Conservation Districts goals:
 - Develop relationships with Tahoe Basin agencies to encourage project collaboration.
 - Work with community members to identify environmental concerns and needs.
 - Implement projects that improve the natural environment of the Tahoe Basin.
 - Have staff that are considered technical experts in conservation, environmental, and engineering fields.
- What goals did your Conservation District accomplish this year?
 - The District encouraged collaboration between many local partners to gather funds and garner support for the Kahle Drive Complete Street Project.
 - Through the EPA Community Watershed Planning Project, a survey was developed that gathered information regarding environmental concerns of specific areas in our district. This survey will direct future project goals.
 - The District advanced evaluation and design of multiple stream restorations, aquatic organism passages, water quality improvement, and forest health projects.
 - The District completed water quality monitoring of Lake Tahoe and Rosewood Creek.
 - The District completed the Saxon Creek Aquatic Organism Passage Project, Phase 2 restoring nearly 1,000 linear feet of stream channel.
 - The District installed post assisted log structures and beaver dam analogues as a post-Caldor fire response in Saxon and Trout Creeks.
 - The District provided designs and permitting assistance for two bank stabilization projects on the Walker River in Mason Valley, Nevada.
 - The District assisted NRCS with 30 conservation-related engineering designs for producers in Nevada.
- What goals did the CD struggle to accomplish and why?
 - More could be accomplished by strengthening our work with community members. The District struggles to find funding to work with the general public although the EPA CWP grants allow the District to work in targeted areas.
 - The multiple layers of permitting required coupled with the Tahoe Basin's short construction season often result in lengthy project design and permitting times and delayed project completion. The District would like to streamline permitting so that more projects could occur sooner.

Outreach and Education:

- What outreach methods did the Conservation District use in the fiscal year?
 - Public meetings, website, social media,
- Were the outreach methods successful? Why or Why not?
 - These outreach methods were successful enough to garner the input needed for current projects. Additional outreach through volunteer events and partnerships with other agencies could improve NTCD's reach into the community.
- What education opportunities did the Conservation District participate in?
 - Basin-wide invasive weeds training

- What is needed for the Conservation District to provide more outreach and education?
 - Funding for outreach and education has been more difficult to obtain than project-based funding.

Natural Resources:

- What natural resource concerns did the Conservation District address?
 - Erosion
 - Stormwater drainage
 - Water quality
 - Noxious weeds
 - Endangered species
 - Revegetation
 - Stream restoration
 - Water and energy conservation
- What natural resources concerns were brought forward but not addressed? And why were they not addressed by the Conservation District?
 - Sustainable and multi-modal transportation
 - Not addressed because of lack of funding and the lengthy time to obtain permits. We hope to address these actions in the coming year.
- What natural resource concerns does the Conservation District need addressing or need more information on?
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- What natural resource concerns did the Conservation Districts Local Work Group with NRCS identify as the top priority?
 - NTCD has not worked with a NRCS Local Work Group.
- What technical assistance did the Conservation District or staff provide for NRCS?
 - Engineering assistance

Projects/ Grants:

- What new grant/s were awarded to the CD?
 - Describe the grant work and goals, the amount awarded and any partners on the grant.
 - USFS Beaver Dam Analog Grant - \$25,000
 - Through this project up to 80 beaver dam analogs will be installed on Saxon and Trout creeks below the Caldor Fire burn scar.
 - EPA Community Watershed Planning for Marla Bay - \$125,000
 - Utilizing the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency model and guidelines, the Marla Bay Water Quality Improvement Project will assist private landowners and local jurisdictions with Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation.
 - Kahle Drive Complete Street Project - Total project cost is projected to be between \$3.0 to \$3.1 million.
 - The project proposes to transform Kahle Drive into a “complete street” by improving stormwater drainage and treatment, upgrading an outdated water main and hydrants, repairing wastewater infrastructure, adding sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks, and intersection safety improvements, undergrounding

- overhead utilities, and improving broadband quality in a census block group with one of the lowest median household incomes in Douglas County.
 - Lower Rosewood Creek Aquatic Organism Passage - \$925,000 Total (\$650,000 from the Nevada Division of State Lands Water Quality Erosion Control Funds and \$275,000 from TRPA's Lake Tahoe Restoration Act Funds
 - The goal of this project is to improve fish passage on Rosewood Creek by replacing 2 existing metal standpipe culverts. These funds will be used to develop design plans, project specifications, and a cost estimate.
 - Nevada Department of Transportation Assistance - \$2,000,000
 - This grant continues the work the District has been doing for NDOT since 2018. This contract is to assist NDOT with the design, permitting, and implementation of improvements to treat existing NDOT drainage outfalls in the Lake Tahoe Basin as well as improve overall stormwater infrastructure maintenance.
 - TRPA Green Infrastructure - \$248,266
 - This contract will work in two South Lake Tahoe, California areas to identify opportunities for multiple benefit green stormwater infrastructure projects. The District will be the lead agency on this project while working closely with Design Workshop and Wildscape Engineering.
- What grant/s were closed out this fiscal year?
 - Describe the grant work and goals accomplished.
 - What was the final amount of grant money spent?
 - What monetary and/or in-kind matched was provided by the CD?
 - Douglas County Assistance - \$50,000
 - Nevada Tahoe Conservation District will work to advance the enactment of area-wide stormwater planning and treatment within the Douglas County portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin.
 - Nevada Department of Transportation Assistance - \$921,774
 - This contract was to assist NDOT with the design, permitting, and implementation of improvements to treat existing NDOT drainage outfalls in the Lake Tahoe Basin
 - NDSL Hicks - \$38,411
 - This contract provided funds to address, repair, and prevent erosion issues at the Hicks Urban Parcel
- What grant/s are ongoing, and describe the work done this year?
 - Mason Valley Conservation District Walker River
 - NTCD completed the design necessary to complete the bank stabilization work at Blanchard Ranch. The design addressed the stabilization of approximately 450 linear feet of streambank using biostabilization as well as specify revegetation efforts to replace non-native vegetation with native vegetation. The goal of the project was to prevent additional streambank erosion within the restored reach using a combination of in channel structures and bioengineering techniques.
 - Brautovich Park
 - This was a joint effort between Douglas County and the District to restore a large portion of a county parcel to historic stream environment zone, relocate

the existing baseball field and upgrade the parking lot and water quality features to achieve the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load.

- USFS Burke Creek/Rabe Meadows Restoration
 - The goal of the Burke Creek/Rabe Meadows Riparian Restoration Project is to restore approximately 22 acres of Burke Creek and the surrounding Rabe Meadows.
- TRPA Human Health
 - Water samples will be taken at shoreline locations to determine levels of nearshore contaminants.
- EPA Community Watershed Planning
 - This funding is to implement Lake Tahoe Basin community-based watershed strategies with private landowners in coordination with the public agencies responsible for stormwater water management. This funding will also enable NTCD to conduct riparian restoration and fuels reduction on private parcels in coordination with fire protection districts.
- Tahoe Resource Conservation District Stormwater Monitoring
 - This contract amendment is to assist Tahoe RCD in collecting stormwater monitoring samples for the Tahoe urban implementers to comply with the CA NPDES permits and NV Interlocal Agreements.
- USBOR Rosewood Creek Restoration Project
 - This contract is continued funding for the Rosewood Creek Restoration Project to perform monitoring, replace/rehabilitate two culverts, and repair numerous headcuts.
- NDSL Cave Rock State Park Erosion Project
 - This contract provides funds to address, prevent, and repair erosion issues at Cave Rock State Park.
- Washoe County Lower Wood Creek Phase 2
 - NTCD staff will assist the County and their consultant with Lake Clarity Crediting Program-related modeling and reporting in order to design the most effective project for treating stormwater runoff into Lake Tahoe, along with providing guidance and TRPA permit assistance regarding BMP erosion control measures during construction.
- USFS Marlette Crossing Realignment
 - The Marlette Creek SR28 Crossing Realignment and Water Quality Improvement Project is a multiphase project with the goal of improve stream function, water quality, and fish habitat and provide erosion control and stormwater treatment at directly connected outfalls from State Route 28.
- Caltrans Road RAM Assistance
 - This contract provides as-needed support for stormwater management and regulatory compliance and reporting for CDM Smith on behalf of Caltrans.
- Washoe County Lake Clarity Crediting Program Assistance
 - This project is to assist Washoe County to fulfill obligations and commitments contained in the Interlocal Agreement to implement the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load with NDEP.

- NDOT Lake Clarity Crediting Program Assistance
 - This project is a continuation of an existing grant to assist NDOT in fulfilling obligations and commitments contained in Interlocal Agreements with NDEP.
- NRCS Engineering Assistance
 - This is funding, through the Farm Bill, to provide engineering technical assistance for NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Bijou Park Creek Watershed Restoration Project
 - Wildscape Engineering is again contracting with the City of South Lake Tahoe to advance portions of the conceptual design completed in Phase 1. In Phase 2, The District will be involved in the design of three areas that it did the conceptual design for in Phase 1.
- USFS Invasive Weeds Grant
 - This project works with partner agencies in eradicating priority weed populations in the Douglas, Placer, and Washoe counties of the Tahoe Basin.
- USFS Saxon Creek Aquatic Organism Passage
 - This is funding for Phase 2 of the Saxon Creek Aquatic Organism Passage Project. Phase 1 replace a failing road culvert with a bridge and restored 140 feet of channel upstream. This project will build Phase 1 by restoring the section of channel downstream from the Fountain Place Road crossing and performing adaptive management on the upstream section.
- What overall grant needs were identified by the Conservation District?
 - Sustainable and multi-modal transportation

Partners:

- What Partners did the Conservation District work within the FY?
 - Washoe County
 - Douglas County
 - Tahoe Resource Conservation District
 - Tahoe Regional Planning agency
 - Tahoe Transportation District
 - Mason Valley Conservation District
 - Oliver Park General Improvement District
 - United States Bureau of Reclamation
 - United States Environmental Protection Agency
 - United States Forest Service
 - United States Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
 - Nevada Division of State Lands
 - Nevada Department of Transportation
 - California Department of Transportation
 - National Association of Conservation Districts
 - Nevada Association of Conservation Districts
 - Sustainable Community Advocates
 - BNY Mellon Trust of Delaware

- Growing Spaces
 - Wildscapes Engineering
 - CDM Smith
 - Marla Bay GID
 - PineWild HOA
- What Partners would the Conservation District like to collaborate with in the future?
 - Douglas County Lake Tahoe Sewer Authority
 - US Army Corps of Engineers
 - Tahoe Fund
 - League to Save Lake Tahoe

Needs:

- Identify some of the needs that came up for the CD in the fiscal year and please identify them as on the following: 1. Ongoing need 2. Specific to FY 3. Addressed in FY 4: Other(explain)
 - Need for a new vehicle (3)
 - Need for an additional staff member(3)

Please add any information, photos, questions and or concerns identified as part of the fiscal year close-out process.

Signed by:



Date: 8/21/23