



**NTCD ANNUAL WORKPLAN
FY 2015**

Prepared: April 11, 2014



INTRODUCTION

The Nevada Tahoe Conservation District (NTCD) is part of approximately 3,000 Conservation Districts functioning in all 50 States and U.S. Territories. Conservation Districts are sub-divisions of State government and are unique locally led conservation agencies with our roots dating back to the dust bowl era. Districts provide natural resource and conservation practices 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. 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. In addition, the District has a formal partnering relationship with our California counterpart, the Tahoe Resource Conservation District.

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 principals. 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.

(cover photo - NTCD Project Engineer performing stormwater asset inventory work)

NTCD OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

1. Continue community, state and government awareness of NTCD and its programs by continually updating the NTCD Website and giving public presentations within the community.
2. Continuing review and update of comprehensive District policies and procedures adopted by NTCD Board of Supervisors.
3. Continue a training program with funding to support technical, professional, and human resource training for all District staff.
4. Continue to revise and adapt job descriptions for all current and future positions for the District.
5. Development of a comprehensive finance/funding plan for FY 2015 for review and approval by the NTCD Board of Supervisors.
6. Maintain an operational budget of 12 months and operational reserve one month or more in advance.
7. Update the records retention and rotate out files and information no longer viable.
8. Coordinate budget responsibilities between the District Manager to the Administrator.
9. Participate in the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee
10. Participate in the Lake Tahoe Forum
11. Coordinate the Annual Audit in compliance with State and Federal statutes.

PROJECT WORK FOCUS

NTCD is actively involved in many conservation programs and projects with our partners in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Several of our projects continue efforts that have been ongoing for many years, while, others are just beginning. The following information outlines the district project objectives for NTCD during the upcoming work year.

WATER RESOURCE FOCUS PROJECTS

1. Support the NDSL technical advisory group regarding Water Quality and Erosion Control program on stormwater and SEZ restoration projects as they are selected by NDSL. In addition, NTCD competes for and receives NDSL administered EC funds for specific projects.
2. Provide technical oversight for the design and construction of water quality and stream restoration projects funded by the NDSL Water Quality and Erosion Control program.
3. Continue with the development of a stormwater infrastructure inventory and performance tracking architecture in Nevada-Tahoe.
4. Continue monitoring the restoration of Middle Rosewood Creek (Area A) and implement abandonment of old creek channel and commission use of new creek bed.



Photo: Rosewood Creek new channel and vegetation

5. Work closely with the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Programs to finish the establishment a robust data inventory and collection/analysis protocol for stormwater quality in the Tahoe basin.
6. Continue to monitor a hybrid BMP system in Incline Village, NV. The hybrid system will augment the existing high-flow treatment system with distributed off-line infiltration swales.
7. Monitor the water quality before and after the restoration of Area A of Rosewood Creek. Same as #4
8. Continue to provide assistance to Washoe and Douglas Counties to implement various aspects of the TMDL tracking program.
9. Commence development of the Stormwater Loading Reduction Program that assesses Fine Sediment Particle Loading at Key Stormwater outlets in the Nevada Tahoe Basin. This work will take 3 years to complete 3 phases which culminates in engineering cost estimates of projects to implement to meet the Nevada TMDL requirements.
10. Continue work on a master planning process for the Burke Creek/Rabe Meadow complex with NDOT, Douglas County and private parties looking at opportunities in the areas of stormwater and stream enhancements.

WATER RESOURCES MONITORING FOCUS

1. Develop proposals to answer Nevada TMDL quality questions and inform future EIP water quality/erosion control projects for Nevada implementers and funders. Submit to appropriate funders including NDEP, NDSL, BOR, and USFS.
2. Continue the sampling water quality for the Stateline Stormwater Project.
3. Monitor the water quality associated with the Rosewood Creek Area A restoration.
4. Begin work with basin efforts to monitor sites throughout out the Lake Tahoe Basin. This is through an inter local agreement with Tahoe Resource Conservation District (TRCD)

BACKYARD CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROJECTS



1. Update and Implement the FY-15 NTCD-BCP Annual Work Plan.
2. Continue to assist with development and maintenance needs at the North Lake Tahoe Demonstration Garden.
3. Continue to train BCP staff in defensible space techniques in collaboration with the fire protection districts of Nevada Tahoe.
4. Provide ongoing training opportunities for all BCP staff in native and adapted plants.
5. Provide property owners with water quality technical assistance through Best Management Practices (BMPs) technical assistance, BMP site evaluations and facilitation of BMP implementations.



6. Continue partnership with EPA to commence the Community Watershed Planning Project to provide watershed conservation and TMDL technical assistance to two selected areas. Focus topics including:
 - a. Stormwater Management
 - b. Public/private joint activities
 - c. Public outreach
 - d. BMP implementation
 - e. BMP Maintenance outreach and program development.
 - f. Cost effectiveness of shared systems and possible fund strategy for 2 selected areas

- g. Other conservation elements including: Water Conservation, Noxious Weed Abatement, Defensible Space, Nutrient Management, etc.
- 7. Participate in outreach and education opportunities to present BMP retrofit and the Backyard Conservation Program.
- 8. Distribute defensible space educational materials and handouts and encourage installations of fire safe BMPs (see below).



- 9. Continue 2nd year and complete project deliverables for Invasive Weed ROW treatments under Nevada Division of State Lands Invasive Weed grant.



Invasive Weeds: Bull Thistle and Oxeye Daisy

- 10. Seek out and secure funding to continue invasive weed abatement efforts and outreach for the 2015 field season and beyond. Focus will be to assist private property owners.
- 11. Provide water conservation components while providing technical assistance in relation to BMPs.

12. Work with TRPA to maintain a positive working relationship with TRPA and other EIP #16 partners including Douglas and Washoe Counties. Assist with the creation of the “Parcel Level BMP Charter.”
13. Ongoing training for all BCP staff in noxious weed identification and control methods.



14. Continue to seek out and secure funding for the future. NDEP funds are decreasing and the BCP/CPG will need to be ready to shift and take on other roles as needed. During this Fiscal Year, funding for the BCP BMP assistance will be coming from NDEP and EPA.
15. Continue to develop a system so property owners can voluntarily pay for BMP assistance. This is requested by NDEP .
16. Work on possible funding to allow NTCD to focus on forest health outreach for 2015-2016.



17. Continue work on Tahoe Yellow Cress (TYC) outreach and conservation planning to assist lakefront homeowners with the conservation of habitat and protection of TYC populations. As funding allows.

BIOMASS, FOREST HEALTH AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT FOCUS

1. Continue support to the Nevada Pinyon Juniper Partnership which focuses on overlaying utilization in a manner that support resource needs with a science oversight component.

PUBLIC OUTREACH FOCUS

Public Outreach is extremely important to the District's ability to engage and inform our outreach stakeholder constituency in Nevada Lake Tahoe consisting of Regulators, Funders, Implementers, property owners, General Improvement Districts (GIDs) and Homeowner Associations (HOAs). All of our staff and programs are responsible for outreach, including the four main functions: Advocacy, Outreach, and Environmental Policy.

Funders and Partners

FEDERAL

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA Forest Service
USDOI Bureau of Reclamation
US Army Corps of Engineers
US EPA

STATE

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Nevada Department of Transportation
Nevada Division of State Lands
Nevada Division of Conservation Districts
Nevada Division of Forestry
Nevada Association of Conservation Districts
Nevada Conservation Commission
University of Nevada, Cooperative Extension

Local

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
Tahoe Resource Conservation District, California
Washoe County
Douglas County
Carson City
Placer County, California
Cave Rock Estates GID
Zephyr GID
Skyland GID
Oliver Park GID
Logan Creek GID
Lakeridge GID
Incline Village GID
Kingsbury GID
Roundhill GID
Glenbrook Homeowners Association
Hidden Woods Homeowners Association

Private

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Nevada Tahoe Stateline Stormwater Association
National Forest Foundation
Nevada Pinyon & Juniper Partnership