

# **SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE**

**2014**

**Nevada County Resource  
Conservation District**



Hopeful Hill Ranch, Bitney Springs  
photo by Janey Powers

**May 2014**

**Local Agency Formation Commission**

**of**

**Nevada County**

**950 Maidu Avenue**

**Nevada City, CA 95959**

**530-265-7180**



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## Introduction

This report presents the updated Sphere of Influence plan for the Nevada County Resource Conservation District.

A sphere of influence (SOI) defines the probable boundary and service area of an agency. Spheres of influence are determined solely by the Commission, following standards and procedures established by LAFCo law (the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, Government Code Sect. 56000 *et seq.*), as well as the Commission's own policies.

LAFCo adopts a sphere of influence for every city and district in its jurisdiction and must review and, if necessary, update each sphere at least every five years. The law specifies four factors the Commission must take into consideration when determining a sphere of influence:

- *The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open-space lands.*
- *The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area.*
- *The present capacity of public facilities and the adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide.*
- *The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the Commission determines that they are relevant to the agency.*

Additionally, LAFCo law includes a special provision for agencies that provide sewer, water or fire protection services:

- *For an update of a sphere of influence of a city or special district that provides public facilities or services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, or structural fire protection, that occurs pursuant to subdivision (g) on or after July 1, 2012, the present and probable need for those public facilities and services of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within the existing sphere of influence.*

The Nevada County Resource Conservation District does not provide sewer, water or fire protection services; consequently, this report does not address the present and probable needs of any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities for these services.

The Commission's sphere of influence policies establish specific standards for a Sphere of Influence Plan, requiring a map defining the probable 20-year boundary of the service area and identifying a near-term development horizon defining the agency's logical boundary for lands likely to be annexed prior to the next sphere review or update. A sphere of influence plan includes analysis of the present and future land uses in the area and considers the need for public services in the area. It documents the agency's current and future service capacity and compares capacity to projected demand. Finally, the plan should identify any relevant social or economic communities of interest in the area.

The Commission's sphere of influence policies also require special district sphere of influence plans to establish the nature, location and extent of the district's functions and classes of services. The Nevada County Resource Conservation District provides resource conservation services throughout its jurisdiction.

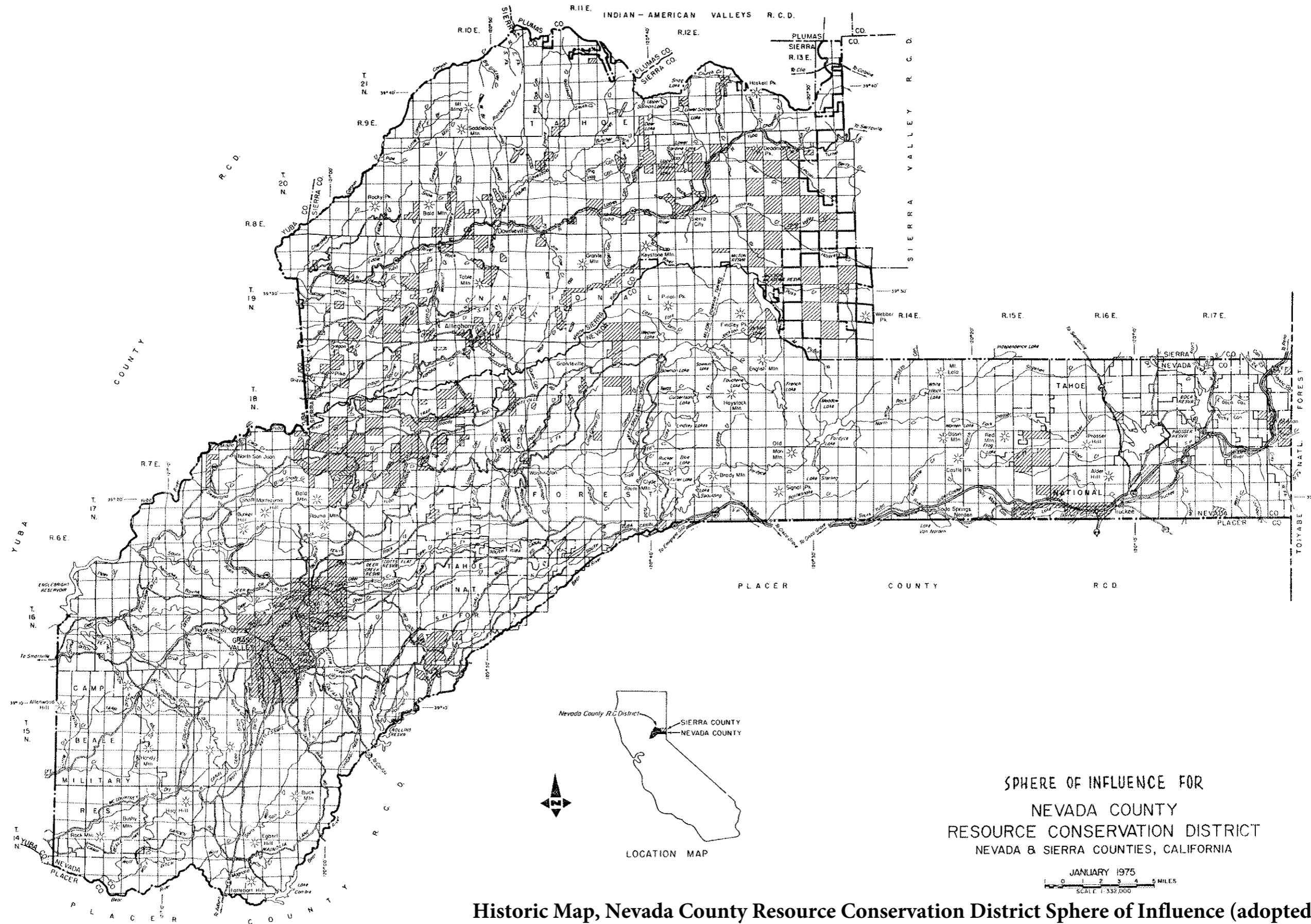
## **2006 Municipal Service Review – Resource Conservation Services**

In 2006, LAFCo commissioned a Municipal Service Review to consider how resource conservation services are provided in Nevada County and the portion of Sierra County within the Resource Conservation District's jurisdiction. This review (which is included as Appendix B to this report, with its findings incorporated herein) summarized the services provided by the District and described how they are funded.

The MSR discussed the fact that the District's property tax revenue is derived solely from Nevada County but also pointed out that services provided in Sierra County are minimal, and observed that since the NCRCD is actively engaged in watershed issues that affect both counties, the District's Sierra County activities benefit Nevada County. The MSR concluded that the inclusion of the Sierra County lands in the District's boundaries was reasonable and recommended that the District's sphere of influence continue to include the portion of Sierra County within the District's boundaries.

The MSR also discussed the issue of representation on the District's Board of Directors, noting that the high cost of elections has largely been avoided in the past because historically there have not been multiple candidates for board positions. Since an election would have to be held in both counties, the MSR concluded that a contested election could significantly impact the District's financial resources, and noted that this cost could potentially be averted if the District Board members were appointed (by the principal county Board of Supervisors) rather than elected. As of 2014, the District has confirmed that Board Members are and will continue to be appointed to fixed terms by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, as permitted pursuant to the enabling statute for Resource Conservation Districts (Public Resources Code § 9151, et seq.; see § 9301 regarding the district director appointment process).

No major changes to the District's boundaries or structure have occurred since the MSR was completed.

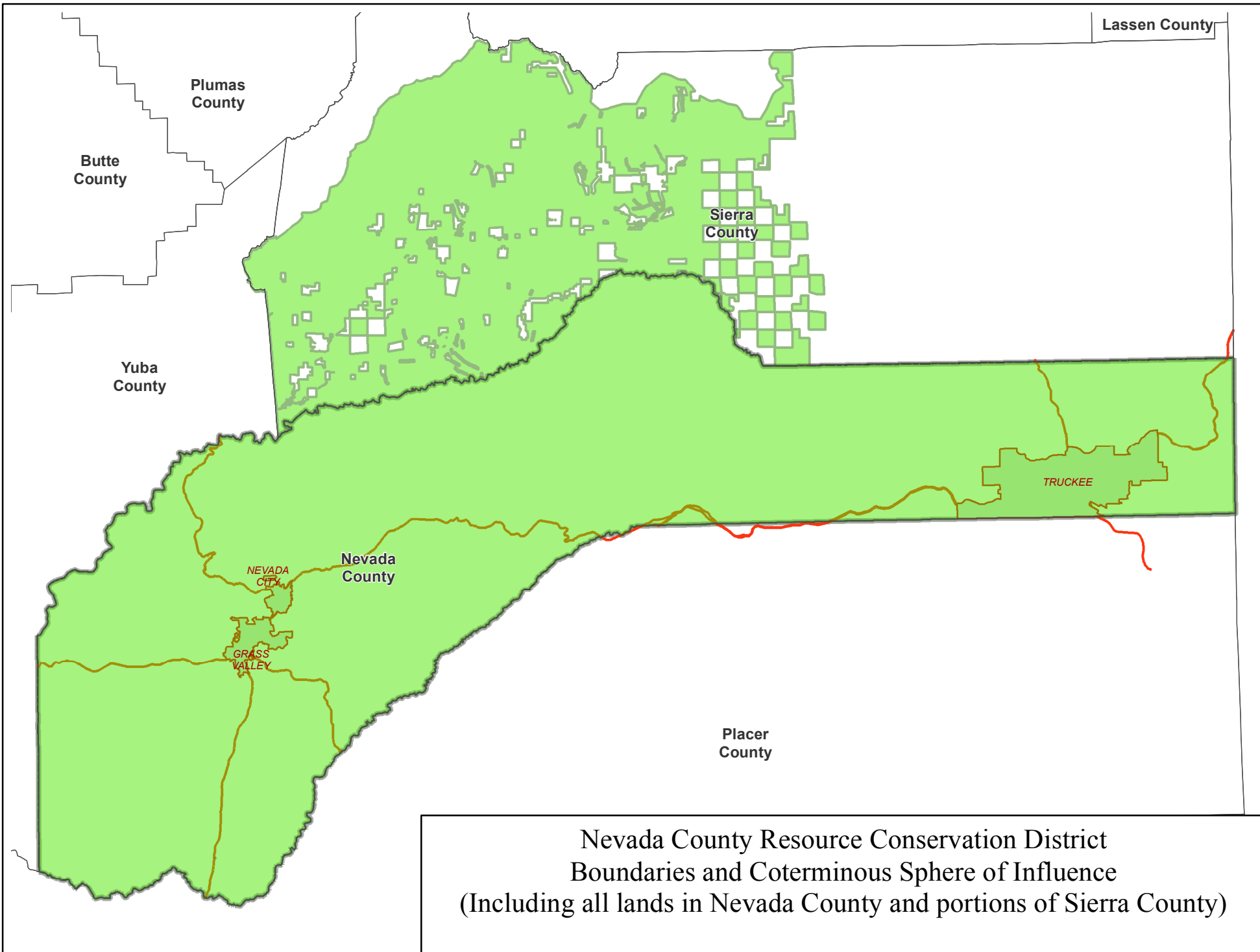


SPHERE OF INFLUENCE FOR  
 NEVADA COUNTY  
 RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
 NEVADA & SIERRA COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA

JANUARY 1975  
 SCALE 1:332,000

**Historic Map, Nevada County Resource Conservation District Sphere of Influence (adopted 1983)**







## Sphere of Influence Plan—Resource Conservation District

In 2006, LAFCo completed a Municipal Service Review of the services provided by the District. That study, as well as the written determinations derived from it and adopted by the Commission, are incorporated herein. The Commission’s Sphere of Influence standards are included herein as **Appendix A**. The Municipal Service Review prepared in 2006 is included herein as **Appendix B**.

### ▪ General

The Nevada County Resource Conservation District was formed in 1943; the original district boundaries included 54,600 acres in the Chicago Park and Wolf Creek areas. Since that time, the boundaries have been expanded at least twelve times, and now include all of Nevada County and a portion of Sierra County. (See map, preceding page.) All but two of these annexations took place prior to the creation of the Local Agency Formation Commission in 1963; a brief “History of the Nevada County Resource Conservation District” has been prepared by RCD staff, and is included herein as **Appendix C**. The population of the District includes the nearly 100,000 residents of Nevada County and approximately 2,600 residents of Sierra County.

Population centers in Nevada County include the Town of Truckee, the area in and around Grass Valley and Nevada City, and several unincorporated communities, including Penn Valley/Lake Wildwood, Lake of the Pines/Higgins Corner, and Alta Sierra. In the Sierra County portion of the District, the majority of the population resides in several unincorporated communities, including Downieville, Goodyears Bar, Allegheny, and Forest City.

The District promotes responsible resource management through education, leadership, technical assistance, and project facilitation. To that end, the district offers educational programs for landowners and the public; it also develops and implements various conservation and land management projects on private and public lands. Generally, the District’s programs are designed for landowners, and involve providing assistance and education on agriculture, drainage, erosion control, pasture and range management, forest health, road maintenance, livestock water development, cross fencing, nutrient management, and other land resource concerns. The District’s website (<http://www.ncrcd.org/>) provides an overview of the programs and seminars offered, as well as information regarding the District’s governance and operations.

In May 2014, the District offered a wide range of educational and practical programs. The District evaluates these programs on an annual basis, adding new sessions as appropriate. The 2014 sessions included:

- Advisory Visit Program (AVP) – Provides contact with landowners who are interested in natural resources management on their property. This program provides general guidance and information, in addition to facilitating referrals to other public and private resource professionals, at no cost the landowner. The range of topics include soils information, erosion control, drainage issues, rural road maintenance, pond management, pasture management, forest health management, livestock water development, cross fencing, wildlife habitat improvement, pest management, and watershed issues.
- Annual Native Plant and Seedling Give-Away – Offered in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Sierra Pacific Industries, and Pacific Gas & Electric, the District sponsors an annual Plant and Seedling Give-Away each spring. The native plants and trees that are distributed at this event are generally drought-tolerant and good attractors for pollinators.

- Invasive Species Program – RCD has collaborated with the Nevada County Agricultural Commissioner and the Tahoe Resource Conservation District on a multi-phase outreach program to educate and alert Nevada County residents about the dangers of quagga and zebra mussel infestations of lakes and other water bodies in Nevada County.
- Vegetation Management & Forest Health Project – The NCRCDD funded this project in Condon Park in Grass Valley in partnership with the the City of Grass Valley, the Natural Resources Conservations Service and Sierra Pacific Industries. This project consisted of identification and removal of invasive species, vegetation and erosion control, and installation of fencing. Previous similar projects undertaken by the RCD have included providing assistance and funding to the Alta Sierra Elementary School to control an erosion problem by constructing a retaining wall and improve drainage.
- Tools – RCD has a few tools to loan to landowners who are trying to keep their property fire safe and free of invasive species. These include a weed wrench, soil sampler, pond rake, seed spreader and no-till drill.
- Seminars and Events – Each year, the RCD sponsors a series of workshops and seminars on rural property management issues. In 2013-2014, topics included *Effective Rodent Control, Raising City Chickens, Drought, Attracting Wild Birds, Forest Raptors, Horse Workshop, Northern California Bats*. The district also participates annually at the Nevada County Fair, hosting free seminars on forestry, pasture and pond management, organic gardening and farming. New topics are added each year, and are listed on the District’s website [www.ncrcdd.org](http://www.ncrcdd.org).
- Audubon Partnership – the RCD formed a partnership with the Sierra Foothills Audubon Society regarding housing their collection of education specimen birds. Permits with Fish & Wildlife will be held by the RCD for this joint educational project.
- Local Schools Programs – the RCD sponsors local high school students for their Annual Speak-Off Contest and Range Camp each year. Students have the opportunity to compete for prize monies as well as attend extensive training sessions for agriculture and natural resources topics.
- Handbooks, Literature, Publications – the RCD offers a wide range of literature from one-page handouts to detailed hand-books for a variety of natural resource issues.

The District’s 2014 Annual Work Program is included herein as **Appendix D**; the District’s 2013 Report is also included as **Appendix E**.

The District shares office space and collaborates extensively with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, an agency of the United, States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

▪ **Governance**

The District is governed by a five-member board of directors, appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. Long-term governance options for the District are described in Chapter 5 of the 2006 Resource Conservation District MSR.

▪ **Annexation Plan**

The District has no annexation plans. LAFCo has adopted a coterminous sphere—i.e., the district’s sphere includes only territory within its boundaries.



<b>Nevada County Resource Conservation District Summary</b>				
<b><i>District Contact Information</i></b>				
<b>Contact:</b>	Jan Blake, District Administrator; Sabrina Nicholson, Administrative Assistant			
<b>Address:</b>	113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley, California			
<b>Telephone:</b>	(530)272-3417			
<b>Email/website:</b>	<a href="http://www.ncrcd.org/">www.ncrcd.org/</a>			
<b><i>Board of Directors</i></b>				
<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Expiration</b>	<b>Manner of Selection</b>	<b>Length of Term</b>
Lynn Lorensen	President		Appointed	4 years
Janey Powers	Vice-President		Appointed	4 years
David Gallino	Secretary/Treasurer		Appointed	4 years
Robert Ingram	Director		Appointed	4 years
Susan Hoek	Director		Appointed	4 years
<b><i>Meetings</i></b>				
<b>Date:</b>	Second Tuesday of each month (excluding August & December) at 6 p.m.			
<b>Location:</b>	Meetings are held at the District's offices at 113 Presley Way in Grass Valley.			
<b>Agenda Distribution:</b>	Posted on the website, at the District's Office, and by request.			
<b>Minutes Distribution:</b>	Available on request.			

**Table 1 – Current Resources**

<b><i>Office</i></b>	<b><i>Condition</i></b>	<b><i>Staffing</i></b>	
113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley	Good	Office is open from 9am to 5pm, Monday - Friday	
<b><i>Vehicles and Equipment</i></b>		<b><i>Personnel</i></b>	
No-Till Drill	1	Staff	2
Vehicles	0	Volunteers	Many

**Table 2 – Planned Improvements**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Included in Capital Improvement Plan, Replacement Schedule or other planning study</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Finish</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Funded by</b>
No plans for expansion of facilities.					

**Table 3 – Service Information**

	Type	Number	Average Attendance	Expansion Plans
Annual Events (2014)	Workshops	20	25 (range of 20-60)	Number of workshops and the content of the sessions is evaluated annually.
	Workshops in partnership with other groups	20	25 (range of 20-60)	

**Table 4 – Nevada County Resource Conservation District Financial Status**

The District is funded by property tax (from the lands within Nevada County), fees for service, grants, and contributions. Although the District includes lands in Sierra County, no property tax funds are received from those lands. The District controls costs by sharing office space with the National Resource Conservation Service, a division of the United States Department of Agriculture.

**Resource Conservation District Revenue and Expenditure Summary:**

Nevada County Resource Conservation District	2008-2009		2009-2010		2010-2011		2011-2012		2012-2013	
	Audited Actual		Audited Actual		Audited Actual		Audited Actual		Audited Actual	
	Rev	Exp	Rev	Exp	Rev	Exp	Rev	Exp	Rev	Exp
Property Tax	217,147		199,489		200,948		192,378		211,849	
Operating Grants	126,267		241,357		131,419		112,056		20,458	
Charges	7,912		1,120		1,051		2,259		836	
Contributions	805		1,395		1,655		1,805		1,925	
Interest	9,185		2,347		1,895		1,848		3,523	
Conservation Services		244,859		332,927		306,158		203,582		188,253
Administrative		9,331		7,163		7,393		8,107		7,046
Capital Outlay				-		-		-		-
Depreciation		4,244		4,244		9,578		14,912		11,492
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>361,316</b>	<b>258,434</b>	<b>445,708</b>	<b>344,334</b>	<b>336,968</b>	<b>323,129</b>	<b>310,346</b>	<b>226,601</b>	<b>238,591</b>	<b>206,791</b>
<b>EOY Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 639,051</b>		<b>\$ 740,425</b>		<b>\$ 754,264</b>		<b>\$ 838,009</b>		<b>\$ 869,809</b>	
Population (Nev Co):	98,292	<i>Per Capita Statistics:</i>	Revenues		\$17.22		Revenue Source Percentages:	Property Tax	60%	
Square Miles (total):	11,281		Expenditures		\$13.83			Grants	37%	

## **Municipal Service Review Determinations – Updated 2014 Nevada County Resource Conservation District**

*The Nevada LAFCo Municipal Service Review of Resource Conservation Services, completed May 2006 (Appendix B), is by this reference incorporated into this Sphere of Influence report. Determinations, including updates (in italic) are listed below. Note that the updated determinations have been reformatted to reflect statutory changes in the determination categories. In addition, new required determinations relative to Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities have been included.*

### **1. Growth and population projections for the affected area**

The Nevada County portion of Nevada County Resource Conservation District—which includes approximately 98% of the service population—will experience substantial population growth (at a maximum average annual rate of 2%) over the next 25 years. This, together with increasing development of land in the District, will generate increasing demand for conservation services.

### **2. Location of any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities**

*The Resource Conservation District does not provide any of the three services (water, wastewater and fire protection) that require analysis of the service needs relative to Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities. Nevertheless, the Resource Conservation District boundaries include five areas identified by the California Department of Water Resources as Disadvantaged Communities, which have also been identified by the County of Nevada as Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities. These areas are: North San Juan, Penn Valley, Rough & Ready, Washington, and Soda Springs.*

### **3. Present and planned capacity of facilities, including needs and deficiencies of water, sewer and fire services for Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities (formerly, this category was titled “Infrastructure needs or deficiencies”)**

The Nevada County Resource Conservation District does not own or maintain any infrastructure and has no identifiable infrastructure needs or deficiencies at present.

### **4. Financial ability to provide services (this category groups the previous categories of “Financing constraints and opportunities,” “Cost avoidance opportunities” and “Rate restructuring opportunities”)**

4.1. The Nevada County Resource Conservation District has successfully pursued grant funding to expand its programs and projects; it also employs effective budgeting and fiscal management practices to ensure continuity of service and address any timing differences between grant program expenditures and receipt of funding. The District’s financial resources have been adequate to meet the operational and capital needs of the District; however, increased service demands due to growth in population and increased awareness of the District’s educational programs are reaching the limit of available resources. ~~Grant funding resources have declined, which may result in the loss of one staff position. Because of these trends, the District does not believe that current funding levels will be adequate in the future to meet increasing demands. Options for obtaining compensation for services provided to Sierra County residents, whether through imposition of fees for programs and materials or efforts to secure a share of property tax revenue, should be explored.~~

*As of 2014, the District's financial situation has stabilized and the District has accumulated a considerable reserve. The District has successfully wrapped up implementation of several grants, and for the immediate future, the District's Board has determined to utilize its reserves to augment its revenue budget in order to finance its annual work program..*

*With respect to the options for financing services to the Sierra County portion of the District, the District has concluded that the cost of providing its services to Sierra County residents is not significant enough to merit efforts to impose a differential fee schedule; there are no plans to request property tax funds from the County of Sierra.*

- 4.2. Sharing of facilities and vehicles with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, along with limitation of staff size and utilization of volunteers and NRCS Conservationists, enables the District to control its costs to a large degree.
- 4.3. The NCRCD has avoided election costs by having the County Board of Supervisors appoint District Directors through a public process when elections are uncontested. The District ~~should consider requesting~~ *by has made the appointment process formal by adoption of a resolution (RCD 96-01) requesting that the Nevada County Board of Supervisors appoint its directors regularly, thus eliminating the risk of incurring substantial financial burdens to conduct bi-county elections.*
- 4.4. The Nevada County Resource Conservation District does not charge fees for its services, other than nominal fees to cover the cost of the No-Till Drill rental, and \$5 donations for some seminars to cover costs. This is consistent with the practice of other RCDs; establishing new or different fees would appear unnecessary unless and until the present funding sources became insufficient to support the District's essential programs and activities. If consideration of new or increased fees became necessary, the possibility of counter-productive effect upon participation in the District's programs must also be carefully weighed.

**5. Status and opportunities for shared facilities (formerly, this category was titled "Opportunities for shared facilities")**

The Nevada County Resource Conservation District shares facilities with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in addition to collaborating with a number of agencies (including the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Nevada County Land Trust, and the University of California Cooperative Extension, among others) on regional programs. The District should explore opportunities to work with the Truckee Land Trust as well. Additional benefits to agencies and the public might be realized through bringing the County Agricultural Commissioner and UC Cooperative Extension into the same facility as NCRCD and NRCS. This possibility should be explored if opportunity offers.

*In 2011, the District purchased office space with the intention of establishing a community agricultural resource center that would house the District's offices, as well as those of the NCRS, the University of California Cooperative Extension, the County Agricultural Commissioner and the Nevada County Farm Bureau. However, the co-location project was ultimately abandoned because none of the partners were able to relocate to the new office space due to funding issues. As of 2014, the property has been sold, and the District continues to occupy office space at 113 Presley Way in Grass Valley, which is provided by the NCRS. The District understands that an Agricultural Resource Center would represent a great benefit to the community, however, it also recognizes that assembling a partnership*

*consisting of local, state and federal agencies, in addition to a non-profit agency, presents a number of challenges that will require careful planning and cooperation.*

**6. Accountability, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies (this category groups the previous categories of “Government structure options,” “Evaluation of Management Efficiencies” and “Local Accountability and Governance”)**

6.1. The Nevada County Resource Conservation District achieves efficient management through consistent attention to its goals, objectives and action items as set forth in its Long-Range Plan. The Annual Report also enables the Board of Directors and the public to monitor progress on goals and objectives.

6.2. The Nevada County Resource Conservation District provides programs and services for the benefit of Nevada County, western Sierra County, and the three regional watersheds within its territory. It is not clear that any change in the present structure of the District involving detachment of Sierra County would yield benefits outweighing disadvantages. And it is apparent that inclusion of the Sierra County territory now encompassed by the District has benefits to Nevada County as well. Maintenance of the status quo seems, currently at least, to be the best course.

6.3. Appointment of Nevada County Resource Conservation District Directors occurs through a public process, as would election should directorships become competitive. District meetings are open and accessible to the public, and public notices are provided by several means, including posting, direct mail, and media.



## **APPENDICES**

Appendix A: Nevada LAFCo Sphere Policies

Appendix B: Municipal Service Review - Resource Conservation District Services  
(2006)

Appendix C: History of the Nevada County Resource Conservation District

Appendix D: 2014 NCRCD Annual Work Plan

Appendix E: 2013 Annual RCD Report

Appendix F: LAFCo Resolution





## Appendix A: Nevada LAFCo Sphere Policies

Nevada LAFCo's Sphere Policies (Chapter III) establish specific standards for the Sphere of Influence Plan:

### Contents of the Sphere of Influence Plan

1. General Requirements. The Sphere of Influence Plan for each governmental agency within LAFCo jurisdiction shall contain:
  - a) A sphere map and phased plan for annexation of the depicted territory defining the probable boundary of the agency's service area 20 years hence (the long-term horizon) and identifying a near-term development horizon defining the agency's logical boundary for lands likely to be annexed prior to the next sphere review or update (typically within five years). The phased annexation plan may include specific conditions for particular areas that must be satisfied before annexations may occur.
  - b) Documentation to support the Commission's determinations regarding the factors stated in §56425(e). Generally this information will be provided in the applicable Municipal Service Review(s), supplemented and updated as necessary to assure the information and analysis satisfy LAFCo policy requirements and are complete, current, and accurate.
2. Specific Requirements for City Sphere Plans.
  - a) City/County Agreement. When required by G. C. §56425(b), a city and the county shall meet and confer regarding the boundaries of the city's sphere prior to the Commission's final determination. If a city and the county have reached agreement regarding the boundaries, development standards, and zoning requirements within a proposed city sphere, the Commission shall give great weight to the agreement in the Commission's final determination of the city's sphere.
  - b) Parcel Inventory and Absorption Study. The Commission must be able to make a positive determination that the city's sphere is consistent with its historical and expected growth rates, and that the territory within the sphere is likely to be annexed within the 20-year timeframe. The Commission's determination will be based on information provided by the city, including 1) a vacant land inventory, 2) an analysis of the vacant lands to determine their suitability for development, and 3) a market study to determine the absorption rate of the usable vacant lands. If the city is unable to supply such information, LAFCo will make a sphere determination after considering the city's historical growth rates for each land use designation, pertinent city land use and zoning regulations, and the physical characteristics of the property intended to be included in the sphere.
  - c) Spheres for New Cities. The Commission will adopt a Sphere of Influence Plan for a newly incorporated city within a year of the date of incorporation.
3. Specific Requirements for District Sphere Plans. A district's sphere plan must document that the territory within the district's sphere is likely to require the district's services and that the district has or will have the capacity to serve the area at the appropriate level.
  - a) Multi-service Districts. LAFCo shall adopt a sphere of influence plan for each distinct function or class of service provided by a district. These sphere plans may or may not be coterminous. Each sphere shall establish the nature, location, and extent of the functions or classes of services provided by the district.
  - b) Spheres for New Districts. LAFCo will adopt a Sphere of Influence Plan for a newly formed district within two years of the completion of formation proceedings.

## Municipal Service Reviews

In order to establish an appropriate sphere for an agency, LAFCo must have adequate information on present and future service needs in the area and the capabilities of the agency to meet those needs. To this purpose, the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act requires LAFCo to conduct service reviews prior to establishing or updating spheres of influence. A service review is a comprehensive review of provision of specified services within a designated geographic area. Its purpose is to evaluate the provision of services on a regional basis and to recommend actions, when necessary, to promote the efficient provision of those services. The service reviews are intended to help LAFCo, the public and other agencies better understand the public service structure and evaluate options for the provision of efficient and effective public services. LAFCo uses the information and analysis provided by the Municipal Service Review (MSR) to ascertain whether an agency can provide adequate and efficient services to the areas in the agency's sphere within the applicable time frame.

LAFCo will prepare or update the appropriate Municipal Service Reviews prior to or in conjunction with the adoption or update of an agency's sphere of influence plan. In general, LAFCo will conduct such reviews on a service-by-service basis for designated geographic areas. The Commission will periodically develop and implement a multi-year coordinated schedule for preparing MSRs and updating spheres of influence, in accordance with the legislature's direction to review each agency's sphere of influence every five years and update as necessary.

1. General Standards. LAFCo shall prepare Municipal Service Reviews in conformance with the provisions of Government Code §56430. A Municipal Service Review must provide information specific to each agency to support the Commission's written determinations with respect to the following:
  - a) Growth and population projections for the affected area.
  - b) Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies.
  - c) Financial ability of agencies to provide service.
  - d) Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities.
  - e) Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies.
  - f) Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery.
2. Municipal Service Reviews Must Support Spheres of Influence. In addition to the requirements discussed above, Municipal Service Reviews shall contain information on which the Commission can base its determination of the appropriate sphere of influence for an agency, including:
  - a) Identification of existing land uses and a reasonable projection of land uses which would occur if services were provided consistent with each agency's sphere of influence plan. This analysis should include maps and explanatory text detailing the following:
    - i) Present designated and actual land uses in the area, improved and unimproved properties, and agricultural and open space lands, as defined by G.C. Sections 56064 and 56059.
    - ii) Proposed future land uses in the area.

- b) Discussion of present and probable future needs for public facilities and services in the sphere area. The discussion should include consideration of the need for all types of major facilities, not just those provided by the agency.
  - c) A determination of the present and future capacity of facilities and adequacy of services the agency provides or has plans to provide. The review must include specific information and analysis of how the agency will meet anticipated growth in demand within its current boundaries and within the area included in its sphere. This information will guide the Commission's designation of appropriate sphere horizons in the Sphere of Influence Plan. The required information should include the following:
    - i) Maps and explanatory text that indicate the location and capacity of existing and proposed facilities, including a plan for timing and location of new or expanded facilities.
    - ii) An estimate of projected revenue and expense over the sphere horizons, specifically identifying the cost of planned new facilities or services and projected source(s) of revenue to fund those new facilities or services.
    - iii) Actual and projected costs of services to consumers in current dollars. A statement of actual and projected allocations of the cost of services between existing and new residents shall be included.
  - d) Identification of any relevant social or economic communities of interest in the area. For example, an area which is completely within one subdivision governed by a single homeowner's association should be noted, in order to avoid unnecessary division of the territory between service agencies.
3. Uses of the Municipal Service Review. Upon approval of the Municipal Service Review, it will be utilized by LAFCo both in establishing the agency's sphere of influence and in the consideration of all proposals affecting that agency.



**Appendix B: *Municipal Service Review – Resource Conservation District Services (2006)***

Click on title above to see the report constituting Appendix B to this Sphere Plan.



## APPENDIX C

### History of Nevada County Resource Conservation District (Originally Nevada County Soil Conservation District)

- Petition for Organization of Nevada County Soil Conservation District (District) submitted to the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Nevada County, CA; filed on July 8, 1943 with County Clerk (R.N. McCormack), ex-officio Clerk of the Superior Court for County of Nevada, State of California. Originally for 54,600 acres, signed by over 140 individual land owners primarily in Chicago Park and Wolf Creek areas.

[See Appendix I](#)

- Notice of Hearing upon Organization of Proposed District for November 3, 1943 at the Board of Supervisors, Nevada County.

[See Appendix II](#)

Notice of Election of District Board of Directors November 5, 1943.

[See Appendix III](#)

- Organization Approved on November 30, 1943 by Board of Supervisors, Nevada County and filed with the office of the Secretary of State of the State of California December 17, 1943 (Frank M. Jordan).

[See Appendix IV](#)

- Letter from Secretary of State acknowledging filing of District organization December 28, 1943.

[See Appendix V](#)

- Nevada County Soil Conservation District name change to Nevada County Resource Conservation District August 1971.

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- 
- District Work Plan July 1944.

[District Addition #1](#)

- Petitions for Inclusion of Additional Land to the District which added 13,120 acres referred to as 'North San Juan' addition.
- Resolution to include 13,120 acres signed July 23, 1946 by District Board of Directors (BOD).

#### District Addition #2

- Petitions for Inclusion of Additional Land to the District which added 82,804.48 acres referred to as 'West Side' addition.

Resolution to include 82,804.48 acres signed May 7, 1947 by District BOD. Filed with the Secretary of State June 27, 1947.

#### District Addition #3

- Petitions for Inclusion of Additional Land to the District which added 47,237.46 acres referred to as 'Loney' addition.
- Resolution to include 47,237.46 acres signed August 2, 1954 by District BOD. Acknowledged by Department of Natural Resources State Soil Conservation Commission October 27, 1954.

#### District Addition #4

- Petitions for Inclusion of Additional Land to the District which added 9,715 acres referred to as 'Wolf' addition.
- Resolution to include 9,718.15 acres signed October 4, 1955 by District BOD.

#### District Addition #5

- Petition for Inclusion of Additional Land to the District February 1, 1957 which added 410,000 acres and now includes all of Nevada County and a portion of **Placer County** referred to as 'Sierra' addition (not to be confused with Sierra County).
- Resolution to include 395,000 acres signed July 1, 1957 by District BOD.

#### District Addition #6



- Petition for Inclusion of Additional Land to the District April 25, 1957 which added 480 acres in **Yuba County** referred to as 'Luglan' addition.
- Resolution to include 458 acres signed April 11, 1960 by District BOD.

#### District Addition #7

- Petitions for Inclusion of Additional Land to the District 1960-1961 which added 258,420 acres in **Sierra and Yuba Counties** referred to as 'Sierra-Yuba' addition.
- Resolution to include 258,419.92 acres signed May 8, 1961 by District BOD.

#### District Addition #8

- Petition for Inclusion of Additional Land to the District December 14, 1960 which added 160 acres in **Yuba County** referred to as 'Gibbons' addition.
- Resolution to include 160 acres signed April 9, 1962 by District BOD.

#### District Addition #9

- Petition for Inclusion of Additional Land to the District October 26, 1961 which added 480 acres in **Sierra County** referred to as 'Baldwin' addition.
- Resolution to include 480 acres signed December 10, 1962 by District BOD.

#### District Addition #10

- Petition for Inclusion of Additional Land to the District January 7, 1964 which added 325 acres referred to as 'Coenenberg' addition.
- Resolution to include 325 acres signed April 27, 1965 by District BOD.

**\*(Total acreage for District at this time 882,238 acres)**

(Finding multiple references to Addition #11 and #12, but no paperwork. #11 appeared to be denied after several years of research)

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- **Placer County** Resource Conservation District petition to LAFCo for annexation of all territory within Placer County boundaries passed and adopted June 13, 1972. This annexation by Placer County effectively modified Addition 5 to the District.
  
- Request to the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada to levy the assessment on the land exclusive of improvements and mineral rights within the County of Nevada by the Nevada County Resource Conservation District, December 19, 1973.
  
- **Yuba County** Resource Conservation District filed a Certificate of Completion with the Secretary of State, State of California, for the annexation of all lands within the boundaries of Yuba County not now included within the District, March 8, 1974.

# APPENDIX D

January 2014



## 2014 NCRCD ANNUAL WORK PLAN

The 2014 NCRCD Annual Work Plan outlines projected projects, events, and duties designated for completion by the Nevada County Resource Conservation District (NCRCD). This work plan was developed based on previous successes and continued discussions with the NCRCD Education Committee and the NCRCD Board of Directors. In addition, the 2011-2014 Strategic Plan for the NCRCD outlines many of the following points:

- 1) Continue and expand the educational workshops and seminars
- 2) Continue working with partner groups and agencies
- 3) Preserve and enhance our working relationship with, and reputation in, the community by promoting the NCRCD office as a place to come to for resource needs
- 4) Develop additional outreach programs and projects

## 2014 Projects, Events, and Meetings

**Annual Audit:** The Annual Audit is scheduled for August.

**Annual Report:** Staff will compile information regarding the previous year's accomplishments; format, print, and distribute the report to the Nevada County and Sierra County Board of Supervisors, CARCD, and local, regional agencies; put finished report on the NCRCD website and make available to private landowners and all other interested parties by the end of February.

**Annual Plant and Seedling Give-Away:** Staff to coordinate this event with partners Sierra Pacific Industries, PG&E, and other partner agencies. Select plant species to give away, purchase seedlings from designated nursery, develop flyer promoting event, email information to the NCRCD email list, and advertise in the local paper. In addition, prepare literature on plant species, NCRCD programs, and projects for inclusion at the event in April.

**Audubon Partnership:** In 2013 the NCRCD formed a partnership with the Sierra Foothills Audubon Society (SFAS) regarding housing their collection of education specimen birds. The Fish & Wildlife regulations regarding keeping such a collection had changed and SFAS needed a permanent location for the collection. In addition to a Memorandum of Understanding between NCRCD and SFAS, the NCRCD will be the permit agency with SFAS completing the paperwork, preparing display cases, and maintenance of the collection.

SFAS is working with Nevada Union shop teacher Art Anderson on the display cases for the collection.

SFAS completed the paperwork for both the US Department of Fish & Wildlife and the CA Department of Fish & Wildlife permit and we are waiting for final notification regarding the permit.

In addition, SFAS has a nesting bird/egg collection begun in 1906 that will become part of this project.

**Committee Meetings:** Board members to participate in committee meetings regarding issues of concern for the NCRCD.

**Community Forest Project:** This project has been on hold but has not been removed from the USFS plan. The US Forest Service has designated 200 acres of forest land off Highway 20 near California Conservation Camp. This project would create an educational 'community forest' with walking trails, interpretive signage, and historical information. Several organizations have expressed interest in participating in this project as well as the NCRCD. Our involvement would be to develop the interpretive signage with assistance from community groups. NCRCD Education Committee to review and make recommendation to board when/if this project proceeds.

**Condon Park Project:** This project addressed the removal of invasive black berry, vinca major, ivy, locust trees, and any other non-native vegetation several feet back from the severely eroded creek bank. Initially the plan was to remove all invasives and replant with native vegetation; however, the erosion issue was too severe and natives would be too slow to establish to prevent continued erosion issues with the creek. Vegetation was left on the bank for stabilization and will be controlled with pruning, spraying, cutting, etc. Existing trees were limbed up and thinned as necessary. To allow the public to view the creek, the plan includes installation of a low fence several feet from the edge of the creek bed where the erosion is most severe, tapering away downstream as the creek bed becomes less eroded.

The City of Grass Valley coordinated the permitting portion of this project. They worked closely with the NCRCD and contractors to ensure the project was in keeping with City rules and regulations as well as working toward the common goals for public access, education regarding erosion, wildlife habitat, invasive species, etc., and resource conservation and management. This project included a detailed program for maintenance of the project upon completion. Phase one of the project included a meeting with the City to mark boundaries of the project area and to conduct a plant inventory and a wildlife inventory of the area. A Solicitation Offer Award was developed and made available for contractors to bid for the project.

Phase two of the project included removal of invasive species with the use of a small masticator and some hand removal. In the spring of 2014 we will continue the project with contouring of the area, delineation of proposed pathways and installation of same, installation of a split-rail fence along the creek, and educational signage at various sites within the project area.

Phase three will be possible replanting of the area after a sufficient amount of time has passed (12 months) to determine the regeneration of native and non-native species. Pesticide application will be used during this time to control the non-native regeneration.

**Conservationist Dinner:** The 2014 dinner will recognize Darlene Moberg from the Nevada County Farm Bureau and Carol Hollingsworth with guest speaker Paul Glowaski from Dinner Bell Farm. Staff will create and print the invitations and program, develop the presentation, and arrange catering for the event. Staff will also communicate with the Board of Supervisors regarding any award recipient for wording on their plaque. This event is scheduled for February.

**Deer Whistle Program:** In our continued efforts to inform the public about the resources available through the NCRCD/NRCS, we will continue to offer free deer whistles to anyone who comes in to our office. Flyers and ads have been created and published. This will give us the opportunity to interact in person with the residents of Nevada County while informing them of the many services and assistance available to them. This will also address wildlife conservation.

**Equipment Loan Program:** The NCRCD has a pond rake, weed wrench, soil sampler, and seed spreader available to loan to customers for free. Staff maintains an equipment sign-out sheet and tracks availability for use.

**Fair Seminar Series:** Staff will plan our annual event at the Nevada County Fair “Ag-Sperience” area. With the assistance of the Education Committee and other board members, we will develop a program and host the 5-day event. Staff also assists many of our Nevada County partners by displaying literature pertinent to resource conservation on their behalf. The fair is in August.

In addition, NCRCD partners with the Fair to create the ‘Did You Know’ posters, which are posted around the fairgrounds.

**Farm Bureau:** Partner with the Nevada County Farm Bureau (FB) to continue their long tradition in Nevada County. Assistance with the FB website, scholarship program, agriculture farm tour, barbeque, annual dinner, board meetings, fair participation, etc. will be provided by the NCRCD.

This project will be evaluated at the January NCRCD Board Meeting. Specific details have not been reviewed and this project is pending.

**Healthy Forest Project:** This program will offer site visits to assess landowner’s property. Originally created to specifically address forest health, NCRCD will expand this program to include soils and erosion control, agricultural irrigation, ponds, grassland management, livestock watering, forest management and forest health, wildlife habitat and wildlife management, cropland management, organic farming, invasive plants and other resource concerns. NCRCD plans to contract with retired NRCS District Conservationist Jason Jackson for this service.

This project will be evaluated at the January NCRCD Board Meeting. Specific details have not been reviewed and this project is pending.

**Heritage Club:** This club was established by the California State Fair and the California Farm Bureau, to recognize farms, ranches, and agri-business enterprises that have maintained a financial responsibility in agriculture in California for at least a century. NCRCD encourages ranching and farming families to join and be recognized for their contribution to California and Nevada County agriculture. Applications are available in the NCRCD office.

**Invasive Species Project:** The NCRCD partnered with Agricultural Commissioner Jeff Pylman and the Tahoe Resource Conservation District to create a brochure and flyer to post around western Nevada County to alert residents of this potential hazardous infestation. Staff will continue to distribute this information and keep the public informed.

NCRCD will continue to pursue the possible publication of a Weed Booklet for Western Nevada County. Species to be included, costs of printing, etc. will be determined by the Education Committee and staff for proposal to the Board of Directors.

**KNCO Radio Ads:** We will continue with the radio ads for the NCRCD.

**Meetings:** In addition to coordinating and attending monthly NCRCD board meetings, staff and/or directors would attend Regional and State CARCD meetings as appropriate.

**No-till Drill:** Barhydt Enterprise will take over the maintenance, management, and rental of the drill. New customers will receive specific information regarding the operation and use of the drill to determine if their property is suitable for use.

**Pollinator Habitat Program:** NCRCD will continue to review a possible program similar to the Xerces Society's 'Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management' program. The Education Committee will review this project and report to the Board.

**Range Camp:** Letters will be mailed to Nevada County schools in February regarding 2014 Range Camp. Interested students will have until April 2014 to submit an application for review by the NCRCD Board of Directors.

**Seminar Series:** Staff will continue to work with the Education Committee in selecting topics and speakers for the seminars. Staff will contact and invite speakers, coordinate venues, prepare flyers and seminar materials and participate in each seminar. The series runs from March through May.

In addition we will offer a new series in 2014 for landowners: **Rural Property Planning and Management.** Using the Barhydt property on McCourtney Road, we will have Saturday seminars/workshops on land use for pasture, clearing and mastication, agricultural irrigation, etc. Qualified speakers will be invited to teach the workshops. We plan to have this series begin in March.

**Speak Off Contest:** This event is scheduled for the October NCRCD board meeting. Staff will send letters to teachers at local high schools notifying them of the event in May. This letter will include the speech topic for 2014 and registration forms for interested students. Staff and NRCS will coordinate a student information meeting to discuss the topic. At the October board meeting staff will coordinate the contest with board members as judges; create the certificates for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners, and prepare checks for the winners. Staff will then coordinate with the 1<sup>st</sup> place contest winner to attend the regional CARCD meeting and potentially the state competition.

**Union Newspaper Monthly Ads:** NCRCD will continue the ad promoting the NCRCD which runs on a monthly basis in the Union newspaper. In addition, we will submit other additional ads that will promote seminars, events, and pertinent information to inform residents of activities of the NCRCD.

**Website:** Our new website was completed in 2013, and we continue to update information, the NCRCD calendar, seminars and workshops, and the on-line registration to our events.



We have a 'QR Code' that allows for quick response to our website for those who have 'smart phones' via our website, flyers, handouts, etc.

**Wildlife Nesting Boxes:** Staff will continue to work with builders to supply the NCRCD with nesting boxes. Staff will track inventory and sale of these boxes as well as advertise the program at various times throughout the year.

### **On-going NCRCD Administration:**

- Coordinate Annual Audit; send report to State Controller's Office and Nevada County Auditor/Controller's Office.
- Prepare annual fiscal budget and annual work plan, and present to board of directors for approval.
- Prepare monthly board agenda, minutes, activity reports, financial reports and correspondence, send out packets, email agendas, and post pertinent information to the NCRCD website.
- Schedule and attend board committee meetings, prepare information, take minutes and provide report at next board of directors meeting.
- Review monthly financial reports and budget comparisons.
- Keep updated on the Brown Act, labor law updates and ethics training for board members. Keep NCRCD Personnel, Policy and Procedures Manual up-to-date.



- Schedule and coordinate all travel arrangements for staff and/or board members to attend meetings and conferences.
- Participate in continued public outreach including speaking to local organizations as requested.
- Provide information, assistance, and literature to landowners and customers.
- Review insurance policies.
- Obtain three bids on all purchases over \$500.
- Code all invoices and enter into the County's Citrix website for warrant requests.
- Prepare bi-weekly timesheets and invoices and coordinate with bookkeeper for processing of warrant requests.
- Coordinate employee performance evaluations and reviews through the Executive, Personnel, & Finance Committee.
- Review and compare employee benefit package annually and report to the Board.
- Review safety booklets to comply with Worker's Compensation regulations.
- Prepare flyers and ads for events and seminars.
- Coordinate office equipment repairs and maintenance (computers, copier, fax, etc.)



## APPENDIX E



# 2013 Annual Report



NEVADA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT & NATURAL RESOURCES  
CONSERVATION SERVICE

## 1944 TO 2014



*"Many of the fertile valleys were early settled upon and brought under cultivation, the raising of vegetables for the thousands of miners being a large and profitable business. The hardships and privations of a life in the mines were great, and many an unfortunate miner, discouraged by the want of success that crowned the efforts of hundreds around him, abandoned the pick and shovel for the spade and the plow, to win from the fertile earth the wealth the sterile sands denied him."* (Thompson and West history of Nevada County 1880).



The Soil Conservation Service was created in 1935 as a result of the Dust Bowl, (reorganizing under the Department of Agriculture in 1994 to become the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). In an effort to bring together local ranchers and farmers



within district boundaries, grass roots support for local conservation districts began in 1937. Nevada County Resource Conservation District (NCRCD) was formed in 1944 in partnership with the NRCS to develop and implement projects on public and private lands, and sponsor events for landowners and the public regarding resource conservation.



The NCRCD petitioned for organization to the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, beginning with 54,600 acres in the Chicago Park area. Additional acreage throughout Nevada County was added in 1946, 1947, 1954, 1955, 1957, 1960, 1961, and 1965 totaling over 882,238 acres within the District.



*"In 1892, 1,587 acres were under cultivation, producing 14,310 bushels of barley, 307 bushels of oats, 299 tons of potatoes and 50*

*tons of hay. The same year records 1,304 horses, 825 mules 7,814 cattle, 4,279 hogs, and poultry to the number of 2,678. By 1855, 3,200 fruit trees had been planted and by 1858, 271 ranches were under cultivation."* (Histories of Placer & Nevada Counties by W.B. Lardner & M.J. Brock).

Initially the NCRCD, in conjunction with the Soil Conservation Service, assisted *cooperators* who requested assistance by preparing *Conservation Plans* that applied practices such

as brush control, fish pond stocking, irrigated pipeline installation, range seeding, tree planting, and woodland weeding.

In 1996, NRCS created the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) that offered a cost-share solution to many of these goals.



The NCRCD continues to this day assisting landowners with information regarding erosion control, drainage issues, pasture and range management, forest health, road maintenance, livestock water development, cross fencing, nutrient management, and many other resource concerns.

In addition, the NCRCD offers year-round education & outreach events, partners with other agriculturally minded groups, funds projects for the community, sponsors a native plant giveaway, coordinates a wildlife habitat program, sponsors a local event for students to participate in speech contests and attend range conferences, and offers a no-cost *Advisory Visit Program* for anyone who requests personal assistance regarding resource conservation on their land.



## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT & FOREST HEALTH PROJECT



This project is a continuation of the Peabody Creek restoration project adjacent to Condon Park. The NCRCD began researching and planning this *Vegetation Management & Forest Health Project* in early 2012.



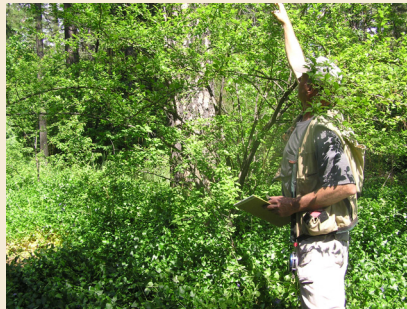
*Evan Smith and Jason Jackson with the Natural Resources Conservation Service*

In partnership with the City of Grass Valley, this project addresses the removal of invasive species, restoration of wildlife habitat, improvement of forest health, installation of



*Condon Park project—before*

interpretive signage, and access to the park through the installation of walking paths and fencing around the creek.



*Robert Ingram of Sierra Pacific Industries marks vegetation for removal*

The Condon Park Project fulfills the NCRCD's mission to promote responsible resource management within our jurisdiction through education, leadership, technical assistance, and project facilitation and our



*Doug Plumbly of Grass Valley Weed and Pest performs initial spraying of invasives*

vision to educate and assist landowners and land managers in establishing a balance between a high quality rural environment, a biologically diverse landscape, and a healthy economy for the community of resource



*Dead and diseased trees marked for removal*

conservation through education, recreational land restoration, soil and water management, urban resource conservation, wildlife habitat enhancement, and much more.



*Ponderosa Pine with Western Gall Rust damage*

The NCRCD works closely within our community to address all conservation issues and meet the educational needs of the residents of Nevada County.



# VEGETATION MANAGEMENT & FOREST HEALTH PROJECT

NCRCD worked with the City of Grass Valley, NRCS, Sierra Pacific Industries , and others.



*A member of Trees Unlimited's crew removing vegetation*

The project consisted of identifying invasive species and marking for removal; spraying the invasives; cutting down the dead and diseased trees; removing the vegetation; creating paths; controlling erosion; installing fencing; and creating interpretive signage.



*Grading & contouring*

The Condon Park project benefits the community of Nevada County. Due to the overgrowth of the invasive species in this portion of the park, the area was not accessible by the public.. To enable people to learn about native and non-native plants, wildlife habitat, erosion, and



*Erosion control and path construction*

other resource conservation issues, interpretative and educational signage will be installed.



*Kelly Weintraub, PRBO partner biologist with NRCS checks out fencing & erosion control measures*

Wildlife habitat will be a large component of the project with attention to retaining existing areas and creating new ones.

Long term goals are to increase botanical diversity of native plants by removing competitive invasives, to improve wildlife habitat, to improve the forest stand for fuel reduction and forest health, to help stabilize erosion of Peabody Creek, and to increase the recreational value of Condon Park.



*Erosion control and grading*



*Fence installation*



*Fencing & erosion control*



*Erosion control*



# 'CONSERVATION SIDE-SHOW' AT THE NEVADA COUNTY FAIR

The theme for the 2013 Nevada County Fair was 'Under the Big Top' and the NCRCD got into the spirit with their *Conservation Side Show*.



We showcased a variety of natural resource concerns on issues ranging from insect pests, non-native invasive plants, water conservation, pasture management, and forest health.

We had banners hanging from the front of our tent to entice fairgoers to come inside. Visitors were directed through the 'maze' where issues of concern were on display and literature was available for participants to take and learn more about resource conservation. NCRCD and NRCS staff were on hand to personally answer questions and to discuss any concerns people had regarding their property.

We addressed soil *Erosion* problems and issues regarding rural *Road Maintenance*. The NCRCD had a Road Maintenance Workshop this past year that included hands on experience with a variety of maintenance issues.



Forest health, wildfire, fuel loads, tree diseases, etc. are always a concern for Nevada County residents, especially in this current drought cycle. At the 'Conservation Side Show' we had examples of tree pests and diseases, and a variety of handouts that explained the causes and what a landowner could do to mitigate these problems. As the ever-present wildfire threat is a major concern for all Nevada County residents, the NCRCD encourages



everyone to clear their property of excess fuel loads and to limb-up and thin their trees. These practices could mean the difference between scorched land and a complete loss of your home in a wind-driven fire event.

The NCRCD, along with the Nevada County Agricultural Commissioner and the Tahoe Resource Conservation District, has been involved with educating Nevada County residents about the potential invasion of the Quagga & Zebra mussels in our lakes and waterways. To date, the invasive mussels have not been found in western Nevada County but in 2013 Tahoe RCD inspected over 4,200 boats and prevented 36 boats harboring the invasive mussels from entering Lake Tahoe.



Nevada County faces continued threat from other invasive species such as Scotch Broom and Star Thistle. At the fair, we offered information and solutions for residents in addressing these invasive pests.

The NCRCD offers assistance to any landowner regarding a variety of conservation issues and welcomes everyone to come into our office with their concerns. We also have a no-cost Advisory Visit Program that is available to all residents.



## CONSERVATION DINNER “THE HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE IN NEVADA COUNTY”

Continuing our theme from the 2012 Conservation Dinner, “*Historic Ranching and Farming Families*”, the NCRCD held their annual dinner to honor the rich and diverse history of agriculture of Nevada County. Since the 1850’s ranching and farming has thrived as families continue to supply fresh produce, beef, poultry, fruit,

etc. to people throughout California. These families continue the long tradition created by their ancestors. Nevada County continues to benefit from their efforts in keeping these traditions alive. We are honored to recognize these families and support agriculture in our county.



NEVADA COUNTY HISTORICAL RANCHES & RANCHING FAMILIES			
*****			
ALDERMAN	FOWLER	MCKITTRICH	ROBBINS
AMARAL	FRANK	MILHOUS	ROBINSON
ANDERSON	GALLINO	MILLER	ROLPH
AULT	GASSAWAY	MURPHY	RONDONI
BALDWIN	GATES	NEISEN	SANFORD
BERRYMAN	GLEASON	NICHOLS	SILVER
BIERWAGEN	HAGERTY	OAKLEY	SONTAG
BLACK	HAMMOND	O'DELL	STEGER
BROWN	HEAD	ORZALI	STOCKDALE
BROWNING	HILLIARD	PARDINI	STURGILL
BUCK	HILLTOP	PASCOE	SWEET
BUTLER	HUGHES	PENDOLA	TRAUNER
CASCI	KEYSTONE	PINGREE	TILL
CHURCH	KIRKHAM	PERSONENI	VEISSI
DANA	MAGONIGAL	QUINN	AND MORE...
FALLON	MALONEY	READER	



### CAL-PAC RANGE CAMP AND THE CONSERVATION EDUCATION SPEAK-OFF CONTEST



The NCRCD sponsored two local high school students to attend the *CAL-PAC Range Camp* (Brianna Cebollero and Heath Mullen, both from Nevada Union HS) and hosted the annual *Conservation Education Speak-Off Contest*. Ellen Van Noy took 1st Place and Maxie Holmberg-Douglas took 2nd Place (both from NU). Nevada Union High School students continue to win at the regional and state level.





We hosted our annual “*Plant and Seedling Give-Away*” in April and handed out many hundreds of seedlings including *Douglas Fir*, *Sugar Pine*, *Incense Cedar*, *Ponderosa Pine* and *California Buckeye*. This year was a bit different in that Deer Creek School brought first and second graders to the event for their annual Earth Day event. The kids were great and each received a Ponderosa Pine seedling along with instructions on the care of the tree. In return, each student from the two classes wrote us a letter and included a drawing thanking us for the trees. Many thanks to our partners Sierra Pacific Industries and Pacific, Gas & Electric for their continued support of this event.



As part of our outreach effort we continued to offer *Deer Whistles* to the community and hosted eight seminars as part of our *Fall 2012–Spring 2013 Seminar Series*. Topics included:



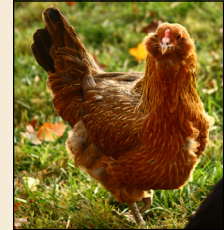
How to Test Your Soil



Where to Place Your Nesting Box



Tree Diseases and Forestry Health



Raising “City” Chickens



Forest Raptors of Nevada County



Northern California Bats



Using Native Grasses in the Meadow, Pasture, and Landscape



**NCRC Board of Directors**

Lynn Lorenson, President  
 Janey Powers, Vice-President  
 David Gallino, Secretary/Treasurer  
 Robert G. Ingram, Director  
 Susan Hoek, Director

**Associate Directors**

Carol Hollingsworth

**NCRC Staff**

Jan Blake, District Administrator  
 Sabrina Nicholson, Administrative Assistant

**NRCS Staff**

Jason Jackson, District Conservationist  
 Evan Smith, Forester  
 Bobette Parsons, Soil Conservationist  
 Kelly Weintraub, Partner Biologist

**NCRC / NRCS Office**

113 Presley Way, Suite 1  
 Grass Valley, CA 95945  
 Phone: (530) 272-3417  
 Fax: (530) 477-8055  
 NCRC website: [www.ncrcd.org](http://www.ncrcd.org)  
 NRCS website: [www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov)

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has been providing technical conservation assistance to private landowners since the 1930's. In addition to conservation technical assistance, the NRCS administers the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP). The services, technical assistance, and financial assistance programs provided in 2013 included the following practices:

- Pasture Management
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Brush Management
- Agricultural Water Conservation
- Water Quality Improvement
- Green Manures & Cover Crops
- Rangeland Improvement
- Integrated Pest Management
- Soil Erosion Reduction
- Wildlife Enhancement

The implementation of these best management, conservation practice projects significantly improved the health of forests, cropland, grasslands and watersheds.



***Environmental Quality Incentives Program***



NRCS Photo



**Appendix F: LAFCo Resolution (pending adoption)**