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CONSERVING NATURAL RESOURCES FOR OUR FUTURE

September 29, 2021

Dear Nevada Conservation Districts and Conservation Partners,

The Nevada Association of Conservation Districts (NvACD) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that works to provide advocacy and education to the 28 Conservation Districts (CDs) in Nevada.

NvACD has been working for the last year to complete our Strategic Plan which will focus our actions to benefit the 28 rural and urban CDs in Nevada.

Conservation Districts in Nevada have tremendous potential and capabilities because they provide local representation in each community through their volunteer supervisors. CDs are a division of State government, and thus can act as project managers to identify and address local resource concerns.

We are requesting your input on this Strategic Plan either in writing or via personal communication to the NvACD Executive Director, or other members of the NvACD Board. Comments should be received prior to our Business Meeting scheduled for November 16, 2021, in Fallon, Nevada. Contact information for NvACD Board members and staff can be found on our website: <https://www.nvacd.org/about-us-2>

NvACD is managed by volunteers and two part time paid positions of Treasurer and Executive Director. The board is:

President:	Gary McCuin (Eureka Conservation District)
President elect:	Doug Martin (NV-Tahoe CD)
2 nd Vice President:	Mark Damron (Southern Nevada CD)
NACD Representative and board member:	Jake Tibbitts (Eureka CD)

Non-board members include:

Executive Director:	Connie Lee
Treasurer:	Adriane Tibbitts
Past President:	Agee Smith
Past President:	Maggie Orr

Sincerely,



Gary McCuin
President NvACD

Attachment: Strategic Plan



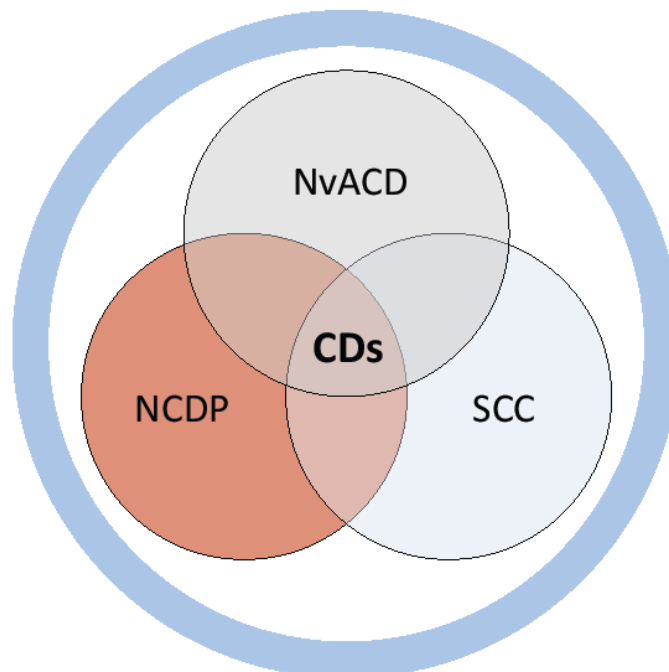
NVACD

Nevada Association of Conservation Districts

CONSERVING NATURAL RESOURCES FOR OUR FUTURE

Strategic Plan 2021-2025

Strategic Plan



1. Nevada Association of Conservation Districts
2. State Conservation Commission
3. Nevada Conservation Districts Program

Background on the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts' Strategic Plan

Purpose: The purpose of this Strategic Plan is to provide the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts (NvACD) a process to track actions identified as critical for success of NvACD the CD program. An important companion document is the Nevada State Conservation Commission Strategic Plan 2016-2020 (revised).

NvACD By-laws: The purpose of the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts is and shall be to promote the conservation and management of the renewable natural resources of Nevada through the Nevada Conservation Districts in accordance with Nevada Revised Statutes, Chapter 548 series.

The NvACD was formally established by the Articles of Incorporation on December 29, 1986, by the Office of the Secretary of the State of Nevada, and again formally re-established April 24, 2018. The purpose of NvACD as stated in Article Four reads:

1. To encourage and secure the active participation and cooperation of the cities, counties, state and federal agencies and other organizations in promoting soil and water conservation within the state.
2. To exchange information relating to the administration and operation of Conservation Districts and to effect cooperation between such Districts.
3. To promote the welfare of all existing Conservation Districts and to lend encouragement and assistance in the formation of additional Conservation Districts as a means of effectively advancing the program of soil and water conservation in the State.
4. To facilitate mutual loan of tools and equipment between the districts and making joint investigations and studies of value to such Districts.
5. Carrying out of such other projects as may be of joint interest and mutual welfare to the districts participating therein.
6. To provide information to member Districts on legislation needed to facilitate and support the work of Conservation Districts.

The NvACD By-Laws were amended November 8, 2017, and read:

INTRODUCTION

The Nevada Association of Conservation Districts, authorized, created, and (is) operating in accordance with NRS 548.0-series inclusive, shall be guided in its operations by the following by-laws. In the event any of these by-laws are or become in conflict with present or future Nevada law, such part of the by-laws shall be null and void, but all other parts shall remain in effect.

ARTICLE I: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts is and shall be to promote the conservation and management of the renewable natural resources of Nevada through the Nevada Conservation Districts in accordance with Nevada Revised Statutes, Chapter 548 series.

Full copies of these documents are available on the NvACD website <https://www.nvacd.org/>

The NvACD formal Strategic Planning process formally began in 2020, but the seeds for the effort began much earlier through annual meetings, planning efforts, personal interviews, personal meetings, and formal and informal brainstorming sessions.

NvACD volunteers developed what they called a Strategic Plan with objectives in 1999-2000, and many of those objectives remain relevant today.

NvACD hosted a facilitated workshop during an NvACD Annual Meeting in 2016 in Fallon, Nevada. This meeting was attended by numerous stakeholders, including government, non-government partners, individual Conservation District Supervisors, and members of the public. Notecards were utilized to elicit comments to two questions: 1. What are your top resource concerns, and 2. What can NvACD do for your Conservation District?

In November of 2018, NvACD and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Conservation District Program and the Nevada Natural Resources Conservation Service met in Elko to discuss program planning and collaboration efforts to improve Nevada's Conservation District effectiveness, and how NvACD can be a catalyst for success.

In 2020, during our pandemic year "virtual" annual meeting, we again requested input from stakeholders using the same two questions and incorporated this input into the Plan.

During the 2020-2021 NvACD meetings, we had a fluctuating flow of participants, including NRCS, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Conservation District Program staff, various CD participation, and the NvACD Board, past Presidents, and paid staff. NvACD participation included: Agee Smith, Gary McCuin, Jake Tibbitts, Maggie Orr, Doug Martin, Mark Damron, and Connie Lee.

This Plan is considered a working document that will be amended and adjusted; the intent of the document represents our long-term vision and working template for NvACD actions in the coming years. Our objective is to become a viable and dynamic source of inspiration, advocacy, support, and education for the 28 Conservation Districts in Nevada.

Outreach and Communication					
Goal: Increase familiarity and participation with Nevada CDs to escalate funding, leverage partnerships and expand participation.					
Objectives: Develop and deliver training modules that include CD communication objectives and reports to the community, local, State, Federal, city, county governments and NGO's, share success stories on website, social media, news outlets, sponsor tours for legislators and partners, and provide annual NvACD and CD Report on Accomplishments to partners. Consistently invite partners to participate in NvACD and CD meetings.					
Task	Steps	Who is responsible	Start date/Timeline	Review date	Results
1. Share success stories on NvACD website, consider additional social media, news outlets.	2.1 Request CD information on projects or use annual reports for website	NvACD	2021- ongoing		
	2.2 Consider Facebook, other social media	NvACD / CDs			
2.. Sponsor tours for legislators and partners	3.1 Identify CDs interested in hosting tour	NvACD w/ local CDs	2021-ongoing		
	3.2 Assist in identification of tour participants and coordination of event (combine w/ Legislative Natural Resources Committee)	NvACD/NCDP with local CDs			
3. Provide annual NvACD and CD accomplishments reports to partners and legislators/local governments.	4.1 Develop content, timeline, recipients for report (end of calendar year?)	NvACD	Note: NCDP will be developing annual reporting plans across all CDs to share, NvACD can utilize or develop separate		
	4.2 Send report				
4. Insure partners are invited to NvACD meetings.	5.1 Develop list of partners to invite	NvACD	Jun-21		
	5.2 Invite partners to meetings				

Funding / Advocacy					
Goal: Increase operating and project budgets for NvACD and CDs to increase effectiveness and capabilities.					
Objectives: Develop/adjust NvACD Strategic Plan objectives and deliverables to be eligible for grant requests. Generate ongoing list of potential grant funders and opportunities. Develop strategy to request increased state funding; explore parcel fee authority roll out, work with existing statewide initiatives such as NV Weed Management Assoc, NDEP, NDOW, BLM funding capabilities. Develop grant proposals for NvACD and provide assistance to CDs on grant writing efforts.					
Task	Steps	Who is responsible	Start date/ Timeline	Review date	Results
1. Maintain NvACD Strategic Plan deliverables to qualify for increased funding opportunities	1.1 Review Strategic Plan progress every year at annual meeting	NvACD	2021-yearly ongoing		
	2.1 Identify capacity funding for NvACD and CDs Note: Identify if additional staff specialists can be hired. Identify CDs interested in hiring and funding ops	NvACD - NCDP	2021-ongoing		
	2.2 Obtain funding/ grantor list from NVCCN	NvACD - NCDP			
2.3 Compile and maintain funding list for CDs	NvACD - NCDP				
3. Assist CDs with grant writing to hire CD manager and complete projects	3.1 Share grant info w/ CDs	CD Program and NvACD	2021- ongoing		
	3.2 NvACD Offer grant writing assistance to CDs with paid overhead	NvACD			
4. Develop increased funding strategies for CDs	4.1 Education and Outreach to county/ city and NGO's (Refer to Outreach/Communication)	NvACD /CD program	ongoing		
	4.2 Evaluate RNA needs and potential for funding connections	NvACD /CD program	ongoing		
	4.3 Identify common needs that CDs can address to benefit local economies (interface with NACO to address specific needs)	NvACD/ CD Program	ongoing		
5. Educate CD's about Parcel fee	5.1 Ask AG for template/training on how to implement	NvACD	2021		
	5.2 Identify what the parcel fee is, what the statute says, how it works, common issues/concerns/values		2021		
	5.3 Encourage communication about Parcel fees at Area Meetings	NvACD	2021		
6. Streamline funding advocacy with NVWMA for large project potential and funds sharing	6.1 Coordinate with NVWMA Schedule strategy meeting and objectives	NvACD	2021-ongoing		
	6.2 Attend board meetings, develop MOU or formalize strategy to communicate with State Legislature. Ascertain funding from FS / BLM and interaction with NDA and development of CWMA's, encourage CDs to prop up CWMA's				
7. Improve/increase Federal Land Management Agency funding	7.1 Work with NRCS/CD LWG to communicate with federal land management agencies/community representation to i.d. resource concerns. April and October for target dates. See NRCS Oregon mapping effort. Include training for natural resource info tied to NRCS standards.	NvACD / NCDP	ongoing		

Education

Goal: Increase training, templates, and educational opportunities to CDs applicable in their specific community. Focus NvACD efforts on projects with statewide and community specific applicability.

Objectives: Assist NCDP with development and distribution of CD Supervisor training program. Provide grant writing assistance/ training, Develop NvACD toolbox to house training materials. Support Nevada Range Camp through links on website and information distribution. Develop statewide and local contacts for 4-H and FFA, CABNR. Develop strategies for starting Nevada Envirothon, promoting soil health, pollinator and urban community, school, and farmers markets, farm to table and food desert initiatives and opportunities.

Task	Steps	Who is responsible	Start date	Review date	Results
1. Assist NCDP CD Program with CD/Supervisor Training Program modules (rural and urban) include: find/apply/monitor grants, communication with stakeholders, CD open house. Deliver info to CDs every 2 years. Develop CD "toolbox" for website	1.1 Use NACD checklist for template and guidance	NvACD/NCDP	2021		
	1.2 Utilize existing materials from NV and NACD				
	1.3 Content: Create training modules on Nevada Revised Statutes and Open Meeting Law, Natural resources training (speakers), use of match and in-kind, grant tracking etc				
	1.3 Communicate with stakeholders, host CD open house				
	1.4 Load material on website				
3. Support Nevada Range Camp	3.1 Promote sponsorships from CDs to sponsor kids within their CD district.	NvACD	ongoing		
	3.2 Advertise opportunity via listserv				
4. Promote collaboration through conservation districts with various groups; 4-H, FFA, CABNR, school Ag Teachers, Nevada AG Foundation, Nevada Farm Bureau, NDOW Outdoor Education Program	4.2 - Share basic messaging tools -what conservation districts do and why. Use scripts, or templates to help CD's share information. Host this information on our website. Use templates and ideas from NACD and other states.	NvACD	2021		
	4.3 Coordinate with state leadership of these entities on available opportunities; encourage CD's to interact with their local chapters with information and sponsorships				
	4.4 Develop list of contacts/ send to listserv, post on website.				
	4.5 Develop internship opportunities; support existing internship mechanisms and opportunities (ex. Ag Foundation, Eureka CD for mechanism)				
5. Share/Promote educational programs	5.1 Provide CD's with educational tools shared by NACD and others through listserv	NvACD	ongoing		
	5.2 Host these tools on NvACD website				
6. Soil Health Initiative	6.1 Continue developing educational soil health cadre; (similar to range management cadre Komar, McCuin)	NvACD	ongoing		
	6.2 Continue developing soil health and cover crop information that is pertinent locally- promote on website and other venues				
	6.3 Partner with and lean on NACD and NRCS for technical and financial assistance				
	6.4 Find ways to help foster local soil health knowledge amongst private landowners, legislature, federal and state partners. Utilize SCC to integrate message for Legislature.				
7. Pollinator Initiative	7.1 Partner with and lean on NACD and NRCS for technical and financial assistance	NvACD	2021		
	7.2 Continue developing pollinator information that is pertinent locally; i.e Northern Nevada Beekeepers Assoc. Xerces Society.				
	7.3 Help foster local pollinator knowledge amongst private landowners, legislature, federal and state partners. Post information on website.				
8. Urban/school/farmers markets, food desert initiatives.	8.1 Share and promote resources curated by NACD, NRCS, NDA, NV Grown, Cooperative Extension (particularly in Las Vegas and Reno) and others. Post CDSN community gardens link on website	NvACD	2022		
	8.2 Grow knowledge of these initiatives amongst NvACD - move forward as deemed appropriate				

Collaboration					
Goal: Increase collaborative opportunities and capacity of NvACD and CDs.					
Objectives: Communicate with CDs to continue RNA and Conservation Action Plans. Cultivate partnership with NV Weed Management Assoc. and NDOW Private Lands Programs, NRCS, USFWS - Partners Program, NVCCN, NDF- Forestry and Landscape Programs. Update Cooperating Agency Status of CDs with BLM. Continue support and participation with NACD yearly. Communicate with County Commissions to increase collaborative opportunities.					
Task	Steps	Who is responsible	Start date	Review date	Results
1. Implementation of RNA's and CAP's	1.1 Provide a template on how-to create a CAP	NvACD and CDs	2020		
	1.2 Continue pursuing RNA's for all CDs- Connect with NRCS to increase outcomes		2019- ongoing		
	1.3 Maintain RNA information on website				
	1.4 Complete CAP's in CD's that have completed an RNA				
2. Cultivate partnership with NGO's (i.e. TNC, IMWJV, Nevada Farm Bureau, NFWF, NVCCN), and Agencies - (i.e. NDOW, NRCS, NDEP, NDF, USFWS, BLM, USFS) - to improve habitat and rangeland conditions throughout our state	3.1 Maintain communications across multiple programs through meeting participation, email, collaboration	NvACD	2020		
	3.2 Track grant opportunities; Grants.gov	NvACD	2021		
	3.3 Share grant information/ leveraging volunteer/ funding info with CD's through listserv and website	NvACD /NCDP	ongoing		
3. Status Update: Partnership MOU (National Level) District level BLM offices collaborate with local entities.	4.1 Follow up with State Director to ascertain status	NvACD Board	2021		
4. Status Update: MOU with NDOW and other partners to bring resources	5.1 Originally w/ PCD, follow up w/ NCDP	NvACD Board	2021		
5. Support NACD yearly	5.1 Continue to pay dues on a yearly basis	NvACD	ongoing		
6. Communicate with Nevada Association of Counties (NACO)	6.1 NvACD and SCC develop and send yearly report in Fall	NvACD and SCC	2021		
	6.2 Incentivize and encourage CDs to report to County Commissioners and partners (share successes ex. Lincoln Co., Nevada-Tahoe)	NvACD	2021		
	6.3 Update legislative template for CDs that could be used for commissions and NACO conference	NvACD	2021-2022		
7. Participate in NRCS program delivery through STAC and NRCS Local Work Group(LWG) events. Use LWG's to include other non-NRCS processes, i.e. NDOW, FWS, BLM, Farm Bureau, and other funding and technical support capabilities.	7.1 Educate CDs on the importance of NRCS Local Work Group meetings	NvACD/NCDP	2022		
	7.2 Ensure NvACD President or other as assigned to provide representation on STAC	NvACD	2021		
	7.3 Influence state questions relevant to conservation districts' resource needs.	CD's/NvACD	2021		
	7.4 Assist NRCS with making sure the NvACD representative is current	NvACD	ongoing		
	7.5 Monitor NRCS/NvACD/NCDP MOA #N3220MOU0010493	NvACD	ongoing		
8. Assist Area Directors to ensure Area Meetings are being held.	8.1 Promote the importance and purpose of Area Meetings; provide info and training at NvACD annual events	NvACD	2021		
	8.2 Provide contact list of CD supervisors in CD areas				
	8.3 Offer Zoom account for regional meetings				

Acronym List	
AG	Attorneys General
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CABNR	College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources (UNR)
CAP	Conservation Action Plan
CD	Conservation District
CDSN	CD of Southern Nevada
DCNR	Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
FB	Farm Bureau
FFA	Future Farmers of America
FS	Forest Service (United States Department of Agriculture)
IWJV	Intermountain West Joint Venture
LAWG	Local Area Work Group
LWG	Local Work Group
NACD	National Association of Conservation Districts
NACO	National Association of Counties
NCDP	Nevada Conservation District Program
NDEP	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
NDA	Nevada Department of Agriculture
NDF	Nevada Department of Forestry
NDOW	Nevada Department of Wildlife
NFWF	National Fish and Wildlife Federation
NGO	non-governmental organization
NRS	Nevada Revised Statutes
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NvACD	Nevada Association of Conservation Districts
NVCCN	Nevada Collaborative Conservation Network
NVWMA	Nevada Weed Management Association
RNA	Resource Needs Assessment
SCC	State Conservation Commission
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service