



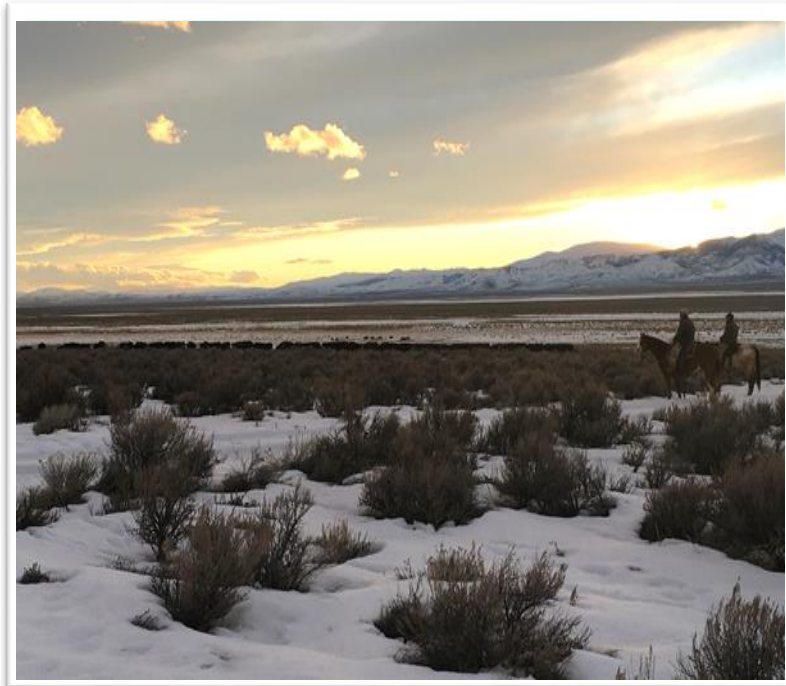
NEVADA CONSERVATION
DISTRICTS PROGRAM



Conservation Districts of Northwestern Nevada

Melany Aten

Conservation Staff Specialist II
Nevada Conservation Districts Program



Presentation to Washoe County Commission 09-24-2019



Bettina Scherer
Program
Manager

**Dominique
Etchegoyhen**
Deputy Director

Bradley Crowell
Director



History of Conservation Districts

- **Conservation Districts are a response to the Dust Bowl**
 - Concerns following the Dust Bowl (1930-1936) prompted legislation declaring soil and water conservation a national policy and priority.
 - Voluntary support from landowners was instrumental in the success of conservation work on private lands. Local leadership was needed to coordinate agency efforts connecting local conditions and priorities.
- **1937 Model Conservation District Law**
 - Provided enabling Legislation for states to adoptNevada adopted this model and established conservation districts throughout the state.
- **Adopted in Nevada in 1937**



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Statutory Authority

- **NRS 548.105 Declaration of Legislative Policy**
 - It is hereby declared, as a matter of legislative determination, that persons in local communities are best able to provide basic leadership and direction for the planning and accomplishment of the conservation and development of renewable natural resources through organization and operation of conservation districts.





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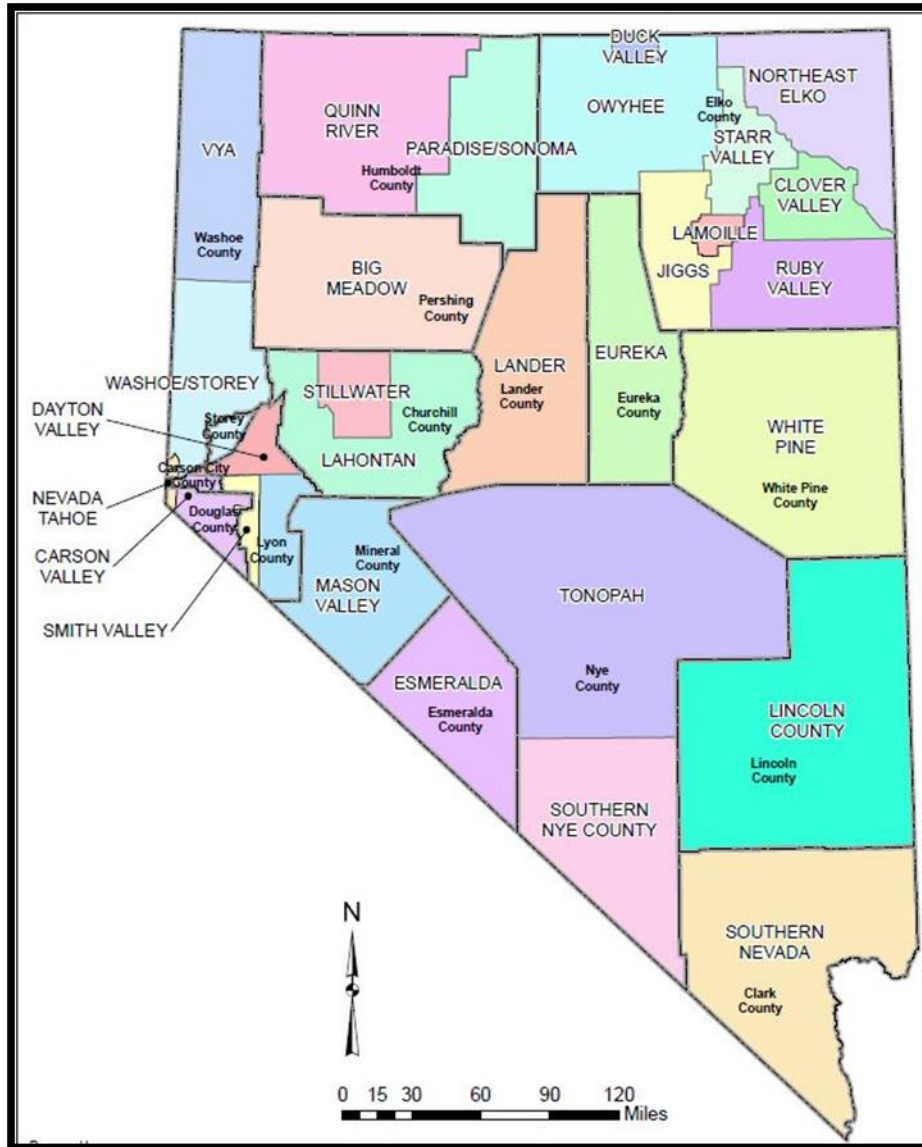
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State Of Nevada Conservation Districts

- Nevada has 28 Conservation Districts



Board Composition

- Conservation District Boards are comprised of 5 locally elected supervisors, serving 4-year terms
- Appointees from the Counties and municipalities Districts intersect serve 2-year terms and have all of the privileges of voting members



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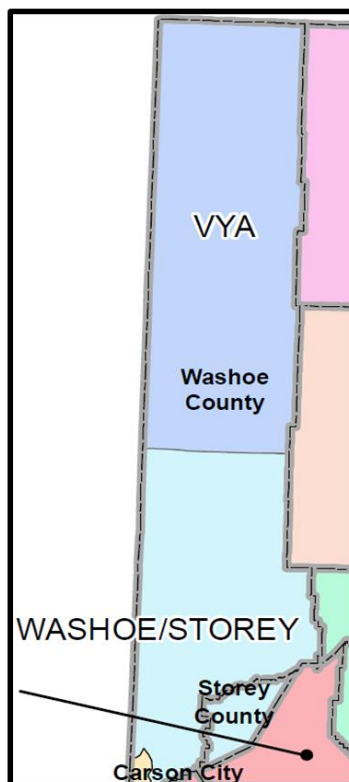
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Conservation Districts in Washoe County

Vya CD covers
2,464,068 ac or
3,850sq miles

Washoe Storey
CD covers
1,866,155ac or
2,915sq miles.



There are three Conservation Districts within Washoe County: Vya Conservation District, Washoe Storey, and Nevada Tahoe Conservation District.



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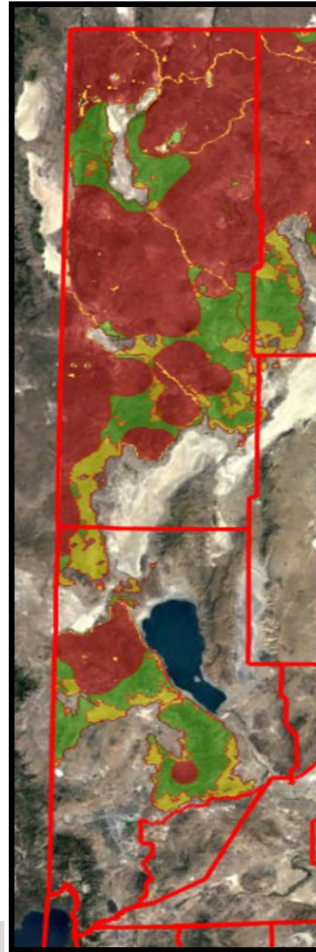


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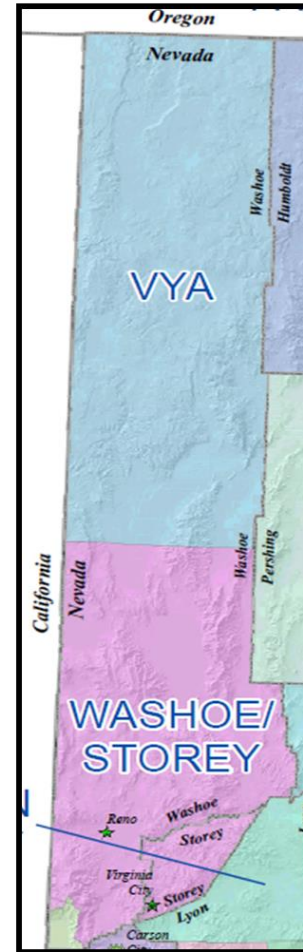
Washoe county is a diverse county with valuable habitat, open rangelands, unique desert systems, and many natural resources.

Habitat Color code
Red- Priority
Green- General
Yellow- Other

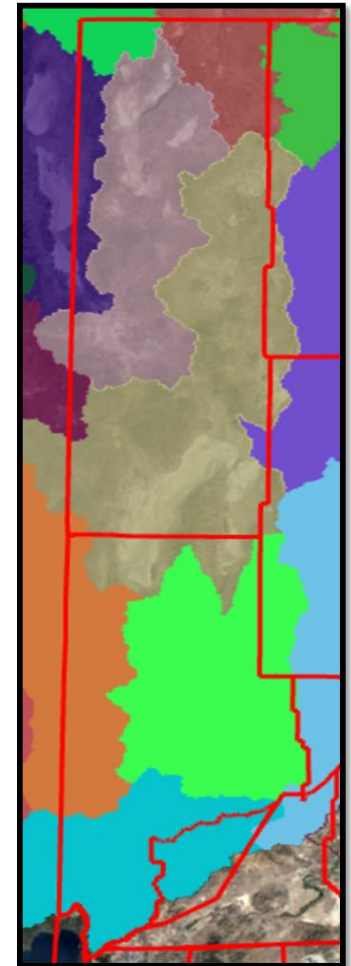
Sage Grouse Habitat



CD's



Critical Watersheds



8 Major watersheds



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Responsibility of a Conservation District

- **Nationally, conservation districts all operate under the following general policies:**
 - That conservation should be led by local citizens
 - Landowners have legitimate operating goals which are always considered
 - CD's are responsive to landowners, operators and the community as a whole
 - Local representation is achieved by the election of community members , who then serve as board supervisors
 - The best agricultural land should be maintained for agriculture
 - The final responsibility for conservation lies with the landowners



Mission of a Conservation District

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- To take available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water, habitat and all other natural resources.
- Most importantly, Conservation Districts are founded on the philosophy that conservation decisions should be made at the local level

Bradley Crowell
Director





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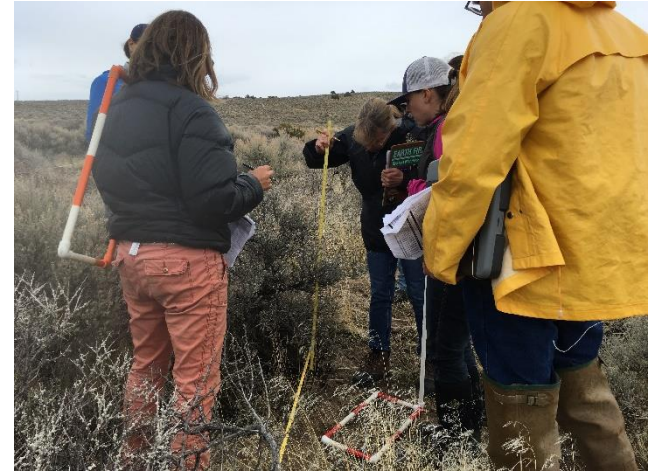
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Examples of Conservation District Work

- Develop conservation plans
- Receive and administer grants
- Coordinate and develop conservation projects: including creek restoration, wildlife habitat improvements, hedgerow and windrow plantings, growers' workshops, native planting projects, and weed treatment.
- Provide technical assistance, materials, and equipment rental for conservation work
- Sponsor youth projects, scholarship opportunities, and conservation programs
- Provide classroom visits, and facilitate field days for schools
- Work alongside other locally led district boards on conservation projects; such as weed districts, water districts and water authorities, county conservation boards, wildlife conservation boards and many others





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Conservation Updates

- **Vya Conservation District**
- Hosted Fall Invasive Weed and Pest Control Workshop with NDA.
- Technical partner on largescale PJ removal projects in upper watershed.
- Provides comprehensive cost share program with BLM to treat invasive weeds across all boundaries.
- Assist in the local AgExpo by providing speakers and information about cost share programs.
- Providing funding opportunities for Sage grouse habitat projects. Including State Conservation Credit projects.
- Sponsors students for Range camp and provides scholarships in natural resources and Ag.



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Conservation Updates

Washoe-Storey Conservation District

- Assisting the HOA's with flood water drainage solutions and habitat enhancements.
- Provide volunteers for restoration projects.
- Sponsor students for Range camp opportunities and scholarships.
- Provide cost-share assistance for reseeding in burned areas.
- Sponsor the development of the Washoe Storey Cooperative Weed Management Area.
- Developing interactive Sage-grouse display with educational materials.
- Assisting in the Little Washoe dam repair efforts through local and Federal partnerships



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In Summary

- Conservation Districts are locally led entities that work for the conservation and proper management of our state's natural resources.
- Conservation districts are able to pool technical, financial and educational resources and coordinate those resources to address the needs of landowners and land users under local leadership to get the job done!
- Bring us your ideas, input, and projects!

Bradley Crowell
Director





Learn More about Conservation Districts

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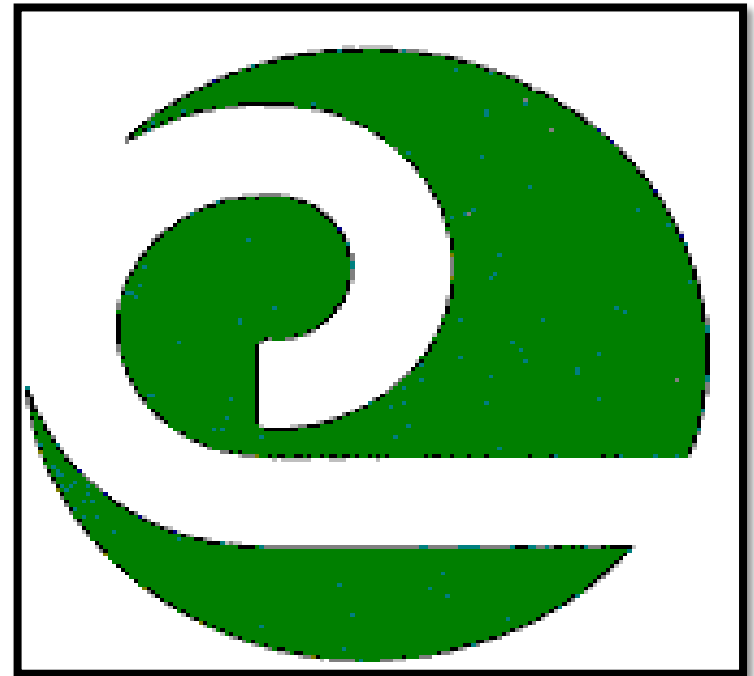
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and Vya CD at
www.vyacd.org

and WSCD at
www.nevadaconservation.com





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Questions?



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