



CONSERVING NATURAL RESOURCES FOR OUR FUTURE



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service



# Resource Needs Assessments





Who is doing all this great stuff and more?

# ***Nevada's Conservation Districts!***

## What is a Conservation District?

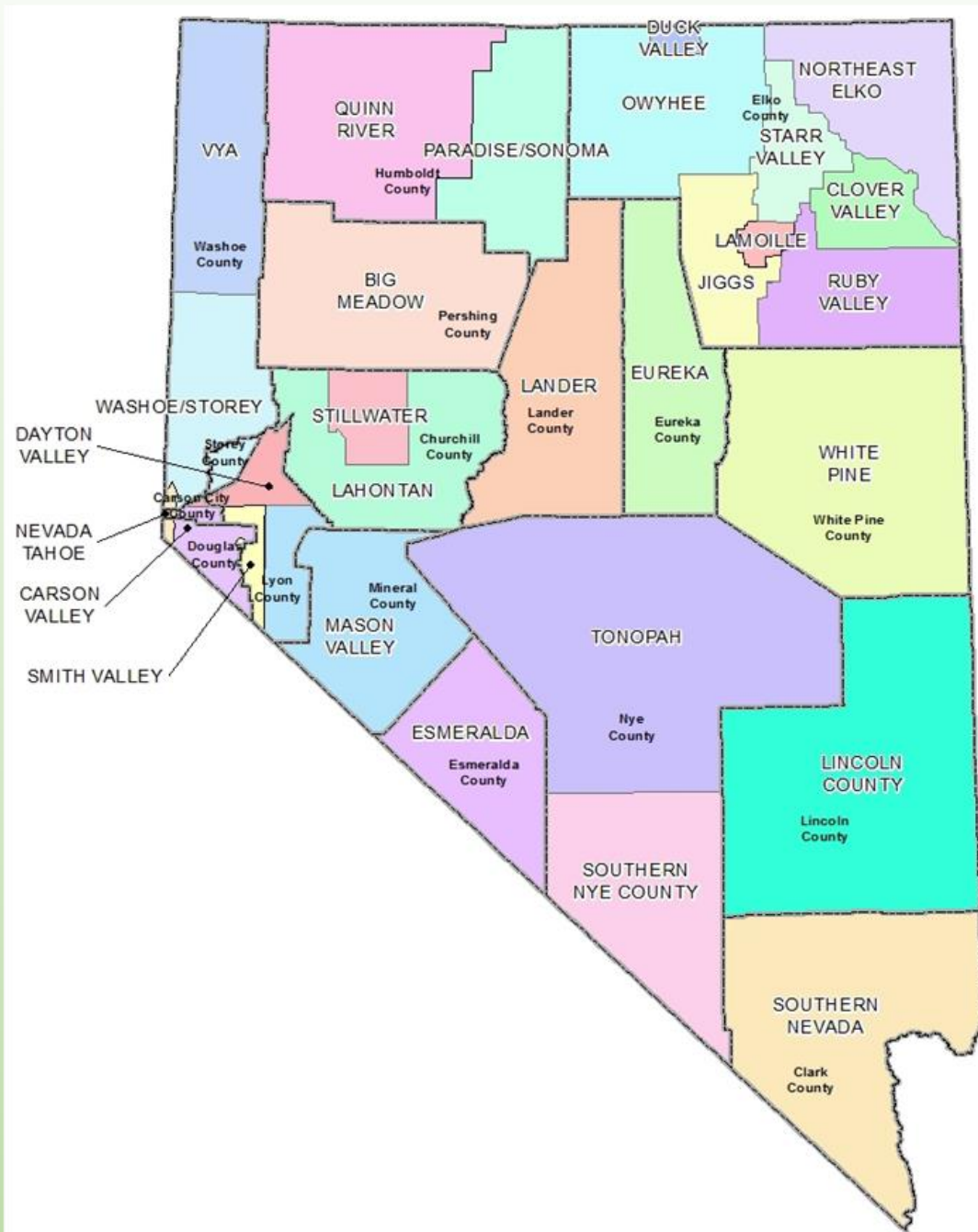
- Founded in 1937 during the Dust Bowl
- With a philosophy that conservation decisions should be made at the local level
- Focusing on voluntary, incentive-based actions.



# What is a Conservation District?

- Governmental entities, much like school boards, directed by locally elected Supervisors
- Authority comes from NRS 548
- A vital link to connect private and public land interests in Nevada; they encompass all Nevada







# NVACD

**Nevada Association of  
Conservation Districts**

**CONSERVING NATURAL RESOURCES FOR OUR FUTURE**

# NvACD is helping CDs increase their role as leaders of locally led conservation in Nevada

- An initial group of Nevada CDs will write Resource Needs Assessments
- A CD will bring together local producers, local groups, agencies and general public to identify **RESOURCE CONCERNS** and possible solutions to those resource concerns using NRCS farm planning tools and other resources.
- This information will be used to write Conservation Action Plans that can serve to direct programs and funding from any source to resolve those resource concerns.
- Resource needs will drive the conservation actions and funding will be spent on the priority resource concerns as determined by local stakeholders



# NvACD is helping CDs increase their role as leaders of locally led conservation

- **HOW?** By partnering and leveraging opportunity
  - **Funding and training**
    - NV-NRCS Agreement
    - Outreach and training
  - **Coordination and support**
    - Renewing 2016 RCPP grant commitments
      - BLM, USFS, NDF, NDOW, USFWS, CD Program
    - Provide staff to assist gathering input and compiling the Resource Needs Assessment
      - NACD grant
  - **Increasing public input**
    - Develop sophisticated survey instrument with help of UNCE and UNR

# Benefits to a CD and Their Local Area

- Inform NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee
- A plan in place to coordinate and cooperate with federal agency planning
- Able to direct funding from any source toward appropriate conservation projects
- Assist a County with local planning to address local resource concerns
- Mechanism for a Local Work Group (LWG) to function and fulfill its responsibilities
- Furtherance of partnerships begun by varied sage grouse efforts



All this is driving toward Locally-led Conservation,  
based on the obvious premise that local people make the best decisions  
for their own communities.

# How you can help

- Provide accurate, relevant input to identify the resource concerns
- Offer staff time to participate in the Resource Needs Assessment and support the decisions made
- Direct funding to projects identified by the process
- Help distribute the survey and encourage response
- Participate or nominate participants for the LWG, State Technical Advisory Committee, and CD
- Involve your CD in local management
- Provide specialists to analyze unidentified, or identified but unquantified problems, so we can begin to address them
- Volunteer to be part of the solutions when opportunities arise; find ways to say YES!