

Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council



2013 Annual Report

Photo Anne Marie Novinger

INSIDE:

A message from our President



Doug Thompson

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First I would like to thank all of our supporters and partners and the Board members that donate their time and resources to implement our projects and plan of work.

The RC&D is, by its structure, a service organization. We are charged to carry out the projects for which you request support. We then research what sources of funding or contacts will meet your request. We have a very limited in house grant writing staff, but will contract with consultants if needed.

Prior to the annual meeting last year, I drove around our region and talked with many businesses, agencies and boards. From all areas I heard concerns

about the economy, renewal of contracts, and budget cuts to agencies. Each area of our coverage is primarily dependent on limited revenue sources, and in many locations on one source. When down turns occur, the area is impacted. The Government sector of our local economies will not recover as quickly as the private sector, and maybe never to the levels of the past. This means fewer employees, less staff time to assist with project proposals, and decreased ability to engage with communities.

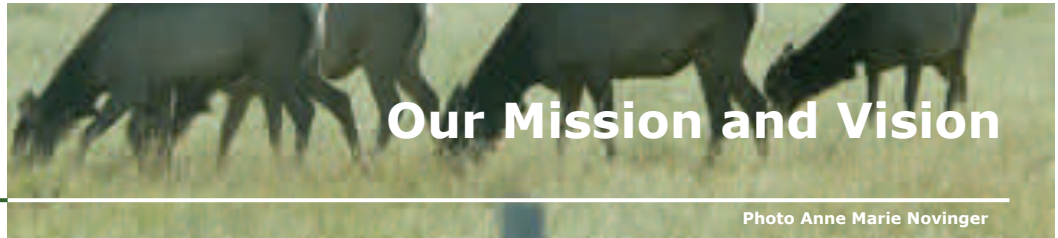
This regional trip also revealed concerns about meeting the needs of workforces for the energy and hi tech industries moving in. We need to anticipate and

prepare to meet the market demands of an economic upswing.

As a region, we have many assets, and a great, if not the greatest, future. It is estimated that California population may reach 60+ million by 2050. We have land, water, and unlimited green energy. That said, I know it will not be a smooth transition diverting those resources to our area. A quick search on Google Maps indicates that growth is limited to certain

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Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council



The Desert Mountain RC&D Council works in partnerships to enhance the quality of life and achieve economic growth, development, and sustainability while protecting the environment.

Our vision is to enhance economic growth and conserve natural resources, which will create a better quality of life and sustainable communities within our six county, 24-million acre Desert Mountain RC&D area.

Executive Board, Regional Directors, and Staff

President	Doug Thompson	2013 Regional Directors	Leroy Corlett
Vice President	Pete Lounsbury (January - July) Deborah Hess (August - December)		Beth Himelhoch Chip Holloway
Secretary	Donna Thomas		Pete Lounsbury
Treasurer	Susan Cullen		Rick Lovett Marianne Schat
Staff	Watershed Coordinator, Bob Robinson Admin. Assistant: Alice Lauritzen		

Our Partners

Antelope Valley Board of Trade
Antelope Valley RCD
Bishop Paiute Tribe
Bureau of Land Management
California City
City Of Bishop
City of Lancaster
City of Ridgecrest
City of Tehachapi
Community of Fremont
Community of Rancho Seco
Dustbuster Group
Eastern Kern Air Pollution District
Eastern Kern County RCD
Honda Proving Center
Indian Wells Valley Water District
Inyo County
Inyo-Mono Advocates for Community Action
Kern River Preserve



Kern River Valley Revitalization
Lone Pine Economic Development Corp
Lucerne Valley Chamber of Commerce
Lucerne Valley Economic Development
Maturango Museum
Mojave Air Quality Management District
Mojave Desert RCD
Mono County
National Association of RC&D Councils
Owens Valley Growers
Searles Valley Municipal Advisory Council
Southern California Edison
Tehachapi RCD
USDA/NRCS
US Fish & Wildlife Service
US Forest Service
Yermo Community Services District

Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council



2013 Financial Report

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Revenue

Expenses

INCOME

Donations	628.74
Fiscal Management Fees	8404.63
Interest	88.15
Special Events—Plant Sales	3,193.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 12,314.52

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Board Designated Funds	
SEEP	20,473.99
SCE Tall Pot Nursery Project	2,500.00
SCE KRV Watershed Project	435.00
CA Dept of Conservation	
Watershed 3010-206 Inv. 5-8	
Inv. 8 (not yet received)	60,151.22
CA Advanced Services Fund (CASF)	
ESCRB Consortium Yr 1 Inv. 4-8	
And Summit	89,624.13
ESCRB Consortium Y2, Q1&Q2	57,962.84
Dept of the Navy	
Mohave Tui Chub	701.37
Inv. 21,22,& Final (not yet rec'd)	7,818.68
Sierra Nevada Conservancy	
Lone Pine Wastewater Reuse	0.00
SEEP Grant Inv. #8 & 10% Withhold	8,593.48
Grant 689—Ag Lands	
(Spent from \$130,121 Advance)	33,778.85
NARC&DC	
WSS&CS Workshop	
Prep in 2013 (not yet rec'd)	850.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 282,889.56

**TOTAL Income
and Restricted Funds \$ 295,204.08**

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Savings Account	11,322.26
Bank of America (Tui Chub)	9,706.31
Money Market	30,008.13
SUBTOTAL	\$ 51,036.70

TOTAL REVENUE \$ 346,240.78

OPERATING EXPENSES

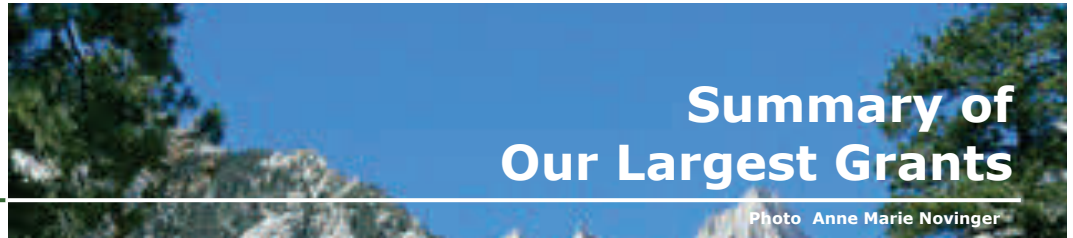
Accounting Fees	3,898.60
Advertising	81.19
Automobile	1,260.01
Bank Fees	25.00
Contractual Services	945.45
Depreciation	1,034.54
Insurance/Workman's Comp	3,788.80
Interest Expense	3,029.83
Materials and Supplies	417.94
Membership Fees	1,050.00
Meetings Expenses	142.20
Office Expenses	2,472.27
Payroll Expenses	5,252.41
Personnel/Wages/Benefits	5,674.90
Postage/Mailing	222.94
Printing/Copies	1,511.80
Promotion	900.00
Taxes	60.00
Training	1,185.92
Travel/Mileage	1,838.56
Website	139.00
Workshops/Meetings	142.20
SUBTOTAL	\$ 35,073.56

RESTRICTED PROJECT EXPENSES

Board Designated Funds	
SEEP Program Expenses	33.53
SCE Tall Pot Nursery Project	2,500
SCE KRV Watershed Project	358.84
CA Dept of Conservation	
Watershed 3010-206 Inv. 5-8	76,358.32
CA Advanced Services Fund (CASF)	
ESCRBC Yr1 Inv. 4-8&Summit	89,524.13
ESCRBC Yr2, Q1&Q2	57,962.84
Dept of the Navy	
Mohave Tui Chub	8,520.05
Sierra Nevada Conservancy	
SEEP	5,645.11
Lone Pine Wastewater Reuse	1.00
SNC 689 Ag Lands	29,373.02
NARC&DC	
WSS&CS (Prep in 2013)	850.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 271,126.84

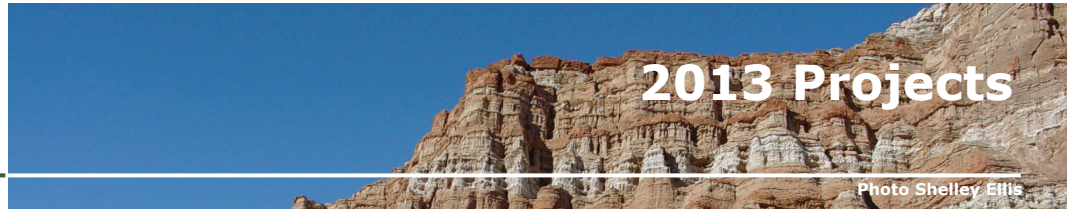
TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 306,200.40

Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council



- California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) –ESC Regional Broadband Consortium \$ 450,000.00
Awarded 3/01/12; \$150,000 each year for three years, End date 2/28/15
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy – SNC 689 \$ 274,420.00
Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Agricultural Lands Improvement Project
Awarded 5/31/13, End date 3/1/17
- CA Dept. of Conservation – Grant 3010-206, Watershed Coordinator \$ 251,742.00
3 year grant for Kern Valley Watersheds
Awarded 6/30/11; Start date 2/01/12, End date 7/2014
- Dept of Navy, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake (NAWSCL) \$ 251,123.00
Tui Chub Contract N62473-08-2-0016
5 year contract to monitor Tui Chub fish population
Awarded 2/10/09; Completed 9/03/13
- CA Dept. of Conservation – Grant 3007-218, Watershed Coordinator \$ 225,489.00
3 year grant for Kern Valley Watersheds
Awarded 6/26/08, Completed 1/31/12
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy – SNC 448 \$ 121,440.00
Lone Pine Wastewater Reuse Feasibility Study
Awarded 8/10/11, End date 3/1/14
- California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) – Grant 3239161 \$ 100,000.00
Broadband Feasibility Study
Awarded 10/01/10 – Completed—Final Report pending CETF Approval
- Southern California Edison – Tehachapi RCD, Erosion Control Manual \$ 50,000.00
Awarded 7/30/2009; Completed 12/31/10
- Southern California Edison – Antelope Valley RCD Conservation \$ 47,530.00
Nursery Facility Improvement Project
Awarded 9/17/08; Completed 12/09/10
- USDA Rural Development – RBEG Grant \$ 42,000.00
Natural Livestock Feasibility Study
Awarded 9/02/08; Completed 9/22/10
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy – SNC 080116 \$ 34,235.00
Sand Canyon Environmental Education Program (SEEP)
Awarded 7/06/10; Completed 3/01/13
- Sierra Nevada Alliance – Yard and Garden Grant \$ 18,735.00
Awarded 8/04/09; Completed 11/03/2010

Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council



Kern Valley Watershed Coordinator

2/12—6/2014

The Watershed Coordinator project addresses water quality and quantity, erosion, invasive plant species, as well as wildlife habitat and restoration projects in the Upper Kern and South Fork Kern River watersheds. Bob Robinson, our Watershed Coordinator, organizes the gathering and planting of pinion pinenuts and Blue Oak acorns for restoration projects, educates residents of the communities through native plant sales and workshops, and provides valuable input on many water resource concerns and plans. He attends Southern Sierra IRWMP and Kern IRWMP meetings and submits proposals for funding consideration. He obtained grants for watershed projects from Sierra Nevada Alliance and Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Over the years he has garnered vast amounts of in-kind support for projects and has developed great working relationships and partnerships with US Forest Service, California Audubon Kern River Preserve, Owens Valley Career Development Center, CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife's Canebrake Wildlife Reserve, Nuui Cunni Indian Cultural Center, local ranchers, and landowners. The Watershed Coordinator grant for \$251,742, provided through the California Department of Conservation, will end in June 2014.



Tall Pot Nursery

9/28/2012—6/11/2013

With a Southern California Edison grant of \$2500, Matthew Huffine and his partners were able to develop this project at the Academy for Academic Excellence, Middle and High School Mojave River Campus. This involved

some wildlands clearing to prepare the way for "islands of vegetation," and purchasing seed and Dry Water. The project has and will continue to involve students to grow the tall pots and maintain the green house facility.

Eastern Sierra Connect Regional Broadband Consortium

3/2012—Feb 28, 2015



Year Two of the CASF-funded ESCRB Consortium has seen many worthwhile activities developed and put into effect

With Digital 395 a reality along the Eastern Sierra, it is vital that communities and providers know how to take advantage of the opportunities this opens up for our area. ESCRB has been involved in the following:

- Business Webinars; partnering with California State University at Bakersfield;
- Establishing video conferencing capabilities in community centers;
- Purchasing and making available an iPad lab for training and educational classes;
- Parent training classes on computer and internet use;
- Bishop Tribe Head Start classes;
- Evaluation of possible solutions for establishing inter-

net in very remote areas;

- Assisting libraries in establishing public internet use in/through their facility;
- Holding a forum in Bishop, bringing together all interested parties to discuss greater Broadband opportunities, needs, roadblocks, and financing;
- Developing relationships with governments, neighboring consortia, tele-health leaders, and other key players in the support of Broadband communities.

The Consortium Board consists of seven members, with Nate Greenberg standing as Chair, and Julie Langou, of Eastern Sierra Consulting, Inc. the contracted Project Manager. The third and final year of the Consortium begins March 1, 2014, ending Feb 28, 2015. Funding is \$150,000 each year for three years. For more information on Consortium goals and activities, visit escrbconsortium.org.

Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council



2013 Projects, Continued

Photo Shelley Ellis

Mohave Tui Chub Management Program

Completed Sep 2013

This five year contract under a Cooperative Agreement between DMRC&D and the Department of the Navy at China Lake to monitor endangered Mohave Tui Chub populations was completed in September 2013. Over the years

crews worked with a contract biologist to remove cattails to enhance habitat, sampled and recorded water quality data and conducted annual population surveys.

Sand Canyon Environmental Education Program (SEEP)

Completed Mar 2013

We completed the Sierra Nevada Conservancy SEEP Grant March 1, 2013. We will continue to work with Peggy Jacobson, SEEP Coordinator, and other SEEP partners and volunteers such as the Bureau of Land Management, Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District, Maturango Museum, and other local groups and organizations to expand and enhance the environmental education program for 4th and 5th grade students by purchasing equipment and developing outreach materials and a more expansive website.

Native Plant Sale

Spring and Fall 2013

DM RC&D Council conducted a joint native plant sale April 13, 2013 for residents in the Kern Valley, Tehachapi and Ridgecrest areas to promote the use of firewise, and waterwise native plants in residential landscaping. The sale educated the public as to the multiple benefits of native

plants for landscape use. A second sale was held in the Kern Valley in the Fall. Information about the plants featuring color photos and order forms for the sales can be found on our website. Plans are currently underway to organize the 2014 Spring Sale.

Kern River Valley & Walker Basin Ag Lands Improvement

5/31/2013—2/28/2017

The grant agreement for this \$274,420 project was signed in May, 2013. Work will be done over four years through March 2017 to prevent the naturalization of aggressive invasive species of weeds and trees that threaten agricultural and riparian lands in the Kern River Valley and Walker Basin area. Project partners include 11 ranchers and landowners, as well as CA Audubon Kern River Preserve, and CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife's Canebrake Wildlife Preserve. Bob Robinson, Kern Valley Watershed Coordinator, is working with all partners and helping to provide training

and oversight of three field crew members hired for the work. The first noxious weed treatments began in July and continued through October, 2013. Five species of invasive weeds and trees were treated on 1,947 acres including Perennial Pepperweed, Purple Loosestrife, Arundo Donax, Tree of Heaven, and Yellow Starthistle. 2,000 acres were surveyed and two previously unknown infestations were located and mapped for treatment. The work will continue in the spring.

Lone Pine Wastewater Feasibility Study

8/2011—2/28/2014

This \$121,440 Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant was awarded for three phases of study and implementation of wastewater reuse in irrigated pastureland for FFA student projects and other high school and community landscaping uses. Following the initial feasibility study by contractor RO Anderson Engineering, Inc., the project is on hold pending final decisions to move forward.

Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council



2014 New and Continuing Projects

Photo Shelley Ellis

WSS&CS Workshop with NARC&D Councils

Feb 19 and 20, 2014

Desert Mountain RC&D was approached by the National Association of RC&D Councils to partner with them in presenting a two day-workshop centered on Wildland Fires and the Urban Interface. "Wildfire Safe, Sound and Code Smart" workshops have been presented around the country with funding through DHS/FEMA's Grant Program Directorate for Assistance to Firefighters.

A Certificate for Continuing Education Credit will be issued

to those who complete the two day requirements.

The workshop will be held February 19th and 20th in Calabasas at the Hilton Garden Inn. Registration and Agenda details can be accessed through

<https://escrb.webconnex.com/WSSCSWorkshop>.

2013 Projects Continuing into 2014

- Eastern Sierra Connect Regional Broadband Consortium
- Kern River Valley Watershed Coordinator
- Native Plant Sales
- Lone Pine Wastewater Feasibility Study
- SNC 689 KRV and Walker Basin Agricultural Lands Improvement

Cont'd from Pg 1—Message from our President

directions. The growth will effect the Greater Antelope Valley, north and east into the Victor Valley, and onwards. Land values are low enough to attract future growth, and local governments are moving in the direction to encourage growth. In 2013, for the 2nd time, Lancaster earned "Most Business Friendly City in LA County." The areas around Mojave and Boron have a strong foundation for moving forward. Tehachapi can grow with two directions: the Bakersfield area and the expansion from LA, including our own outreach from the greater LA region and Antelope Valley. Major transportation systems are in place and continue developing, with talk of hi-speed rail, a freeway from Victorville to Palmdale, and a study looking at a link from Hwy14 to 5. Hwy14 in Kern County has one short section of four-lane to complete, and then this will be four to six lanes from the LA Basin to Lee Vining. There is also major work on Hwy 58 from Barstow to Bakersfield.

We as a region are not limited in potential, but should set our goals on how we engage for the future. Can we put aside our differences and join as a greater community? Can we supply the government facilities we are surrounded by with the products and materials they are supposed to purchase locally? Can we truck produce out, milk out, bread out, and serve our growing tourist economy with locally produced beef, poultry, and other products? Eastern Sierra today has a \$650 million tourist base, but we export that purchase power out of our area.

I say to myself many times that we are living in the plans made so many years ago. We can wait and see, or start making more plans. Please give these concepts a few minutes of thought. We are here to serve you moving ahead the next 50 years... or longer.

Doug Thompson

President, DMRC&D

Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council



*For more information about the council, an existing project, or a potential project,
please contact us.*

Desert Mountain RC&D Council

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