

2011 Annual Report



DESERT MOUNTAIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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OUR MISSION and VISION

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.

The vision of the Desert Mountain RC&D Council 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE-

by Doug Thompson

2011 saw the RC&D Council involved in many exciting and worthy projects. We have experienced some changes with the NRCS defunding, but are adapting and still pursuing our goals. Continuing outreach, we participated in the AV Board of Trade conference where we handed out material and talked with many people interested in what we do. Following the show I drove to the Green Infrastructure Conference at the Nature Conservancy headquarters in West Virginia. This gave us a look at the rest of the country and issues facing the nation and other countries. In December we traveled to San Francisco for the kickoff of the Consortium grant we will work on for the next 3 years. This two day event gave opportunity to talk with the leaders of the 13 other Consortia around the state. More of our projects are detailed inside.

We thank you for your support and interest in our work and wish you all a great 2012!

DMRC&D Board of Directors



Doug Thompson, *President*
 Deborah Hess, *Vice President*
 Donna Thomas, *Secretary*
 Susan Cullen, *Treasurer*

Regional Directors:
 Leroy Corlett
 Edith Frick (to May 2011)
 Chip Holloway
 Pete Lounsbury
 Danna Stroud

DMRC & D Staff

Bob Robinson, *Watershed Coordinator*
 Alice Lauritzen, *Admin*

NRCS Assistance

Deana Jerdee, *RC&D Program Coordinator* (to Mar 2011)
 William Foster, *Soil Conservation Technician* (to Jun 2011)
 Hudson Minshew, *District Conservationist/RC&D Program Coordinator* (Mar-Jun 2011)

Partners

Antelope Valley Board of Trade	Kern River Preserve
Antelope Valley RCD	Kern River Valley Revitalization
Bishop Paiute Tribe	Lone Pine Economic Development Corp
Bureau of Land Management	Lucerne Valley Chamber of Commerce
California Dept. of Fish and Game	Lucerne Valley Economic Development
City of Bishop	Maturango Museum
City of Lancaster	Mojave Air Quality Management District
City of Ridgecrest	Mojave Desert RCD
City of Tehachapi	Mono County
Eastern Kern County RCD	Southern California Edison
Honda Proving Center	Tehachapi RCD
Indian Wells Valley Water District	USDA/NRCS
Inyo County	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Inyo-Mono Advocate for Community Action	US Forest Service
Kern County	



Dustbusters Field Day Event and Recognition - This event was organized by our partners in the Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District and Southern California Edison at the Antelope Acres Community Center in Lancaster on June 1, 2011. Presentations about the Dustbusters group by Robert Farber, Research Scientist for Southern California Edison, along with the introduction of the Dustbuster Guidebooks for Homeowners/Large Land Area Managers and for Agricultural Producers were the focus of the meeting. There were also presentations of Conservation Awards. We presented awards to those who had worked with Desert Mountain R C & D on the Rancho Seco Dust Mitigation Project in Kern County. A brief field tour of the 93rd and F site dust control project took place after the meeting. The Dustbuster Guidebooks are available at the Antelope Valley RCD office in Lancaster.

Eastern Sierra Connect Broadband Feasibility Study - Funded by a grant from California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF), DMRC&D hired administrative assistant Alice Lauritzen and contracted with Aldea Consulting and Solstice Geospatial LLC to conduct a study to assess demand, availability, and adoption of broadband in the Eastern Sierra (Mono, Inyo, and eastern Kern Counties). Statistics, mapping and public input were collected. In addition to receiving 777 surveys, we met in focus groups and community meetings, and culminated the project with a regional Broadband Forum where study outcomes were presented and discussed. The Final Report (pending CETF approval) and Forum presentations are available through the DMRC&D website.

Jobs Forums - We hosted forums in Ridgecrest, Lancaster, Lone Pine, Independence, and Barstow in conjunction with Dr. Glenda Humiston, State Director of USDA Rural Development. The forums were part of a statewide effort to hold meetings in each county to focus on activities and initiatives outlining needs and issues for job creation, economic development and sustainable communities for rural California. The USDA –RD report is available on our website or at our DM RC&D office.

Kern River Valley Watershed Coordinator - At the end of January 2012 we will complete the final report for the current watershed coordinator grant funded through the California Department of Conservation. Our coordinator, Bob Robinson, addressed water quality, quantity, erosion, invasive plant species and wildlife habitat and restoration issues in the Upper Kern and South Fork Kern River watersheds. We sampled the Kern River to evaluate impacts of recreational use. We also coordinated the gathering and planting of pinion pine nuts and Blue Oak acorns for restoration projects, educated the communities through native plant sales and workshops, and provided input on many water resource concerns and plans. We leveraged \$ 329,866.00 in funding for watershed projects and in-kind support valued at more than \$42,000 over the three year period of the grant.



Mohave Tui Chub Management Program - We are working with the Department of the Navy at China Lake to monitor endangered Mohave Tui Chub populations. This year significant progress was made to enhance habitat by removing cattails and sampling water quality. Populations of fish were also found in the seep system where populations were not previously found. This project is funded through a Cooperative Agreement with the Department of the Navy.

Sand Canyon Environmental Education Program (SEEP) - We are working with the Sierra Sands Unified School District, Indian Wells Valley Water District, U. S. 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. This project is funded through a grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

South Fork Kern River Weed Management - We are working with Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District to control the spread of invasive weeds in the South Fork Kern River and Walker Basin area. Our Watershed Coordinator is assisting in the effort. The partners include California Audubon's Kern River Preserve, the California Department of Fish and Game's Canebrake Ecological Reserve, Renewable Resources (Onyx Ranch) and ranchers in Kernville and the Walker Basin. Perennial pepper weed control has taken place on 165 acres in Walker Basin and 62 acres in Kernville. Weed treatment for Purple Loosestrife, Tree of Heaven, Russian Olive, Arundo Donax, and Salt Cedar occurred on approximately 1,650 acres along the South Fork Kern River. This project was funded through an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant of \$50,000 administered by the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Grant completion date was December 31, 2011 and a dozen seasonal workers and one certified spray operator were hired to conduct the work.

Spring Native Plant Sale - We conducted a joint native plant sale this spring for residents in the Kern Valley, Tehachapi and Ridgecrest areas to promote native, fire-wise, and water-wise native plants. The sale also 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 sales and order forms are available on our website.

Tehachapi RCD Erosion Control Manual - We assisted Tehachapi Resource Conservation District in developing an erosion control manual focused on controlling erosion in the mountains for renewable energy developers. While focused, the information has much broader applicability for homeowners and best management practices for dealing with erosion issues after a major burn. The Tehachapi RCD has held two workshops for residents of the area discussing best management practices useful for dealing with erosion problems they may face. The manual is available on our website. CDs and hard copies of the manual are available through Tehachapi RCD.



Income		Operating Expenses	
CA/NV Assn. RC&D Councils	\$ 1,550.00	Accounting Fees	\$ 2,498.00
Donations	\$ 3,600.00	Automobile	\$ 1,826.94
Fiscal Mngmnt Fees	\$ 15,023.03	Bank Fees	\$ 59.00
Interest	\$ 213.20	Contractual Services	\$ 1,100.00
NRCS Coop. Agreements	\$ 9,247.34	Depreciation	\$ 180.00
Special Events – Plant Sales	\$ 2,255.18	Financial Review	\$ 1,550.00
<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	<i>\$ 31,888.75</i>	Insurance/Workman’s Comp	\$ 3,040.00
Restricted Funds		Interest Expense	\$ 943.01
CA Dept of Conservation		Materials and Supplies	\$ 160.96
Watershed	\$ 70,052.77	Membership Fees	\$ 450.00
CETF - ESC Broadband Study	\$ 90,000.00	Office Expense/Equipment	\$ 4,592.40
Dept of the Navy		Payroll Expenses	\$ 236.89
Mohave Tui Chub	\$ 20,471.72	Personnel Wages/Benefits	\$ 759.50
Donations for Projects	\$ 2,950.00	Postage/Mailing	\$ 87.67
Sierra Nevada Conservancy		Printing/Copies	\$ 177.46
SEEP	\$ 13,313.42	Taxes	\$ 496.00
So Cal Edison – Tehachapi		Travel/Mileage	\$ 447.33
RCD Erosion Control	\$ 47,732.83	Website	\$ 135.00
<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	<i>\$ 244,520.74</i>	Workshops/Meetings	\$ 725.84
		<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	<i>\$ 19,466.00</i>
		Restricted Project Expenses	
		CA Dept of Conservation	
		Watershed	\$ 68,930.95
		CETF – ESC Broadband Study	\$ 91,509.94
		Dept of the Navy	
		Mohave Tui Chub	\$ 20,471.72
		Sierra Nevada Conservancy	
		SEEP	\$ 8,594.07
		So Cal Edison – Tehachapi	
		RCD Erosion Control	\$ 2,267.08
		<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	<i>\$ 221,773.76</i>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 276,409.49	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 241,239.76



Kern River Valley Watershed Coordinator - The Desert Mountain RC&D has been awarded a grant from the Department of Conservation through its Watershed Coordinator Grant Program. The funding is for a three year period to continue the excellent work being done in the upper Kern and South Fork Kern watersheds. The source of the state funding of \$251,742 is Proposition 84 – the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006. The grant will begin on February 1, 2012.

Eastern Sierra Connect Regional Broadband Consortium - DMRC&D Council’s Eastern Sierra Connect Regional Consortium applied for the CASF Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Program. The application was conditionally accepted, and has been resubmitted with requested modifications. The grant supplies \$150,000 per year for three years. The purpose is to develop partnerships and to educate and assist individuals, public agencies, and applicants for CASF funding as communities work towards total digital inclusion (broadband is available, accessible and affordable throughout the communities).

Lone Pine Wastewater Feasibility Study - This \$121,440 grant is funded through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. The project involves three phases. The first phase is the development of a feasibility study to determine reuse potential of wastewater for irrigated pastureland for FFA student projects, for use at the high school for landscaping needs, and for other community uses. The second phase is the engineering for the project(s); and finally the last phase deals with the permitting and implementation for the project(s). The contract has been finalized and this new grant will begin on January 13, 2012. The contractor for the project is RO Anderson Engineering, Inc. of Minden, Nevada.

2011 Continuing Projects

Native Plant Sales

Mohave Tui Chub Management Project

Education and Outreach Workshops

Sand Canyon Environmental Education Program (SEEP)

Please visit our website or contact us for more information about the council, an existing project, or a potential project.

Desert Mountain RC&D Council

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