



DESERT MOUNTAIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

2012 Annual Report

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Doug Thompson

2012 was a hallmark year for DMRC&D. When we were challenged to continue after loss of support from NRCS, the RC&D Board voted to honor our grant contracts and complete the work in progress. The support of our partners over the year has continued to move the RC&D forward with new projects and encouragement. With continued outreach, we can better serve our area, at the same time understanding that we can only assist when we have a firm request and commitment from the requesting party. The transition from a partially funded organization to self-funded status has offered the opportunity to establish fiscal policy that supports long term stability. We owe our previous NRCS Coordinators, Deana Jerdee and Carolyn LoFreso, deeply for their work on shaping the foundation of our structure and for their work hosting the Non Profit workshop classes.

I am very proud when we attend meetings and represent the DM RC&D. We now have a full board that represents our area of coverage. Each Board Member brings a vast body of knowledge and experience. In the following pages you can read about our Board of Directors and our various projects.

As with any course we travel, what we do today only builds on what was started before. We are obligated to nurture the present and the future with our fullest energy and support. Thank you all for being part of our travel.

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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,

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.



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Our Executive Board and Regional Directors

President: Doug Thompson
Vice President: Vacant
Secretary: Donna Thomas
Treasurer: Susan Cullen

2012 Regional Directors:
Leroy Corlett
Chip Holloway
Pete Lounsbury
Marianne Schat



Staff: Administrative Assistant: Alice Lauritzen
Watershed Coordinator: Bob Robinson

Welcome to two new 2013 Regional Directors:
Beth Himelhoch

Our Partners

Antelope Valley Board of Trade
Antelope Valley RCD
Bishop Paiute Tribe
Bureau of Land Management
California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
City of Bishop
City of Lancaster
City of Ridgecrest
City of Tehachapi
Community of Rancho Seco
Dustbuster Group
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
Southern California Edison
Tehachapi RCD
USDA/NRCS
US Fish & Wildlife Service
US Forest Service
Yermo Community Services District



Kern River Valley Watershed Coordinator – February 1, 2012, the Council

began managing the 3010-206 grant funding of \$251,742 from the California Department of Conservation for three years of work in the Upper Kern River and South Fork Kern River watersheds. Our coordinator, Bob Robinson, will be conducting restoration activities in the watershed areas affected by wildfires by working with the USFS and youth groups such as the Owens Valley Career Development Center, local garden clubs, and the Sheriff's Activity League to plant

trees and shrubs grown at the small Forest Service greenhouse nursery in Kernville.

He will attend the Southern Sierra IRWMP and the Kern IRWMP and work with the Kern River Valley communities and partners to develop project proposals to submit for funding. Bob will continue work with the CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, CA Audubon Kern River Preserve and local ranchers to control invasive species in the region. He will continue to organize native plant sales and conduct workshops and outreach to the local communities.



Eastern Sierra Connect Regional Broadband Consortium – DMRC&D was awarded a \$150,000 grant through the CA Advanced Services Fund (and CPUC) to administer programs to promote greater broadband capacity and adoption along the eastern Sierra corridor, to include eastern Kern County and Inyo and Mono Counties. With California Broadband Cooperative's Digital 395 installation of high speed internet fiber all along the eastern Sierra corridor, the timing couldn't be better. The Consortium hired a project consultant, Julie Langou, and she has provided opportunities for this group of talented and knowledgeable individuals to accomplish much. Consortium activities are many and varied, and include:

- education and training on internet advantages and uses,
- ongoing assessment of broadband needs and interest through
- town meetings and surveys on current internet use and satisfaction,
- bringing together stake holders for discussion and collective planning,
- interfacing with providers and possible providers to encourage consideration
- of our rural areas for service, and
- informing providers of available grants to assist with completing last mile service.

The first year funding is up February 28, 2013, with continuing funding available for two more years. Please visit the Consortium website for a full report on their activities. escribconsortium.org.



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

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.



Native Plant Sale –We conducted a joint native plant sale in the spring of 2012 for residents in the Kern Valley, Tehachapi and Ridgecrest areas to promote native, fire-wise, and water-wise native plants. The \$4,424 profits were shared by DM RC&D, Tehachapi and Eastern Kern RCDs and the watershed coordinator project in Kern Valley. 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. We plan to organize another joint sale in spring 2013. Information about the sales and order

Lone Pine Wastewater Feasibility Study - This \$121,440 grant is funded through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. The first of three phases has been completed. Through our contractor, RO Anderson Engineering, Inc. (Minden, NV), a feasibility study was conducted 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). Further work is now pending final acceptance of its feasibility.



Desert Mountain RC&D Largest Grants 2008-2012

- | | | |
|---------------|--|--------------------------|
| 1) | California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) –ESC Regional Broadband Consortium | \$ 450,000.00 |
| | Awarded 3/01/12; \$150,000 each year for three years | |
|
2) |
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 | |
|
3) |
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; End date 9/03/13 | |
|
4) |
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 | |
|
5) |
Sierra Nevada Conservancy – SNC 448 |
\$ 121,440.00 |
| | Lone Pine Wastewater Reuse Feasibility Study | |
| | Awarded 8/10/11 | |
|
6) |
California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) – Grant 3239161 |
\$ 100,000.00 |



Broadband Feasibility Study

Awarded 10/01/10 – Final Report pending CETF Approval

7) **Southern California Edison – Tehachapi RCD, Erosion Control Manual** \$ 50,000.00

Awarded 7/30/2009; Completed 12/31/10

8) **Southern California Edison – Antelope Valley RCD Conservation** \$ 47,530.00

Nursery Facility Improvement Project

Awarded 9/17/08; Completed 12/09/10

9) **USDA Rural Development – RBEG Grant** \$ 42,000.00

Natural Livestock Feasibility Study

Awarded 9/02/08; Completed 9/22/10

10) **Sierra Nevada Conservancy – SNC 080116** \$ 34,235.00

Sand Canyon Environmental Education Program (SEEP)

Awarded 7/06/10; End date 3/01/13

11) **Sierra Nevada Alliance – Yard and Garden Grant** \$ 18,735.00

Awarded 8/04/09; Completed 11/03/2010



Income

Donations	\$	3,500.00
Fiscal Mangement Fees	\$	15,616.96
Interest	\$	56.55
Special Events – Plant Sales	\$	4,424.00
<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	\$	<i>23,597.51</i>

Restricted Funds

Board Designated Funds		
SEEP Program	\$	20,160.59
SCE Tall Pot Nursery Project	\$	2,500.00
SCE KRV Watershed Project	\$	850.00
CA Dept of Conservation		
Watershed 3007-218	\$	25,435.08
CA Dept of Conservation		
Watershed 3010-206	\$	48,270.97
CA Advanced Services Fund (CASF)		
ESCRB Consortium	\$	25,061.57
Dept of the Navy		
Mohave Tui Chub	\$	16,055.34
Sierra Nevada Conservancy		
Lone Pine Wastewater Reuse	\$	60,070.00
SEEP	\$	1,303.89
<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	\$	<i>199,707.44</i>

TOTAL Income & Restricted Funds **\$ 223,304.95**

Unrestricted Funds

Savings Account	\$	21,371.27
Money Market	\$	26,015.46
<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	\$	<i>47,386.73</i>

Operating Expenses

Accounting Fees	\$	3,966.00
Automobile	\$	1,260.01
Bank Fees	\$	360.96
Depreciation	\$	761.22
Insurance/Workman's Comp	\$	2,250.00
Interest Expense	\$	748.78
Materials and Supplies	\$	1,367.96
Meetings Expenses	\$	5,478.00
Office Expenses	\$	3,541.27
Payroll Expenses	\$	1,344.10
Personnel Wages/Benefits	\$	4,218.00
Postage/Mailing	\$	161.69
Printing/Copies	\$	870.38
Promotion/Advertising	\$	727.64
Taxes	\$	445.00
Travel/Mileage	\$	1,600.25
Website	\$	135.00
Workshops/Meetings	\$	142.20
<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	\$	<i>29,243.46</i>

Restricted Project Expenses

Board Designated Funds		
SCE Tall Pot Nursery Project	\$	1,250.00
SCE KRV Watershed Project	\$	315.00
CA Dept of Conservation		
Watershed 3010-206	\$	62,051.85
CETF – ESC Broadband Study	\$	6,199.28
CA Advanced Services Fund (CASF)		
ESCRB Consortium	\$	70,812.26
Dept of the Navy		
Mohave Tui Chub	\$	16,055.34
Sierra Nevada Conservancy		
SEEP	\$	13,313.42
Lone Pine Wastewater Reuse	\$	33,925.00
<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	\$	<i>192,178.36</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	<i>221,421.82</i>





Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Agricultural Lands - Through this grant proposal to Sierra Nevada Conservancy (through Prop. 84), the project is funded for 5 years for a total of \$224,420. This includes 15% for indirect for DM RC&D to administer the grant. 11 property owners on 7,110 acres are committed to participate. Kern River Preserve Manager and Land Steward, California Department of Fish and Wildlife licensed Pest Control Advisor are partners and participants in the project. The Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Agricultural Lands Improvement Project will treat noxious weeds within private ranching lands and on public lands and private preserve utilized by ranchers on a prescription basis in the Kern River Valley, South Fork and North Fork of Kern River and in the Walker Basin Creek watersheds. The project is expected to improve the habitat quality and sustain the condition of agricultural lands within the project area and, potentially, downstream. The project will also help the



economic viability of the ranches by maintaining forage quality and the integrity of the grazing lands and associated riparian corridor. Final deliverables include a monitoring report summarizing the acres of land improved and the species of weeds treated and a map identifying specific areas treated.

Grants will be awarded by SNC in March of 2013.

SCE Tall Pot – SCE funded \$2,500 for a Tall Pot Nursery project in Apple Valley. This project is located at the Academy for Academic Excellence, Mojave River Campus, and will involve students laying out and working a small-scale “tall pot” nursery. The plants grown, in partnership with the Mojave Water Agency, Victor Valley College, Mojave Desert RCD, and the Lewis Center, will be used to re-vegetate portions of the Mojave River’s riparian corridor and surrounding upslope areas in subsequent years.



Native Plant Sales
Education and Outreach Workshops
Lone Pine Wastewater Feasibility Study

Mohave Tui Chub Management Project
Sand Canyon Environmental Education Program (SEEP)
Eastern Sierra Connect Regional Broadband Consortium (ESCRBC)



CONTACT US

for more information about the council, an existing project, or a potential project.

Desert Mountain RC&D Council

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