



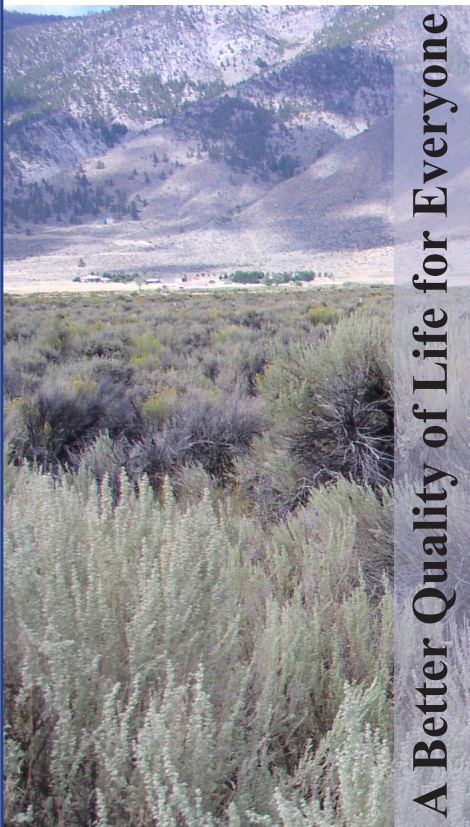
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Nevada

2009 Annual Report of Accomplishments



# Implementing the Farm Bill in Harmony with our Core Conservation Values



**A Better Quality of Life for Everyone**

The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California is working to improve wildlife habitat along the Carson River under the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program. Herons, egrets, eagles, and other birds occupy the cottonwood stands along the river every year. However, the cottonwood stands are suffering due to changes in water table, river positioning, and flooding.

The conservation plan includes weed control, brush management, stock water, and enhancing the cottonwood stand along the river. Weed control will allow the native understory plants to release, increasing understory forage and cover for both livestock and wildlife species. Brush management entails a patchwork removal of dense rabbitbrush and sagebrush stands to increase understory vegetation, and range planting will be done to establish competitive desirable vegetation. ♪

**Conservation for Today, Tomorrow and into the Future**

Six hundred acres of irrigated pasture, rangeland, and riparian forest along three miles of the West Walker River were enrolled in the Grassland Reserve Program in Mason Valley in 2009. The parcel provides forage for cattle and habitat for a variety of wildlife species such as turkey, quail, Golden eagles, mule deer, coyotes, and waterfowl.

Owner Daniel Shehady has been working to install conservation practices through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. He leveled his flood-irrigated fields and installed 25,000 feet of underground pipe to replace earth ditches, both to conserve water. Fences to facilitate a prescribed grazing system for the purpose of improving plant condition and livestock health have also been installed under EQIP.

The GRP contract will complement the conservation work efforts by providing an incentive to maintain irrigated pasture and range for livestock grazing and wildlife habitat into the future. ♪

## Clean Water and Increased Food Supply

Darron Kelton raises high quality alfalfa hay on about 135 acres in Lyon County. Under the Agricultural Management Assistance Program, Kelton will install 10,030 feet of new irrigation pipeline. The pipe will replace an existing earthen irrigation ditch to maximize efficiency of water delivery to their flood-irrigated fields. Replacing the earthen ditch with pipe will eliminate water losses associated with seepage and ditch bank “washouts” resulting in a reduction of about 80 tons of irrigation-induced soil erosion and associated deposition each year, and will improve the quality of the irrigation water for Kelton and his neighbors. Kelton also plans to improve the efficiency of applying irrigation water to his fields by land leveling about 89 acres on a schedule that complements his planned crop rotation. ♪



Native Plants are Better Plants

Construction of the new greenhouse and headhouse at the Great Basin Plant Materials Center started in the fall of 2009. The 800 square foot greenhouse will be used to grow seedlings and cuttings of native plants for studies at the PMC and for conservation projects with partners throughout the Great Basin PMC service area. The PMC also purchased new equipment, including a cone seeder to plant replicated plots, and a rototiller that will be used to cultivate native species at the PMC.

The Great Basin PMC has been working with the Agricultural Research Service and other partners to determine the best methods to restore sagebrush shrublands on the Rosaschi Ranch on the East Walker River, and has started work on an inter-center project to collect data on range plant growth. The PMC has Nevada's first monarch butterfly waystation, and will plant a People's Garden again in 2010. ↻



Instilling Values in Youth

When the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe wanted to turn a vacant, weedy lot into a community park, they turned to the Da Ka Doiyabe RC&D for help. The Tribe had almost two acres near the subdivision where they wanted to plant trees and shrubs, build a basketball court, playground, bike trail, horseshoe pits, and picnic area. The Da Ka Doiyabe was successful in obtaining funding from the White Pine and Eureka Conservation Districts to build the park, and helped install the irrigation system and landscaping.

One of the goals of building the new park was to utilize the Duckwater Tribe's summer youth workers, giving them a project that not only earned them a wage for their labor, but also reinforced values they were taught. While each worker had different values, they each learned something from the experience and demonstrated every value in some way. ↻



Creating Healthy Communities

The City of Henderson has planted a forest of new trees, thanks to Urban Forester Lisa Ortega. High Desert RC&D has been a partner supporting Henderson's new program, *TreesHenderson*.

The first tree planting was kicked off during Nevada Shade Tree Week in October 2009 at the Acacia Park Desert Demonstration Garden. Forty new species were planted creating a living collection of trees highlighted in *Trees for Tomorrow*, the homeowner's guide to selecting proper shade trees for urban Las Vegas.

Over 100 residents showed up to help plant the trees, contributing \$4,000 of in-kind labor. A total of \$676 received from the Nevada Division of Forestry and U.S. Forest Service were matched with \$10,414 of in-kind services, representing a 15:1 match. ↻

Nevada NRCS Conservation Financial Assistance  
During Fiscal Year 2009

FARM BILL PROGRAM	DOLLARS ALLOCATED	NUMBER OF CONTRACTS	PRACTICES PLANNED
Agricultural Management Assistance	\$379,550	5	25
Conservation Stewardship Program			
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	\$5,990,369	79	430
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program	\$470,556	13	105
Grassland Reserve Program	\$24,300	1	
Totals	\$6,864,775	97	560

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