



Lincoln County Conservation District
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Conserving our Resources; Conserving our Futures

November 2, 2022

Acting State Conservationist Suzy Daubert
C. Clifton Young Federal Building
300 Booth St., Room 2070
Reno, NV 89509

Dear Ms. Daubert,

Lincoln County Conservation District (LCCD) led a highly successful Local Work Group (LWG) meeting on October 4, 2022. We discussed the priorities the group wished to submit to the State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) and identified these resource concerns, and the order of their priority, based on the input received from the community in the 2019 Resource Needs Assessment conducted by LCCD.

1. Livestock and Wildlife Water Availability – Inadequate Distribution
2. Invasive Species including Plant Pests, Weeds, and Aquatics
3. Degraded Plant Condition – Undesirable Productivity and Health
4. Human Concerns
5. Habitat Degradation and Loss and Organic Matter Depletion

LCCD approved this letter at their November 1, 2022 business meeting. We request the STAC consider these resource concern priorities when making program and ranking decisions.

Attached please find a synopsis of the top identified resource concerns from Resource Needs Assessment findings in 2019. The order of the priority ranking was altered by the Local Work Group.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kelly Miller
Chair, Lincoln County Conservation District

1. Degraded Plant Condition – Undesirable Productivity and Health

- Too much wildfire
- Unregulated year-round wild horse grazing
- Drought
- Cheatgrass invasion on old burn areas
- Invasive species
- Overflooding on plant communities
- PJ encroachment
- Animal concentrations due to lack of necessary management facilities
- Limited water availability concentrating all animals causing compaction and vege impacts

2. Livestock Water Availability – Inadequate Distribution (AND WILDLIFE WATER DISTRIBUTION)

- Large areas have no natural water sources
- Reservoirs are unreliable, intermittent or seasonal
- Water hauls time consuming and costly
- Reservoirs subject to water quality concerns for animals due to soil properties
- Government water policies makes it difficult to install improvements
- Very dry nature of Lincoln County due to climate affects any type of management for any animal or humans and makes concerns of Priority 1 even worse

3. Invasive Species Including Plant Pests, Weeds, and Aquatics

- Cheatgrass invasion after fire
- PJ encroachment
- Noxious weeds in crops and along roadways and waterways
- OHV activity spreading weeds
- Aphids and grasshoppers in crops and on rangelands
- Ravens taking seed after planting and their effect on sage grouse
- Zebra and quagga mussels and milfoil in state park reservoirs and livestock reservoirs
- Salt cedar especially in White River and Meadow Valley watersheds
- Russian olive on waterways

4. Human Concerns (not the whole list)

- Increased vandalism of fences and waters
- Heavy OHV use affecting roads and stirring up dust
- Loss of way of life
- Changes in nature of community due to changes in land use
- Camping near water affecting all grazing animals
- Potential water extraction for Clark County
- Increase in proposed utility corridors could alter land use

Duplicate roads to same place

Change in land use due to breakup of previously large land holding into ranchettes

Big country is continually getting smaller and more restricted

5. Habitat Degradation and Loss and Organic Matter Depletion

Excessive wildfire for both concerns

PJ encroachment for both concerns

Invasive plants for both concerns

Plant communities converted to cheatgrass monocultures for both concerns

Excessive trampling around unfenced waters for OM depletion

Lack of wildfire or managed wildfire to reinvigorate vegetative communities for both concerns