



Lincoln County Conservation District

PO Box 445, Caliente, NV 89008

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May 21, 2024

Partnership Coordinator Chris Rose  
C. Clifton Young Federal Building  
300 Booth St., Room 2070  
Reno, NV 89509

Dear Chris,

When our vice-chair, Maggie Orr, met with the State Conservationist last month, Heidi suggested that we resubmit ideas and requests to the STAC that we had made previously but never received any word that they had been considered. I also include the letter we submitted in January of this year to keep our priorities on record for an upcoming STAC.

We request the STAC consider the concept of a new funding pool which would be for a group of people, not a geographic area. The group would be those producers who have small acreage, perhaps 40 acres or less, who need to do only a few practices to encourage conservation on their ground. In our experience, this group of people rarely get awarded contracts because they can't compete in the ranking because they have so few resource concerns and practices necessary. The Lincoln County Conservation District strives to address any and all resource concerns within our boundary, and we do not feel NRCS should overlook this group, just because the ranking process currently precludes them.

We also request that you consider these ranking criterial requests that we made in 2019.

Ranking criteria requests / suggestions requiring language development:

- if a person applies year after year and is rejected, then they receive higher ranking points. (denied once 3 points, denied twice 5 points)
- weighting projects so that projects that are more cost effective will receive higher ranking.
- a project should receive higher ranking if it addresses the three priority resource concerns.
  - "X" points if one priority resource concern is addressed
  - "Y" points if two priority resource concerns are addressed
  - "Z" points if three priority resource concerns are addressed
- speaking to neighboring producers to get their approval and support on a project would give some ranking points (possibly 3). A letter of support from neighbors would be required.
- giving higher points to producers who voluntarily pay more than the required cost share.
- higher points for combined projects.
- higher points for a project that improves a neighbor's resources as well.

2024 May Lincoln County Conservation District recommendations for the Nevada STAC

- Ranking points shouldn't look at whether the project is on private or public land; if we are going to work cooperatively, we should look at projects, not ownership.
- A local ranking question for proponents to review their plans and proposals with the Lincoln County Conservation District. (worth 25 points)

This letter was approved at the regular business meeting of the Lincoln County Conservation District on May 21, 2024. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

 5-21-24  
Kelly Miller  
Chair, Lincoln County Conservation District



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Conserving our Resources; Conserving our Futures

January 17, 2024

Partnership Coordinator Chris Rose  
C. Clifton Young Federal Building  
300 Booth St., Room 2070  
Reno, NV 89509

Dear Chris,

Lincoln County Conservation District (LCCD) led a highly successful Local Work Group (LWG) meeting on October 25, 2023. 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 and subsequent reordering of the priorities by the LWG.

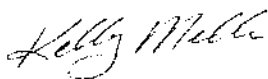
1. Livestock and Wildlife Water Availability – Inadequate Distribution
2. Invasive Species including Plant Pests, Weeds, and Aquatics
3. Degraded Plant Condition – Undesirable Productivity and Health
4. Human Concerns
5. Habitat Degradation and Loss and Organic Matter Depletion

Discussion at the LWG meeting and the November 2, 2023 Business Meeting of LCCD identified specific challenges we would like to address in Lincoln County. They include:

- Flooding, stabilizing watersheds and minimizing damage from flood events
- High feral wild horse numbers negatively affect all management
- Weed control, greater moisture and little BLM funding for weed control in 2023 dramatically increased weed infestations

LCCD approved the content for this letter at their January 16, 2024 business meeting. We request the STAC consider these resource concern priorities when making program and ranking decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Miller".

Kelly Miller  
Chair, Lincoln County Conservation District