



# Carson Water Subconservancy District 2025 Activities & Accomplishments



## **Our Vision**

**A healthy watershed  
that meets the water needs of all users.**

## **Our Mission**

**To promote cooperative action with communities to  
protect the Carson River Watershed.**

Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) strives to balance the municipal, agricultural, and environmental water needs of our watershed. We work with our watershed partners using an integrated watershed planning process to reach our goals of a sustainable, healthy watershed. To achieve this balance, CWSD integrates planning, coordinating, and management activities to support projects associated with floodplain management, river projects, water quality, water supply, invasive species, outreach and education, and recreation.



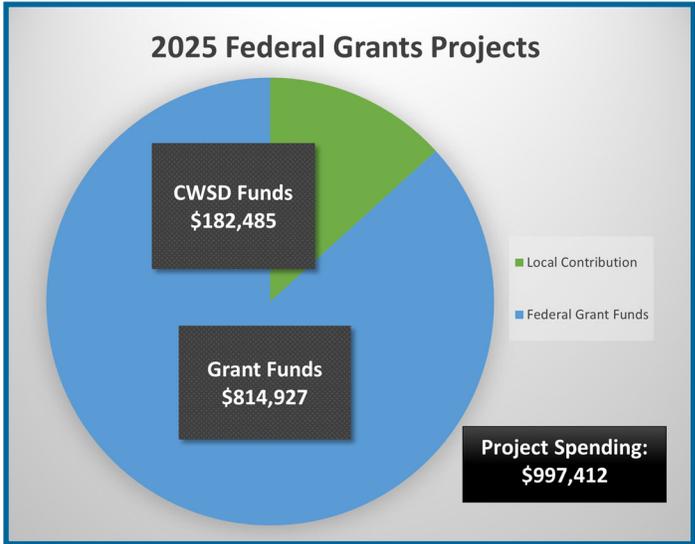
## **2025 Activities & Accomplishments are summarized as follows:**

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# Grant Administration

**CWSD leveraged Local funding 4:1 with Federal dollars. In FY 2025 staff administered grant implementation of the following regional projects totaling \$997,412.**



Grantor	CWSD Match Contribution	Federal Grant Funds	Total Grant Funds	Task
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP)	\$20,516	\$25,138	\$45,654	Quality Assurance Planning - Nonpoint Source (NPS) 319 (h)
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP)	\$92,065	\$150,016	\$242,081	Regen Ag WQ - Nonpoint Source (NPS) 319(h)
Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) Division of State Parks	\$43,915	\$136,194	\$180,109	Growing the Carson River Aquatic Trail Improvements Grant (Mexican Dam)
Nevada Division of Emergency Management (NDEM)	\$11,489	\$40,839	\$52,328	North Dayton BAC Study
Nevada Division of Emergency Management (NDEM)	\$9,500	\$51,104	\$60,604	30-Year Regional Drought Plan
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	\$5,000	\$411,636	\$416,636	Community Outreach & Mitigation Strategy (COMS), Round 2
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$182,485</b>	<b>\$814,927</b>	<b>\$997,412</b>	



# Carson River Coalition Watershed Coordination Program

The Watershed Program coordinates the CRC efforts relating to river rehabilitation, water quality, floodplain management, invasive species, recreation, and environmental education and outreach outlined throughout this document. Some 2025 Accomplishments:

- Managed grants for Clean Water Act Section 319, and the Nevada State Parks Recreational Trails Program (RTP).
- Organized quarterly CRC Working Group meetings for Outreach & Education, Floodplain Management, and Agricultural Producers.
- Brenda Hunt, Watershed Program Manager attended ***Integrating Natural Hazard Mitigation and Clean Water Act Planning and Project Implementation Workshop*** hosted by the ASFM, NAWM, and USEPA in Denver, Colorado. Staff continues to work with partners to implement nature-based solutions throughout the Carson River Watershed.
- Continued to use our ***I Am Carson River Watershed*** campaign assets (PSAs) throughout the year focusing on TV and radio using a combination of purchased and free airtime.
- Worked with Responsive Management to revise and conduct a follow-up survey of watershed residents to compare against our 2015 baseline survey. Results will be analyzed and available in Winter 2026.



### Activities conducted by CWSD in 2025 to facilitate a reliable water supply include:

- Funded 10 United States Geological Survey (USGS) Streamflow Gages on the Carson River.
- Funded USGS Water Level Data Collection throughout the watershed.
- Funded Churchill County Water Data Collection in Dixie Valley and Carson Desert GW Basin.
- Staff created an advisory report of water and sewer rates of the 13 major water purveyors in the Carson River Watershed.
- Staff reviewed and corrected State Engineers Groundwater Pumping Reports and Federal Water Diversion Records. (Ongoing)
- Created and presented the 30-year Regional Drought and Water Sustainability Plan for the Carson River Watershed. This plan was approved by the CWSD Board and will be presented to the water purveyors and stakeholders in 2026. Preliminary data from the USGS Upper and Middle Carson Models are utilized in this report. CWSD staff helped refine and address modeling errors to address in the official publishing of the USGS findings. These are estimated to be published at the end of 2026.
- Reported on and maintained Lost Lake operations.
- Ed James and Lindsay Budija participated in the NWRA Annual Conference and other NWRA events throughout 2025.
- Lindsay Budija was reelected to the NWRA Board of Trustees and Co-chaired the Northern Nevada Fall Symposium in Reno, Nevada. The Fall Symposium highlighted many of the projects happening in the Carson River Watershed. One of her main duties has been to plan and coordinate speakers for the January 2026 Conference.



## Activities conducted by CWSD in 2025 to facilitate effective water quality management :

- CWSD was awarded two USEPA/Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Clean Water Act Section 319(h) grants:
  - **Water Quality Planning Grant** to complete a Quality Assurance Project Plan to allow WQ sampling and monitoring at specific sites along the Carson River with the hopes of identifying sources of water quality impairments to help with future planning and mitigation efforts.
  - **Agricultural Soil Health and Water Quality Best Management Practices Grant** to implement return irrigation flow improvements, cover cropping, invasive species, virtual fencing and grazing management practices that improve water quality and soil health in the Silver Springs and Fallon areas.
- Worked with Alpine Watershed Group (AWG) and other partners on the geomorphology and sediment transport study and prioritization projects for the West and East Forks of the Carson River in Alpine County funded through Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, US EPA Clean Water Act Section 319(h) grants.
- Staff continues to be involved with partners working on planning and management of the two superfund sites in the Carson River Watershed.
- Staff continues to assist Carson City on the update of the Carson River Master Plan.
- Worked with US Forest Service, Alpine Watershed Group and multiple other partners to finalize Carson Hot Springs Management Planning on the East Fork Carson.



## Activities conducted by CWSD in 2025 to facilitate effective floodplain management:

- Debbie Neddenriep represented CWSD on the Board of the Floodplain Management Association (FMA) and as Co-Chair of Arid Regions for the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM). She initiated quarterly luncheons in Northern Nevada to reconnect floodplain management community post-Covid. Luncheon participants average about 25 attendees.
- Staff facilitated CRC Floodplain Management Working Group meetings.
- The [Flood Hazard Viewer](#) was updated in 2025 to include area drainage master plans completed by September 2025. This allows county staff and residents to view flood hazard maps that are not in regulatory flood maps.
- FEMA COMS1 funded floodplain and hazard mitigation projects concluded in late 2025. The projects included the Stagecoach Area Drainage Master Plan; Silver Springs Area Drainage Master Plan; Outreach and High-Water Mark Installation; Fish Springs/Pinenut Creek Culvert Study; and Flood Risk Analysis for Walker River. The period of performance included project outreach to community residents, and demonstrations of the floodplain model at community events and schools. Through this effort, 411 adults and 3,017 school children learned about flood risk and safety preparedness. The [2025 Carson River Watershed Floodplain Management Plan](#) (CRFMP) was also updated as part of COMS1. Staff presented the plan to most watershed planning commissions and to each county board for adoption. All six county boards in the watershed adopted the CRFMP. CWSD also used these CRFMP presentations to support

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Douglas County Stormwater Master Plan and its efforts to permanently fund this department.

- Staff participated in Douglas County and Carson City Hazard Mitigation Plan updates.
- Staff participated in update of the Carson River Master Plan in Carson City.
- FEMA COMS2 projects studying flood hazards are ongoing and will conclude in early 2026. Risk Communication and Safety Preparedness will continue until late 2026. Projects in this grant include Gold Canyon Area Drainage Master Plan; South Silver Springs Area Drainage Master Plan; Pine Nut Wash/Sawmill Wash, and Risk Communication and Safety Preparedness.
- Staff participated in the annual Nevada Flood Awareness (FAW) Week, Nov. 9-15, , 2025. Through FEMA COMS 2, funded Spanish radio and television ads on Univision / Entravision for the FAW and NevadaFloods.org campaign.
- Staff demonstrated floodplain model and discussed floodplain management plan update and the Douglas County Stormwater Master Plan at their Flood Awareness outreach event in November.
- Staff reported CWSD's efforts to reduce flood risk to Storey County, Carson City, and Douglas County in a report for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System.
- Staff administered and assisted calculations for a North Dayton Valley (NDV) Benefit Cost Analysis project. This project reviewed the feasibility of flood reduction structures recommended by the NDV Area Drainage Master Plan. This project and corresponding report findings are complete as of December 2025.
- Staff participated with Nevada's Floodplain Manager on the flood awareness communication team. This team met throughout the year to coordinate outreach to teach residents and students about flood risk and safety preparedness. This work culminated in the annual Nevada Flood Awareness (FAW) Week, November 9-15, 2025. Through FEMA COMS2, funded Spanish radio and television ads on Univision / Entravision for the FAW and NevadaFloods.org campaign. Staff demonstrated floodplain model and discussed floodplain management plan update and Emergency Preparedness at the Flood Awareness outreach event.
- Debbie Neddenriep was recognized by FMA with the 2025 Andy Lee Award for Extraordinary Public Service for State Activities.
- Edwin James was honored at the Nevada Water Resources Association Annual Conference in Reno with the 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his dedication and service to Nevada's water resources, his remarkable commitment and visionary leadership. See picture of Reed Cozens, President of NWRA present award to Ed above.



# Invasive Species

## Activities conducted by CWSD in 2025 to facilitate effective invasive species management:

- Distributed \$90,000 to CWMA's (Cooperative Weed Management Areas), Conservation Districts and Counties.
- Staff attended field trip to agricultural producer properties as part of the 2025 North American Invasive Species Management Association Conference.
- Coordinated with Cooperative Weed Management Areas to support invasive species management throughout the watershed.

# River Rehabilitation & Stabilization

## Activities funded by CWSD in 2025 to facilitate river restoration & stabilization included:

- Provided funding for the Carson Valley Stream Bank Restoration Projects.
- Provided funding for River Restoration Projects in Dayton Valley.
- Provided funding for Lahontan Conservation District for channel clearance projects in Churchill County.
- Staff continues to work closely with the Alpine Watershed Group on projects and programs in the upper watershed including updating the Carson River Adaptive Stewardship Plan, providing input and funding for the West Fork geomorphology and sediment transport model and prioritization plan, and input for a similar project on the East Fork.



## Activities conducted by CWSD in 2025 to provide outreach and education included:

- Staff planned, coordinated and hosted the annual [CRC Watershed Forum](#) March 3-4 at the Governor's Mansion. The event highlighted a variety of integrated watershed management projects and programs. The program included 25 speakers, with more than 50 people attending each day. The Forum provided an opportunity for a Carson River Master Plan stakeholder session on day two.
- Weekly e-blasts containing watershed-relevant information to 1100+ subscribers.
- Staff published the summer [Watershed Connections](#) digital newsletter, directly e-mailed to more than 1,000 subscribers and available online.
- Staff continued to use messages and videos from the "I Am Carson River Watershed" campaign in social media, with students, and for public presentations.
- Staff obtained CWSD funding for a watershed-literacy survey of Carson River Watershed residents as a follow-up to the original 2015 survey. The update, written and conducted by the 2015 team at [Responsive Management](#), included questions about the "I Am Carson River Watershed" campaign. Results are expected in early 2026.
- Increased CWSD digital and social media presence on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [cwsd.org](#), and [iamcarsonriver.org](#).
- Staff demonstrated different flood scenarios with the flood models at outreach and education events throughout the year. Over 500 adults and over 3,000 children learned about watersheds, floodplains, flood risk, flood preparedness, and flood



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safety at community and school events such as River Wranglers Conserve Carson River Workdays, Trout in the Classroom, Snapshot Day, Ag in the Classroom, and Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe Earth Day, Nights Out in Storey County and Carson City, Snapshot Day, and Carson City's Boonanza. Many of these events also included the Enviroscope, which illustrates the effects of non-point source pollution.

#### Activities conducted to support AWG Environmental Education Program in 2025 included:

- CWSD provided \$30,000 in funding assistance to Alpine Watershed Group (AWG) to support their programs.

#### Activities conducted to support RW Environmental Education Program in 2025 included:

- CWSD provided \$30,000 in funding to River Wranglers (RW) to conduct Conserve Carson River Workdays and \$10,000 to conduct flood risk communication in watershed schools. The RW Executive Director maintained partnerships with local schools and offered opportunities for students to increase their knowledge and understanding of water quality, environmental, and flooding issues in the watershed.
- Staff supports River Wranglers at many events demonstrating the effects of polluted runoff using the Enviroscope model at several watershed education and outreach events including Snapshot Day, Ag in the Classroom, and Tribal Earth Day events.



Mexican Dam Portage



## Recreation

- CWSD, in conjunction with Carson City and our contractor, completed the Mexican Dam portage project (see picture above) in December 2025. This project is partially funded by a grant from Nevada State Parks Regional Trails Program (RTP) (non-motorized) and includes signage, maps, and access to the Carson River Aquatic Trail which will continue to be implemented in 2026.

## Looking Ahead to 2026

CWSD will continue to work with federal, state, tribal, and local entities to leverage time and money through cooperative projects and programs. CWSD will continue to pursue federal and state grants to assist counties and local districts. As a regional district, our integrated watershed approach will continue to assist entities to maximize project benefits, mitigate challenges, and avoid duplication of efforts for the benefit of the Carson River Watershed.

CWSD will continue to coordinate the Carson River Coalition (CRC), a large stakeholder group

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# Looking Ahead to 2026

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comprised of staff members of federal, tribal, state, local government organizations, and the general public, that acts as a steering committee for the Integrated Watershed Planning Process. This stakeholder model continues to be successful as it provides the unique opportunity to work across multiple jurisdictions and share perspectives, as issues within the watershed often do not end at jurisdictional boundaries.

CWSD will continue to work with the CRC to update and implement regional plans to ensure ongoing federal and state funding is funneled to regional programs and projects. We look forward to continuing these efforts to complete the tasks ahead and promote cooperative action for the health of the Carson River Watershed. Less available funding in 2026 may impact our ability to complete the following anticipated work:

## Watershed Coordination

- Continue to work with the CRC to track, implement and plan updates to the Carson River Adaptive Stewardship Plan (CRASP) and web viewer/partner portal (funding dependent).
- Coordinate the Carson River Coalition and facilitate working groups.
- Host a CRC Carson River Watershed Management Forum and Get on the Bus Tour.
- Implement grant deliverables for Expansion of Carson River Aquatic Trail project.
- Utilize Watershed-Literacy Survey results to update Watershed -Literacy Action Plan and the "I Am Carson River Watershed" outreach efforts.
- Continue to train partners on CRASP web viewer and partner portal project uploading.

## Water Quality

- Implement scheduled tasks in both Clean Water Act Section 319(h) grants outlined in the Water Quality section.
- Conduct and implement a Clean Water Act Section 208 planning study focused on water quality improvements as recommended in the 208 plan.

## River Rehabilitation, Stabilization & Invasive Species

- Continue to fund Stream Bank Rehabilitation Projects throughout the watershed.
- Pursue funding for geomorphology, sediment transport study, and project prioritization plan for the Nevada portion of the watershed.
- Provide funding and support Counties, Conservation Districts and Cooperative Weed Management Areas efforts to combat invasive species.

## Floodplain Management

- Track floodplain management activities to maximize points for

community rating system (CRS).

- Manage FEMA Community Outreach and Mitigation Strategies (COMS 2) grant. Continue to monitor future CTP grant opportunities.
- Monitor and adapt to federal changes in FEMA.
- Participate ASFPM, FMA, and Nevada Flood Awareness Communications Team and Nevada Emergency Preparedness Association.
- Expand partnerships with local and regional planners.
- Attend meetings focused on flood mitigation and risk reduction, such as events held by NEPA and Silver Jackets.
- Work with CRC to implement suggested actions outlined in the Regional Floodplain Management Plan as adopted by each County.
- Continue to work on establishing an inventory of river structures and projects. Identify repository to hold information in a way that is searchable.

## Water Supply

- Continue to present findings of the 30-Year Regional Drought and Water Sustainability Plan to water purveyors and stakeholders.
- Continue to work with Alpine County to maintain CASGEM (California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring).
- Prepare the 2026 Water and Sewer Rate Report.
- Continue fund, report on, and coordinate maintenance of Lost Lakes.

**We look forward to another wonderful year of working toward a healthy Carson River Watershed!**

*Ed James, Catrina Schambra, Brenda Hunt, Debbie Neddenriep, Lindsay Budija & Kelly Nicholas*