



Long Range Plan 2012-2016

Updated July 13 2016

Revision April 3 2013



215 Executive Court, Suite A
Yreka, CA 96097
(530) 842-6121 ext.106
www.svrcd.org

History of the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District

The Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD) was formed in July of 1953 and reached its present boundaries in 1957. Under Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code, Soil Conservation Districts were originally empowered to manage soil and water resources for conservation. However, these powers were expanded in the early 1970s to include “related resources,” including fish and wildlife habitat. California now has 98 Resource Conservation Districts, most of which are funded largely through grants. Although a few SVRCDs throughout the state do receive limited funds through county property taxes, the SVRCD does not receive tax revenues.

Since 1988 the SVRCD has utilized over \$25 million in grant funds from a variety of public sources. These funds have been used to develop projects that focus on the improvement of fisheries and water quality in the Shasta River and its tributaries. Responding to the historical agricultural presence in the Shasta Valley, the SVRCD has worked with agricultural landowners and irrigation districts to implement voluntary restoration projects ranging from riparian fencing to upgrading diversions to provide fish passage and water delivery system upgrades that benefit the rancher, and the aquatic ecosystem..

The SVRCD and the Natural Resource Conservation Service

The SVRCD has a long and fruitful relationship with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The SVRCD provides guidance on developing local priorities and projects for the NRCS, assists in coordination and communication, provides education and outreach on NRCS programs to community partners and landowners, and reports on the technical and financial assistance needs. In return, the NRCS houses the SVRCD in its Yreka office, supports watershed planning and conservation efforts, provides technical and financial assistance and equipment loans to complete projects, coordinates federal NRCS programs with the SVRCD, and assists in the distribution of public information and conservation education activities. By working together and sharing resources, the SVRCD and NRCS are able to do more for local landowners and their communities. The SVRCD will continue to utilize and strengthen this relationship with the NRCS.

Funding and Structure of the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District

The SVRCD is a California authorized special district under the direction of an all-volunteer board. The SVRCD does not receive funding from local taxes and instead relies on a combination of grant, fundraising, and fee for service options to complete projects. The vast majority of funding currently comes from various grants. The SVRCD managed over \$15,000,000 in grant money from 2006 to 2011 alone.

The five non-paid, volunteer directors meet monthly and additionally as needed to direct projects and meet fiduciary responsibilities. As provided in Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code, Chapter 3, Article 7, Sections 9314 and 9316, the Board of Supervisors selects SVRCD board member appointments from a list of applicants that have demonstrated interest in resource issues.

The SVRCD’s Board consists of persons with backgrounds in agriculture, academia, geology and environmental sciences. This diverse Board allows the SVRCD to better serve the diverse population within its boundaries as well as address a wide range of resource issues.

2016 Governing Board

<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Start Year</i>
Chairman	William (Bill) Hirt	2005
Vice Chairman	Ryan Walker	2011
Directors	Chris Robertson	2011
	Rich Klug	2013
	Beth Sandahl	2015
Associate Directors	Stan Sears	
	Justin Sandahl	

Associate Directors serve under the board as technical and professional advisors. Candidates for Associate Directors indicate interest to the board and are appointed by the SVRCD Board. They must attend a required minimum number of Board meetings each year. Associate Directors cannot vote on actions taken by the Board, but their input is critical for making sure all Board members fully understand the issues under discussion and what their impacts might be.

2016 Staff

<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>
District Administrator	Karen Mallory
Project Coordinator	Ally Lutes
Monitoring Specialist	Brooke Mejica
Project Staff:	Ayn Perry
Project Support	Renee Casterline
Nursery Manager	Tammy Sullivan
Senior Project Coordinator (retired)	Dave Webb
Executive Director (on leave)	Adriane Garayalde

Currently, the District manages 14 open funding contracts and employs 6 part-time staff.

Service Area

The SVRCD service area includes the Klamath watershed and all its minor tributaries from the California State line near Keno to below Happy Camp, the entire portion of the Applegate River in California, the lower end of the Scott River, the entire Shasta River watershed, and the Siskiyou County portions of the Sacramento River watershed, McCloud River watershed and Fall River watershed. The District service area does not include municipalities.

Adjacent areas outside of the district may also be the site of projects if it is consistent with SVRCD goals, it will have beneficial effects on conditions within the district, and it funding is available.

Shasta Valley RCD Boundaries

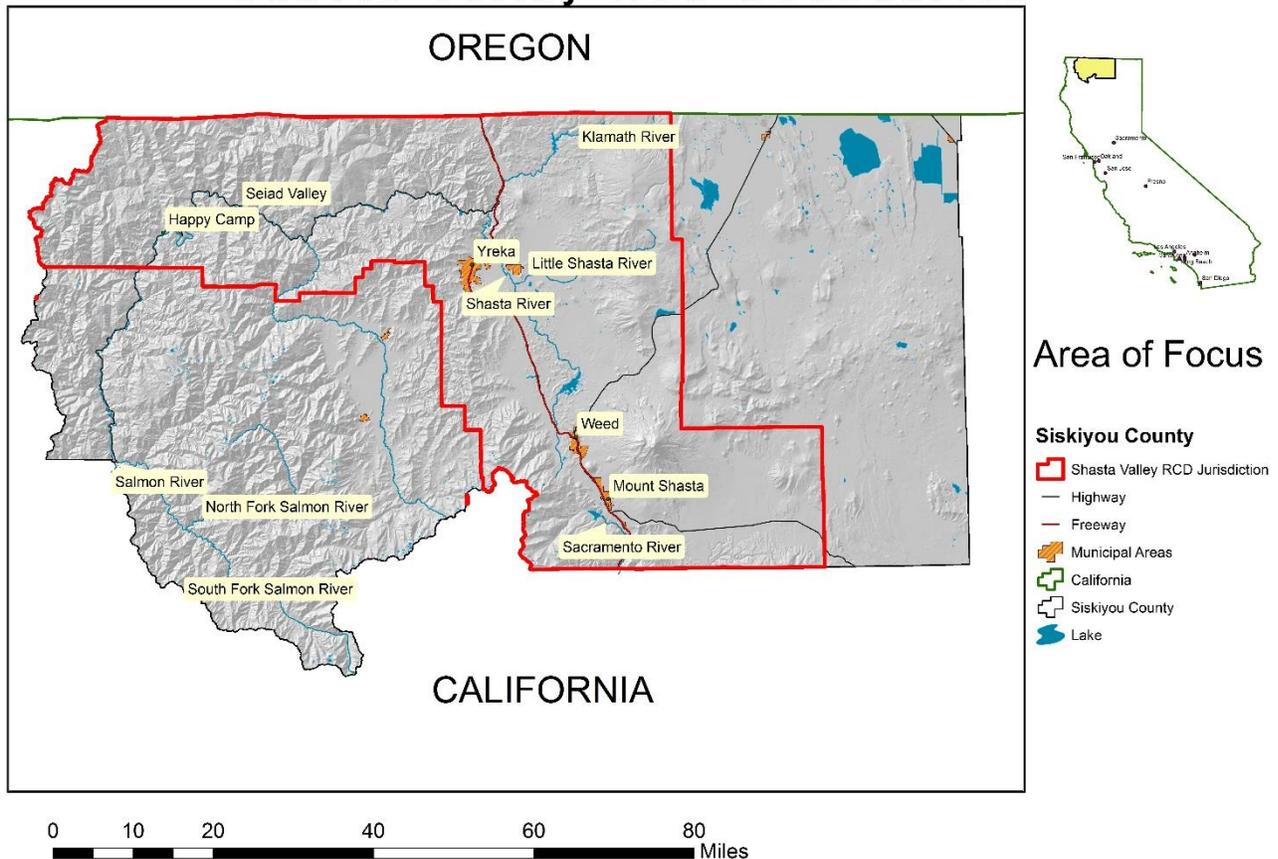


Figure 1: Map of the area served by the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District. Municipalities and other areas that are not shown on this map are outside of the District.

The service area of the SVRCD encompasses a diverse geography and climate, from high desert to alpine conditions. Within this geographic variability, natural resources remain a strong part of the economy of the region, both directly and indirectly. Excluding environmental government agencies, the natural resource based industries operating in Siskiyou County produce over \$235,000,000 for the local economy (Siskiyou County Economic and Demographic Profile 2009-2010).

Natural resource based industries are a large part of the cultural identity of the Shasta Valley. In Siskiyou County over 750,000 acres are devoted to agriculture, primarily for cattle and irrigated and dryland hay crops. Timberlands make up a sizable portion of the SVRCD service area. The top 15 largest employers in Siskiyou County include the Klamath National Forest, CALFIRE, and two industrial timber product producers. The Klamath National Forest and the Shasta-Trinity National Forest make up approximately 59% of lands in Siskiyou County, much of it within the SVRCD boundary.

Recreation is responsible for a sizable portion of economic activity. In addition to the national forests, tourists take advantage of several municipal parks and Castle Crags State Park. Because it

is within a day's drive from large metropolitan areas such as Sacramento and the San Francisco Bay Area, Siskiyou County benefits from seasonal influxes of people seeking relaxation and adventure that the area's aesthetic natural resources provide. Visitors enjoying these recreational activities contribute to the local economy through retail purchases.

Mission Statement

To work with interested landowners on a voluntary basis to enhance the management and sustainable use of natural resources in order to ensure the long term economic viability of the community.

Vision Statement

We believe that by working together with landowners we can help the people within the District to meet the environmental and economic challenges they face. We strive to bring a shared vision to the table for discussion, action and strive for a common purpose.

Value Statement

The Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District will approach all interactions with funders, partners, agencies and members of the public with professionalism, integrity, fairness, respectfulness and an open mind.

Project Types

The SVRCD board met in 2012 to identify and prioritize project focuses for the next five years. The SVRCD staff will pursue funding for and develop projects that fall under one or more of the following focus areas. Projects will be selected based on their capacity to help the district and improve the SVRCD's role, and/or its beneficial impact to natural resources, water quality and fish habitat in the Shasta, Mid Upper Klamath, Upper Sacramento and McCloud watersheds and financial feasibility based on available grant funding or fee-for-service.

The project types have been updated (6/16)

Small and Mid-sized Capacity Agricultural Support

The SVRCD will provide technical support and coordinate resources for projects that conserve natural resources, mitigate environmental impacts, or increase agricultural efficiency. These projects are intended to benefit agricultural producers that are otherwise unable to efficiently implement similar projects on their agricultural lands alone. In the future, this may include the acquisition of equipment for loan to small and mid-sized agricultural producers, coordinating among agricultural producers to reduce costs and offering monitoring, educational and other support services as needed.

Land Management Planning

For interested residential timberland owners and small agricultural land owners, the SVRCD will offer services and assistance in land management planning. This may include water quality planning on ranch lands and collaborative timber management plans for residential landowners. Land management planning projects will be conducted only on properties where the landowner has requested assistance from the SVRCD.

Assisting Groups and Agencies

The SVRCD is interested in assisting groups and agencies with relevant natural resource issues by providing technical support. Due to the independent role of the SVRCD, future efforts may focus on assisting natural resource individuals and groups to understand and meet regulatory requirements. Target regulations impacting people within the district boundaries include but are not limited to Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), timber regulations, fish habitat regulations and others. Assistance will be given to landowners on a voluntary basis only. The SVRCD will not participate in any form of regulatory enforcement. Where funding allows, and where potential impacts within the district may be considerable or by community or landowner request; the SVRCD may review proposed plans or regulations from state and federal agencies prior to enactment. The SVRCD will provide a technical opinion and a review of agency models to ensure they fit local conditions as much as possible. The SVRCD will serve as a neutral third party and assist the community to develop informed comments improving the understanding and dialogue between interested parties.

Forestry and Forest Management

The SVRCD recognizes the importance of timberlands and the timber industry in Siskiyou County. The SVRCD will focus on projects that improve forest health and fire resilience. Forest management projects may include work on non-industrial timberlands or via partnerships with large landowners such as the US Forest Service through Stewardship Contracts and community forest programs. In the future, the SVRCD may also acquire forest treatment equipment for SVRCD use and to loan to small non-industrial timber landowners.

Urban Conservation and Student Education

Building upon the success of projects like the Yreka Creek Greenway project, the SVRCD will focus on projects that restore, maintain and enhance open space in community areas that are easily accessible by the public. Youth education and outreach to schools will continue to be a priority for the SVRCD. Youth education projects include outreach to schools from elementary to college age students and members of local farming, ranching, and other youth organizations. The SVRCD will engage students and young people in the community through hands-on educational activities, presentations, and by using young volunteers in projects and outreach.

Monitoring

The SVRCD will continue to utilize technical skills in fisheries, water quality and water quantity monitoring in projects that develop inventories of relevant data on behalf of landowners and resource users. Such data can be used to help landowners make informed decisions about the use of their land, measure the effectiveness of water quality and water quantity improvement projects and inform the SVRCD on project areas. The SVRCD may also conduct workshops and loan equipment for individual landowners to develop their own monitoring programs. The SVRCD may develop a fee-for-service program to develop monitoring projects when grant funding is not available.

Invasive Species

The SVRCD will work with private landowners on projects with objectives to completely remove or mitigate the consequences of harmful, invasive plant and animal species. Projects regarding invasive species that cause harm to water quality, out-compete or destroy the habitat of native species. Projects involving the removal or mitigation of invasive species will likely involve

coordination, capacity building and outreach in attracting volunteer labor among the community and obtaining the required equipment and technical skills for the projects.

Public Outreach and Education

The SVRCD will make an effort over the next five years to become more engaged with other public service organizations and the public to enhance or develop partnerships and foster community support for projects. Outreach activities may include but are not limited to further public forums, presentations to discuss the activities, benefits and lessons learned from each project, and participation in the meetings of other organizations. SVRCD staff will develop an inventory of pictures and presentations for each project to have available for public meetings. The SVRCD Board and Staff will present information to other organizations, the public and at conferences to share project experiences and lessons learned.

Wildlife

The Shasta Valley has a rich and diverse wildlife community that corresponds with the great range of habitats found within the boundaries of the SVRCD. From the state listed Greater Sandhill Crane found in the irrigated pastures on the valley floor to the federally listed Coho salmon in the Shasta River, the Northern Spotted Owl in the forests of the mid and high elevation portions of the district and the grey wolf which now roams freely again throughout the county; many rare and common species alike call the Shasta Valley home. The SVRCD has always been willing to fully engage in the many facets of wildlife management in our district. We will continue to work with interested parties to encourage multi use strategies for private landowners who wish to protect and enhance this valuable natural resource.

Groundwater and CIGMA

The State of California is rapidly coming to grips with the present day challenges due to historic hands off groundwater management, through legislation and recommendations. (CIGMA = California Integrated Groundwater Management Act). Shasta Valley has a complicated groundwater signature, and other areas of our district including the Mt. Shasta area have a distinct character as well. Groundwater education and outreach has been one of our projects for several years, and one that we will continue as funding and interest allows. While some of our groundwater basins are well defined and monitored, others are still relatively unstudied. Impacts from the interconnected zones between surface and groundwater are also not well understood in our geologically complex area.

Stewardship Report

Working hand in hand with the State of California Water Quality Control Board and other partners, the SVRCD is leading the way in TMDL planning and implementation. Our Stewardship Report will catalogue past and current efforts as well as map out future plans for meeting or exceeding goals set in 2007 for the Shasta River TMDL.

Internal SVRCD Goals, Objectives and Strategies

The Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District is continually striving to improve its organizational structure. SVRCD board and staff have met to identify opportunities for organizational enhancement and strategies to meet those goals. The Shasta Valley staff has identified several goals and objectives that will streamline our functions and provide clear accountability to partner organizations, grant

funderson and the public. Over the next 5 years, we will implement the following strategies required to meet these objectives.

Goal 1: A solid and sustainable organization

The SVRCD will continue to operate with openness and a clear decision-making process to streamline projects, improve internal functions and provide accountability. Current operations will be improved by the development of protocols and plans that guide daily functions and communications, developing schedules for administrative duties, developing continued and alternative funding strategies, and increasing board interaction within the community.

Objective 1.1: Refine and Implement professional and efficient business practices.

Objective Strategies	
1.1A	Continue to track and update contract balances. Produce a contract use report.
1.1B	Update procedural manual for administrative tasks
1.1C	Develop an administrative calendar
1.1D	Develop guidelines for pre-project review timelines and protocols

Objective 1.2: Increase Funding Base

Objective Strategies	
1.2A	Develop fee-for-service options to provide SVRCD assistance to landowners outside of grant funded projects
1.2B	Track in-kind contributions monthly
1.2D	Continue to operate a sound financial organization with fiscal responsibility using budgeting and cash flow projections.

Objective 1.3: Effective communication

Objective Strategies	
1.3A	Produce periodic reports to be made available to the public, using available funds and time sensitive information

1.3C	Update SVRCD website to keep information current
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Goal 2: Effective projects that meet the needs of our district

The SVRCD will work with interested landowners, communities and organizations to realize mutually held natural resource conservation goals. The SVRCD will learn and grow with the community to develop projects that are relevant and beneficial to landowners working to use natural resources more effectively. Education and outreach will also facilitate interaction with the community by giving the public an understanding of the role of the SVRCD and how the SVRCD can be used as a tool to meet their objectives.

Objective 2.1: Effective Conservation-Oriented Projects

Objective Strategies	
2.1A	Develop new projects utilizing the guidelines of the Long Range Plan 2012-2016
2.1B	Continue outreach and educational efforts to the community
2.1C	Develop activities for and participate in community events that celebrate and strengthen the rural character of region
2.1D	Recognize the importance of sustainable agriculture, healthy aquatic resources, and fire safe forests to the culture and lifestyles of the region.
2.1E	Look for opportunities to stay relevant within the context of current political and agricultural realities.

Goal 3: Provide guidance and direction to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

The SVRCD and NRCS share a unique relationship. This is based on an annual Memorandum of Understanding. The NRCS has the technical and financial tools needed to implement some projects through the SVRCD and the SVRCD may serve as an interface within the community to determine what project needs are. The SVRCD will capitalize and strengthen this relationship with the NRCS.

Objective 3.1: Assist landowners with identifying potential NRCS funded projects.

Objective Strategies

3.1A	Make staff and Board members available when needed
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Objective 3.2: Assist NRCS with identifying funding needs through appropriate conservation programs within the District.

Objective Strategies	
3.2A	Make staff and Board members available when needed

Summary

The SVRCD will continue to work at the intersection of science and politics, custom and culture, focusing our efforts on working with private landowners helping them to both meet the changing demands they face, and assist them in efforts they wish to undertake to enhance the natural environment. In this sometimes difficult arena, we will strive to continue to provide accurate and balanced information and assistance on natural resource related topics.

Appendix A

Highlights of Accomplishments to Date

In the past, the SVRCD has been instrumental in completing several projects throughout the district. While not an exhaustive description of all the work of the SVRCD, the projects illustrated below provide a good example of SVRCD project objectives and the activities the SVRCD undertook to reach those objectives.

Araujo Dam Removal

The concept of the Araujo Dam project began in 2001, with actual implementation activities beginning in 2007. Activities consisted of the removal of a flashboard dam that had been utilized since 1857 to divert water for irrigation. In place of the dam, a boulder weir and pump station with fish screens was installed and nine miles of pipe replaced earthen ditches to transport irrigation water. This project utilized over \$2.5 million from nine separate funders.

The purpose of the Araujo Dam Removal Project was to improve irrigation water delivery efficiency for several ranches, while improving fish passages and improving in stream water quality by minimizing impounded water instream, by reducing reliance on the use of herbicides in ditches near the Shasta River, and by reducing irrigation tailwater return to the river. Through the project 30 miles of upstream habitat, previously impeded by the dam, were made more easily accessible to fish. The project included incentives to reduce the demand for water during the spring and fall irrigation season and reduce the amount of warm, nutrient-rich tailwater that returns to the river.

Shasta River Water Association Dam Removal

Along with the Araujo Dam Removal Project, SVRCD engaged in a partnership with the Shasta River Water Association and several other agencies, stakeholders and businesses, for another dam removal and irrigation system improvement. Project activities consisted of the replacement of a flashboard dam with the installation of two boulder weirs, the improvement of the irrigation system through the installation of variable speed pumps and the installation of several miles of piping to replace leaky irrigation ditches. At the point of diversion, a new, improved-design fish screen was installed to ensure that fish were kept safely in the river and were kept away from the apparatus. Project activities were completed by the winter of 2009. This project utilized over \$4.5 million from twelve separate funders.

Similar to the Araujo Dam Removal project, the purpose of these activities was to improve the ecological health of the Shasta River, while enhancing irrigators' ability to manage their ranchlands. Fish passage was improved as a result of this project. Improved water quality objectives include elimination of a large heat-absorbing impoundment, reduced oxygen demand, decreased sedimentation, reduced use of toxic chemicals in ditches and a reduction in warm, nutrient-rich tailwater while setting the foundation for reducing the amount of diverted river water. For ranchers, the objectives of this project were to improve water use efficiency and reduce the need for electrical power. All these factors contributed to more efficient operations and reduced the pressure to abandon ranching.

Fish Screens

The SVRCD has worked closely with agricultural landowners to install fish screens at irrigation water diversion points throughout in the district. To date 20 fish screens have been installed along the Shasta, Little Shasta and Klamath rivers and Parks, Yreka, and Seiad Creeks. By installing fish screens the SVRCD is reducing the risk of mortality to fish, including the endangered Coho salmon. Landowners receive the benefit of keeping fish out of their irrigation pumps and ditches while reducing their incidental impact to other aquatic species.

Shasta River Tailwater Reduction; Demonstration and Implementation (Tailwater I, II and III)

The SVRCD began this multi-faceted project in December of 2006. Project focus areas were developed through the use of LiDAR (aerial topography surveying) to define tailwater drainage areas. Tailwater quantity, quality and flow were measured at key locations for pre-project planning. These data were then used to develop tailwater flow models for the entire Shasta Valley. An extensive outreach effort was conducted to engage landowners and develop ranch-specific tailwater reduction project options. Using all this information along with landowner suggestions, the SVRCD developed a watershed-wide tailwater reduction plan with prioritized project areas on a landscape level and project guidelines to maximize the cost effectiveness of any projects developed. This planning effort now provides ongoing guidance for current and future tailwater reduction projects.

The Shasta River Tailwater Reduction Program is designed to improve water quality by reducing tailwater returns to the Shasta River. This was accomplished by improving water use efficiency for several landowners, thus reducing the amount of water they needed for irrigation. The riparian buffer project was designed to demonstrate how riparian zones can shade and cool remaining tailwater before returning to the river while providing the space to decrease nutrient loads. In addition, the SVRCD has worked with participating landowners to improve management of irrigation water systems.

Riparian Improvement Projects: The SVRCD has received multiple grants over the years for fencing, planting, stockwater systems and livestock management or exclusion tools for landowners.

Irrigation Projects: The SVRCD has received many grants for irrigation efficiency projects to assist landowners in improved application and control of irrigation.

Yreka Creek Projects

The Yreka Creek Restoration Implementation Plan was completed during February of 2010. This project was based in part upon earlier work funded by the Siskiyou County Resource Advisory Committee and awarded to the SVRCD in 2007. It facilitated the development of both the Yreka Creek Uplands Assessment and also the Aquatic Resource Needs Assessment. The two assessments documented baseline upland conditions regarding sediment delivery to streams, and identified instream fisheries resource needs respectively. The recommendations from these reports were combined with the City of Yreka's Ecological Storm Water Assessment to form the final Implementation Plan. This plan prioritizes potential projects for the restoration and enhancement of Yreka Creek, to be implemented as funding is secured.

More specifics regarding individual projects can be found within the *SVRCD Stewardship Report* or on our website at <http://svrcd.org>.

<u>Income</u>	July 1 2006 - June 30 2015		
Federal Grants	3,263,279.48	94,958.15	3,358,237.63
State Grants	10,994,348.52	162,558.96	11,156,907.48
Other Grants	393,217.26	53,629.81	446,847.07
Donations Received	18,389.31	250.00	18,639.31
Grazing Leases	118,274.57	0.00	118,274.57
State Mn Cost Reim	232.04	4,862.51	5,094.55
Tree sale	24,470.89	9,898.20	34,369.09
Workshop Income	300.00	0.00	300.00
Other Services	0.00	4,443.96	4,443.96
Misc Income	214,057.74	4,934.45	218,992.19
Total Income			15,362,105.85
<u>Expense</u>			
Contract Labor	9,481,501.46	0.00	9,481,501.46
Grazing Expenses	65,294.64	0.00	65,294.64
Loans	127,781.69	0.00	127,781.69
Operations	338,816.14	183,776.44	522,592.58
Personnel	3,671,850.12	221,716.89	3,893,567.01
Project Expenses	1,127,026.67	219.70	1,127,246.37
Reconcil Discrep	406.15	0.00	406.15
Total Expenses			15,218,389.90
NET INCOME			143,715.95