

DRAFT

Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District 2020-2025 Strategic Plan

Our Mission (From Website previously created)

To assist Sierra Valley private and public land owners with protecting property, economic viability, and agricultural values; by managing resources, particularly water quality and quantity; and to provide conservation education, technical assistance, and financial incentives through coordinated efforts.

Our Function (From Website previously created)

To make available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

Our Priorities (NEW from August 2020 meeting)

- ❑ **Agricultural Productivity and Profitability:** Support research and extension activities in Sierra Valley that will increase agricultural productivity and profitability, including crop diversity, forage varieties, soil health, water management, business operations and more.
- ❑ **Community Outreach:** Create options to promote and explain the livestock grazing and farming operations in Sierra Valley, specifically reliant on the watershed and irrigation system. This outreach and extension is especially important for local government, regulatory agencies, school children, visitors and new community members.
- ❑ **Drought:** Provide input to the USDA drought monitor to accurately reflect current climatic conditions in Sierra Valley. Support projects to quantify and define regional drought impacts on livestock grazing operations.
- ❑ **Invasive Weeds:** Initiate opportunities to assist ranchers in actively controlling invasive weeds to prevent spread, improve livestock forage values and enhance wildlife habitat.
- ❑ **Livestock Grazing:** Promote the use of livestock grazing as a land management tool to public and private landowners (e.g. U.S. Forest Service, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management) to enhance natural resources, reduce fire fuels and increase grazing capacity in the region to support livestock grazing operations.
- ❑ **Technical Assistance:** Continue providing technical assistance to Sierra and Plumas County Board of Supervisors, local government and landowners in Sierra Valley through on-site evaluations and consultations regarding agricultural topics such as livestock production, natural resources (e.g. water, soil health, and invasive weeds), Williamson Act, farming, and more.
- ❑ **Training and Education:** Host annual educational event for Sierra Valley ranchers on current topic of importance in the community. Provide communication on topics of importance, research, and events to Sierra Valley property owners and land managers through email communication.
- ❑ **Water:** Serve as a forum to bring together multiple stakeholders with oversight on water in Sierra Valley to support the continuation and profitability for agricultural production in the region. These stakeholders include, Sierra Valley Water District, Last Chance Creek Water District, Sierra Valley Ground Water Management District, and Upper Feather River Watershed Coalition.