



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

Jim Gibbons, Governor

Allen Biaggi, Director

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Administrator

2007 Wendell McCurry Excellence in Water Quality Award Presented to Chris Freeman

Chris Freeman is the recipient of the 2007 Wendell McCurry Excellence in Water Quality Award in recognition of his leadership and collaboration with Conservation Districts to protect and improve water quality and watershed health throughout Nevada.

The award was presented to Mr. Freeman by Allen Biaggi, Director of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and Tom Porta, Deputy Administrator of NDEP on November 6, 2007 at the annual convention of the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts in Winnemucca, Nevada.

Mr. Freeman retired from the Nevada Division of Conservation Districts in June 2000 after a distinguished 25 year career in State government. During his tenure throughout the 1990s, he ushered in a new era for the Conservation Districts of Nevada, promoted their empowerment and was instrumental in helping the Districts secure Nonpoint Source Program 319(h) and State funding to support watershed coordinators and water quality protection/restoration projects. He was the driving force for the concept of volunteer efforts on the part of CDs and local landowners. He also served as the state representative on the Sierra Front/Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council and was active in the Society of Range Management.

After retiring from the State, Chris has volunteered many hours of service and remained active in the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts (NvACD). He was elected to two consecutive 2-year terms as President of the NvACD from 2002 - 2006. He now serves as Vice President. During his incumbency, he has traveled to Washington D.C. on an annual basis to meet with our Congressional delegation to raise awareness of Nevada's natural resource needs and concerns and the important role conservation districts play in addressing these issues.

Other accomplishments include serving as the county appointee on the Nevada-Tahoe Conservation District board since 2002; serving on the State Conservation Commission Nevada Agriculture and Water Quality Group for the past two years; and sponsor and counselor of Range Camp for the past 23 years, providing hundreds of kids the opportunity to learn firsthand about the great natural resources of Nevada.

On July 1, 2007, Governor Jim Gibbons appointed Mr. Freeman to serve a four year term on the State Conservation Commission.