

## **Stewardship Alliance of Northeast Elko** **SANE**

The Stewardship Alliance of Northeast Elko, SANE is a collaborative, consensus based, local working group. In response to the potential listing of the GRSG under the Endangered Species Act, this rancher-organized initiative came together voluntarily in 2012 with state and federal management agencies to find allotment level solutions to landscape scale management. Developed from the ground up, the group strives to maintain the ecological integrity and the economic viability of the livestock operators on the SANE team.

The SANE member ranches and member agencies with regulatory and management authority represent approximately 1.7 mill acres of private and federal BLM and USFS lands. SANE is sheltered under the Northeast Elko Conservation District, NEECD, who serves as the group's fiduciary agent.

### **SANE Ecosystem Management Plan**

Three key components of the plan are:

1. The SANE group worked together to analyze and refine the 2010 FWS threat assessment to specifically apply to the 1.7 million acre SANE Plan Area.
2. Development of two goals that address a triple bottom line of ecological, economic and social cultural factors. The goals recognize the interdependence of these three pillars that support enduring success.

3. Development of a Technical Advisory Committee, TAC, of specialists who organized the project list, ranked projects according to what Sage grouse threat assessment was addressed, NEPA readiness, funding, ownership, scale of the project and water quality.

Project History: 2012-today, 86 of 117 projects completed.

Funding for SANE:

1. SANE landowner assessment on each allotments individual Active Preference AUMs
2. NDOW, BLM, USFWS and Intermountain West Joint Venture commitment for salary, administrative and operational costs for the organization
3. Funding requests were presented as a three-year request.
4. Future funding?

Where we are today?

In August of 2017, SANE hired Rainy Lawson, as Organizational Coordinator to build capacity of the organization, manage and assist in implementing the project list, and further represent SANE and maintain relationships with decision makers.

Why support a group like SANE?

There is a fundamental reason to support community-based conservation. It can work. Evidence of this can be seen in statewide initiatives in Utah, Oregon that appropriate funding through their legislature. Those dollars can then be leveraged into millions of dollars through partnerships with federal agencies to put conservation on the ground whether through Community Based Organizations Local Area Working Groups, or Conservation Districts.

In the mid-1990's Boies Ranch faced an imminent permit renewal with the BLM, we knew that we would face an appeal from Western Watersheds. We never took litigation off the table, but we chose to look at it as a last resort.

We made a choice to not be victim to the challenges we faced. We embarked on an unknown, no guarantees, proactive path of resource management that we hoped would lead to our being better resource managers while building a community of practice through a collaborative process. For us it has been a satisfying productive choice.

I will conclude by asking each of you, "What do you want Nevada to look like in fifty years, a hundred years? Do you want economically resilient rural resource based communities with family ranches still intact?"

Community based conservation might just be the pathway to that vision and goal. It just might be the fulfillment of a new social contract an addendum to the social contract that populated this country's western expansion through Manifest Destiny to the Homestead and Carey Acts.

The new frontier, the remaining frontier, is figuring out a way to work together in a manner that helps create a more civil society and reaches the common goals of a healthy environment and resilient rural economies.

### Conservation Funding Models from Surrounding States

Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative

<https://watershed.utah.gov/>

<https://wri.utah.gov/wri/>

# SANE Area Map

