



Landowner Incentive Program Quarterly Update



Number 2

April 2006

History of the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)

Nevada Department of Wildlife's (NDOW) Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) got its start in 2004 with \$544,500 awarded to the State through a competitive funding process. LIP grants are funded through Congressional appropriations and are administered through the USFWS. The focus of the Landowner Incentive Program is to provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners who wish to voluntarily manage their land to benefit sensitive and endangered species.

2006 Funding for the Nevada LIP

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the Request for Proposals for the 2006 round of competitive LIP funding to States in early March. NDOW submitted grant applications on April 25, 2005 requesting approximately \$600,000 for habitat preservation on private lands throughout the state. The focus of this year's grant proposal is to help landowners with technical assistance and on-the-ground financial assistance to preserve wildlife habitat for sensitive species. The 2006 grant focus areas include aquatic and riparian areas and regions where conservation agreements are focused. These areas include the recently approved Safe Harbor Agreement for Lahontan cutthroat trout. Please see the LIP website at <http://ndow.org/wild/conservation/lip/> and follow the link to read more about this opportunity. Safe Harbor Agreements provide regulatory assurances for landowners who voluntarily aid in the recovery of species listed under the Endangered Species Act. NDOW expects to hear sometime mid-summer if the funding request was approved. Regardless of project monies available, the LIP office will continue to work with landowners in providing technical assistance to preserve wildlife habitat, as well as locate outside funding sources to enhance habitat. Landowners are encouraged to contact any NDOW office for information.

NDOW and Private Lands What do they have in common?

NDOW knows that private lands often contain some of the most valuable wildlife habitat in the state, and through the voluntary cooperation of landowners, we can help re-establish, improve and maintain that habitat without economic impact to the landowner. Understanding the needs of wildlife populations and the property owner enable the LIP program staff to give technical assistance, provide funding, and arrange for labor to restore and protect vital wildlife habitats on private property. The program's focus is on wildlife species of concern throughout the State.

Project ideas/proposals are initially reviewed by the NLIP Coordinator and NDOW biologists to ensure they meet the minimum criteria for the program. The minimum criterion include: private land ownership, the ability to improve wildlife habitat for sensitive species anywhere in the state, potential success of

the project, etc. Proposals are then reviewed and ranked by a Ranking Team made up of NDOW biologists and representatives from other agencies and organizations, as well as a private landowner. The ranking criteria include, but are not limited to the

number of species protected, project is part of an existing conservation planning effort, and potential for success and monitoring of the project. You can view the ranking criteria on the LIP website.



Landowner Incentive Program Looking for Artistic designs for the New Landowner Sign !!

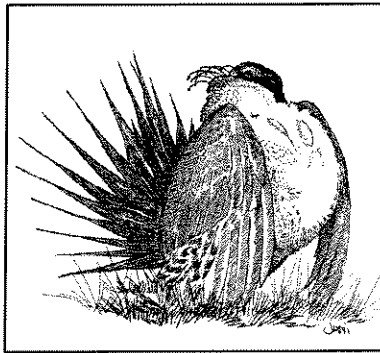
The LIP would like to provide partnership signs for cooperating landowners and we are looking for ideas as to color and critters that would be appropriate for the signs! If you are an artist, or know of one, we encourage you to solicit renditions for the LIP sign. These signs will be in color and large, about 2-3 feet tall by about 1.5 feet wide, with approximately 3-4 Nevada sensitive plant or animal species, such as Lahontan cutthroat trout, sage grouse, Amargosa toad, or any other non-game species. This is an example from another state.



EXHIBIT O-2 - LANDS
Document consists of 2 pages.
Entire Exhibit Provided
Meeting Date: 04-28-06

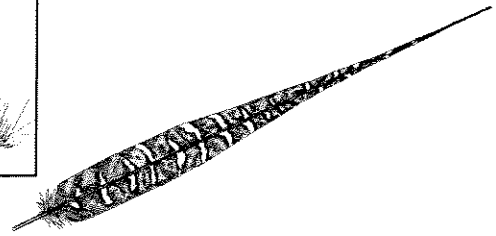
In the News.....

A new report, titled ***Habitat in Agricultural Landscapes: How Much is Enough? A State-of-the-Science Literature Review***, by Kristen Blann and published in April of 2006 states that: "the 500 million acres of U.S. land in farmland landscapes harbor a substantial portion of plant and animal species. Agricultural lands in many cases provide more suitable habitats for native wildlife and birds than do fragmented and extensively modified urban or



suburban lands. Such lands often serve as a buffer between natural areas and more highly altered landscapes, providing food, cover, and breeding habitat,

enabling movement and exchange of plant and animal populations".



For information about this report, call the LIP office in Elko at 775-777-2392

✂ Private lands Species Highlight ~~~~~ Long Billed Curlew ✂

The long-billed curlew, the largest of all North American shorebirds, has been declining and is considered a highly imperiled species. State Wildlife Grants have been used to study how agriculture has benefited the long-billed curlew by providing good habitat. This research led to the recognition that Nevada's ranchers have played an impor-

tant stewardship role in maintaining the longbilled curlew. Continued investment of State Wildlife Grant funds and the NDOW Landowner Incentive Program will help to ensure the long-term health of the species and cement Nevada's significant stewardship role in management efforts. Long-billed curlews nest and forage in wetland meadows and

use flood-irrigated agricultural lands extensively for foraging, as well as during migration. These birds nest quite often in native hay meadows and pastures, particularly along river floodplains and wetlands or lakes. Long-billed curlews feed on insects and terrestrial or aquatic invertebrates.

Recommended conservation Actions for the Long Billed Curlew

- Manage livestock on lowland floodplain pastures to retain patches of eight inch stubble height for the nesting season from May 1 to July 15.
 - Adopt grazing strategy on irrigated pastures to include stubble heights of less than eight inches with scattered patches of residual, taller vegetation from May 1 to July 15.
 - Consider incentive programs to fence wetland meadows and native pastures adjacent to wetlands.
 - Incorporate grazing, irrigation, and harvest rotation systems to allow rest of specific pastures for curlew nesting. When possible, delay hay cutting until July 15.
 - Restore wetland meadow habitats by controlling the
- until July 15.
- Restore wetland meadow habitats by controlling the elevation of the water table and controlling invasive brush on wet soils.
 - Delay irrigating and cutting of meadows in this habitat type

