



EASTERN NEVADA LANDSCAPE COALITION

LANDSCAPE NEWS

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4TH ANNUAL FIELD TOUR IN THE HISTORY BOOKS

ENLC held its Fourth Annual Workshop and Field Tour on June 20 and 21st. Over 100 people participated in the workshop on Friday and almost 60 diehards spent their Saturday on the field tour. The purpose of this event is education and collaboration. This year's participants had multiple opportunities to provide collaborative input during the meals, in between speaker sessions at the workshop, at the tour sites and on the buses used for the field tour. ENLC received a great deal of positive feedback about the use of buses for the field tour.

The speakers for this year's workshop were outstanding. BLM State Director Bob Abbey talked about the Great Basin Restoration Initiative and how the Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project is a key component of this Initiative. Abbey called ENLC the institutional vehicle that drives the ENLRP. He noted that members of ENLC are contributing time and demonstration leadership in helping citizens become better informed about their public lands and the actions that are required to assure their long term sustainability. Mike Pellant, Great Basin Restoration Initiative Coordinator for the Bureau of Land Management also talked about the Great Basin Restoration Initiative and the importance of community based partnerships in accomplishing this Initiative.

If you are interested in the abstracts of all of the workshop speakers please go to our website envlc.org. Here are a few highlights from some of the speakers

Lani Malmberg of Ewe4ic Ecological Services entertained and educated the workshop participants with her slide presentation about using goats for weed management and control across the West. Malmberg noted that weeds are symptoms indicating that there are underlying problems on the land due to natural or man-made stresses. She said restoration using goat grazing addresses the underlying problem of land health. Undesirable plants are merely recycled to natural fertilizer and scattered back on the desired plants. (Cont. Page 2)

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition is to restore the dynamic and diverse landscapes of the Great Basin for present and future generations through collaborative efforts.

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EXHIBIT **F** Lands Document consists of **8** pages
 Entire document provided.
 Due to size limitations, pages ____ through ____ provided.
A copy of the complete document is available through the Research Library
(775-684-6927 or e-mail library@blm.state.nv.us)
ing Date **10/20/03**

4TH ANNUAL FIELD TOUR
(Continued from Page 1)

Sid Goodloe, a rancher and range scientist from New Mexico, spoke extensively about what he has learned through 45 years of applied science on his ranch and neighboring ranches. He has conducted extensive projects removing juniper and restoring the native grass and shrubs. He also discussed the importance of rangeland condition to a properly functioning watershed and how this is now becoming a focus of concern throughout the world. The primary focus on the proper functioning condition of watersheds is driven by the increasing demand for water and the continuing decline of water production capability of the rangelands.



Sid Goodloe, rancher and range scientist.

The final speaker of the day was Dr. Charles Kay from Utah State University. Dr. Kay's talk focused on the decline of aspen stands throughout the west with some specific sites in Northern Nevada highlighted in his presentation. Kay stated that, it is thought that environmental conditions have not been conducive to seedling growth and clonal establishment since shortly after the glaciers retreated 10,000 or more years ago. Hence, aspen clones found in north-central Nevada today have likely maintained their presence on those sites for thousands of years via vegetative regeneration: i.e. root sprouting.



Betsy Macfarlan, ENLC Executive Director, talks with Marta Agee, Alamo rancher at first stop on the filed tour.

State Director Bob Abbey also presented Gene Kolkman, Filed manager of the Ely BLM District with a Senatorial Certificate award from Senator Ensign. The certificate recognized Gene for the award he had recently received from the BLM for his efforts in getting the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition off the ground.

Saturday's portion of the weekend included three tour stops, two ecological stops and a historical stop at the Ward Charcoal Ovens. The first stop was at the foot of Ward Mountain in the heart of the Ward Mining District. The purpose of the stop was to discuss the health of the site which is dominated by Pinyon and Juniper. Tara Forbis, of the Nature Conservancy, had run some vegetative transects in the area and she lead the discussion. One interesting point that was noted was the site was located in the mining district which had basically been cleared of all trees in order to make charcoal during the height of the mining period.

The final stop of the day was on Robison Summit to observe the recovery since the Robison fire four years ago. The discussion was lead by John Hiatt, Barry Perryman and Gary Medlyn. The participants noted in the areas where there had been more shrub and grass ground cover there was limited cheat grass and very healthy stands of native grasses, shrubs and forbs.

In the areas which had been covered by junipers the recovery was much slower and was dominated by cheat grass. They discussed the differences in fire temperatures and also the magnitude of restoring this part of Nevada.



Pat Irwin, Forest Service Ranger for Ely, takes the microphone to make a point about fires and the magnitude of restoration challenges, during the Robison Pass stop.

With the Fourth Annual Field Tour and Workshop in the history books the ENLC staff is already beginning to plan the fifth annual workshop. The 2004 workshop is scheduled for Friday, June 11th. The workshop will be held at the Bristlecone Convention Center. Currently the workshop and tour planning committee are discussing the advantages of holding another tour versus actually working on a restoration project during the Saturday portion of the weekend.



Dr. Barry Perryman, UNR, and Don Phillips, Ely rancher, listen to a question during the Ward Mountain stop.

Agreement Goes A Long Way Toward Restoration Goals

Landscape restoration efforts in eastern Nevada are being made easier because of an assistance agreement signed by the Bureau of Land Management and Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition.

The coalition views this agreement as a tremendous opportunity to help facilitate BLM restoration efforts through labor and matching private funds, Betsy Macfarlan, executive director for the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition (ENLC), said Wednesday.

This agreement will help the BLM and coalition to improve and maintain landscape health in eastern Nevada, said James Perkins, BLM Ely Field Office assistant field manager for renewable resources.

The five-year agreement, signed in early July will help to facilitate partnerships, further research, and help the public to better understand the need for landscape restoration throughout the Great Basin, explained Macfarlan.

Macfarlan said that to implement much-needed projects under the banner of the Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project, the ENLC previously operated under an assistance agreement between the BLM and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, an ENLC member. She said the newly signed agreement allows the ENLC to propose and help seek funding for projects by itself.

Macfarlan said the BLM will review and approve any proposed projects and, if applicable, provide funding. The BLM would also provide project oversight, she said.

Macfarlan said the agreement goes a long way toward helping further community-based involvement in landscape restoration efforts.

We view this as a model that other non-profit organizations and federal land management agencies can use to further restoration efforts throughout the western states, Macfarlan said. There has been a great deal of interest throughout the west in how ENLC and RMEF have been conducting business with the Bureau of Land Management. We are very proud to be on the cutting edge of a new wave of partnerships between the federal government and private organizations designed to facilitate restoration of ecosystem health.

ENLC Welcomes New Associate Field Manager

The Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition extends a warm welcome to Stephanie Connolly, the new associate field manager for the Ely Field Office. Stephanie joined the Ely office in March and it was immediately apparent that she would be a huge asset to the district. One of her first tasks, that involved ENLC, was she was placed in charge of shepherding ENLC's assistant agreement through the final phases of the agreement process.

Stephanie arrived at the BLM through a slightly different than normal process. She spent the first eleven years of her career with the Forest Service. She left the Forest Service to accept a position as county planner for Washoe County. After several years in the Reno area,



*Stephanie Connolly, Associate Field Manager
Ely BLM District*

she and her husband decided they were tired of the traffic and commute and as a result she put in for the Ely position.

We are very fortunate to have someone of her caliber and enthusiasm working with the Coalition and for the Ely Field Office.



ENLC New Member of CESU

The Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition is the newest cooperator of the Great Basin Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit. On May 13th the CESU members voted ENLC in as a new cooperator. As a cooperator ENLC is expected to play an important role in projects related to Eastern Nevada. ENLC can potentially participate with the CESU institutions on various projects, including data collection efforts, educational programs and developing needs assessments.

The CESU is a partnership of universities, federal agencies and other cooperators established to conduct research, educational programs and promote technical assistance on a variety of issues pertaining to the Great Basin ecosystem.

The CESU is made up of the following colleges and universities: University of Nevada, Reno (Host), University of Nevada Las Vegas, Oregon State University, Utah State University (Senior Partner), Great Basin College, Desert

Research Institute, University of Utah, White Mountain Research Station U.C. San Diego, Idaho State University, D-Q University and Haskell University.

The federal partners include Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Geological Survey and the National Park Service.

ENLC Science Committee Charter

MISSION: The mission of the ENLC Science Committee is to provide scientific support and advice to planning efforts and actions affecting natural resources within the Great Basin. In particular, the ENLC will initially concentrate upon eastern Nevada as part of public participation and input to federal land agencies, as well as advice to private landholders. It is anticipated the result of this participation will be the blending of the theory and application of science with the practical application of management tasks in restoration efforts.

PURPOSE: The Science Committee serves as an agent (at the pleasure) of the ENLC Board and within the confines of the ENLC Mission. The Committee will make recommendations and evaluations of scientific situations

and needs for management and restoration efforts to achieve the Mission of the ENLC. The Committee's primary purpose is to provide support in reaction to requests and ENLC recognized needs of land managers in the Great Basin.

COMPOSITION: The Science Committee is composed of individuals with a scientific background from academic institutions, conservation organizations, representatives of agencies and membership of the ENLC. There will be a strong collaborative effort between the Science Committee and the Bureau of Land Management's Ely District and the BLM State Office to produce the best science for the BLM's planning and restoration efforts. A list of members with their expertise will be kept at the ENLC office.

MEETINGS: The Science Committee will hold irregular meetings as determined to be necessary by the Committee to discuss issues, research proposals or other matters involving the land and landscapes of the Great Basin. Scientific and management issues, actions and questions will be discussed or studied as needed and requested to assist the Ely District Office of the BLM, and other federal and state land management agencies, to better understand the scientific basis, or lack thereof, of management alternatives, actions, issues or ideas. This is intended to result in the best science being used in crafting land management decisions.



How I Spend My Nights Chasing Chickens With A Butterfly Net — Grouse Galore!

By Larry Johnson

I ve had a love affair with sage grouse ever since the golden eagle diving at warp speed chased the entire brood of half grown chicks into my antelope archery blind! Things got very crowded and action-packed for those few seconds. Some other fond memories revolve around flocks coming to isolated water holes before first light sounding like F-18s on straffing runs in the dark. Sagehen are a lot more vocal and have much more character than most folks are aware.

It is with great alarm that we witness the sage grouse being used as a pawn in the game of power and control of our public lands. Radical environmental groups have filed petitions in attempts to list the sagehen as threatened. When petitions fail, lawsuits will follow. Their goals are quite transparent remove grazing and restrict the rest of us who use public land. Western states have responded by forming task forces

and developing habitat plans to show the Feds that varied interests can work together to stem the decline of the sage grouse across its range.

The problem is complex including; loss of habitat from fire and development, change of habitat from land management policies, and increased predation. Little was actually known about the patterns, cycles, nutrition, and health of the sage grouse until recently but now the scramble for knowledge is on.

Years before the sage grouse became controversial, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited began funding research through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Oregon State University on the Sheldon Antelope Range and Hart Mountain. USFWS Biologist Mike Greg has been the lead researcher and will soon complete his doctorate on sage grouse. Years of radio collaring, telemetry surveys, blood sampling, nutritional and DNA analysis, chick survival, and mortality studies are nearing closure. It has been our nearing closure. It has been our pleasure to



Larry Johnson and friend.

actively participate in studies with both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and NDOW. A few of us lucky ones get to run around all night in the pitch black with a spot light and net all in the name of science of course! The accompanying photo doesn't do justice to the fun we've had. And maybe, just maybe the answers to maintaining and enhancing sage grouse populations will follow.

ENLC Active in Watershed Assessment Data Collections

ENLC is actively participating data collection on four watersheds in eastern Nevada. The plant cover data which ENLC began collecting in early June will be used by the BLM to help assess the health of these four watersheds. According to a Nature Conservancy survey, all BLM districts are supposed to be using watershed assessments to evaluate the landscape health, but the Ely Field Office is one

of a limited number that are currently using this methodology.

Dr. Lee Turner formerly of Colorado and Sydney Matheson of Lund, Nevada are conducting the cover assessments on the Gleason Creek, North Antelope, Smith Creek, and South Steptoe watersheds. In addition to collecting the data, Dr. Turner will develop maps of the various dominate vegetation types and do

some preliminary analysis of the data. The preliminary results of this project will be provided to the BLM for further analysis and use in the EIS/RMP the BLM is currently working on.

Looking for an unusual gift? How about signing a family member or an organization you support as an ENLC member? Please feel free to use the membership form on the following page.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

BUSINESS/
ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____

CELLUAR _____ EMAIL _____

WEBSITE ADDRESS _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:

<i>Student (enrolled in school)</i>	<i>\$15</i>	_____
<i>Individual</i>	<i>\$25</i>	_____
<i>Associate Restoration Partner and/or Nonprofit Organization</i>	<i>\$100-999</i>	_____
<i>Corporate</i>	<i>\$250</i>	_____
<i>Lifetime Restoration Partner</i>	<i>\$1,000 and above</i>	_____
	Total	_____

Lifetime Restoration Partners, please indicate if you would like to be recognized on a specific project.

Yes, I would like to be recognized on a specific project. Please contact me to discuss the current projects. _____

No, I do not wish to be recognized on a specific project. _____

Membership Updates

ENLC welcomes our new members. Since the May issue of the newsletter our membership has continued to grow. We want to thank all of these individuals, businesses and organizations for their support.

Lifetime Restoration Partner

Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn

Associate Restoration Partner

Bath Lumber Co.

Robert L. Bobbett, Jr.

Alan de Queiroz and Tara Forbis

Forest Rehab — Don & Fran Peterson

Friends of Nevada Wilderness

Chris & Miya MacKenzie

Nevada Land Conservancy

Steptoe Ranch — Don & Sheila Phillips

Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club

Lee Turner

Corporate Restoration Partner

John Uhalde and Company

Individual Member

Marta & Dirk Agee - Sand Springs Ranch

Joseph Anderson

Jim & Donna Bath

Dennis M. Bramble - University of Utah

John Breitrack

F.E. Busby - Utah State University

Mike Carter - Rocky Mountain Elk

Foundation

Tony Dietz - Nevada Division of Forestry

Brent & Linda Eldridge

Bruce Eldridge

Dennis & Mary Eldridge

Gordon & Nancy Eldridge

John & Sharon Falen — John Falen Livestock

Tom & Patsy Tomera - Stone House Ranch

Patricia Irwin - USDA Forest Service

Dan Jacquet — BLM Carson City Field Office

Kory Kulinsky

Stephen Mellington

William & Connie Mull

Tina Nappe

Barry Perryman

Lucas Phillips - USDA Forest Service

Maria Ryan

Todd Sajwaj

Cindy Salo - U.S.G.S.

Mary Jo Simpson

Zeke Stanton - Nevada Division of

Forestry

Art R. Talsma - The Nature Conservancy

Robin J. Tausch

Tri County Weed Program

John & Linda Weisser

Student Member

Sydney Matheson

Wanted: A Few Good Restorationists!

The Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition is looking for a hardy crew of volunteers willing to work hard (and have fun) on various restoration projects.

We plan to create an e-mail list of people interested in riparian restoration work, aspen restoration projects, and upland rehabilitation. The goal is to build a list of volunteers who would be on call to help with restoration projects. Once we get this e-mail list built, we plan to e-mail out to interested parties whenever we have a project and use this method to line up volunteer crews.

If you want to be on call for restoration work, please contact Mindy at mindy@envlc.org.





**EASTERN NEVADA
LANDSCAPE COALITION**

**PO Box 150266
Ely Nevada 89315
Phone 775-289-7974
E-mail enlrp@idsely.com**



Check out www.envlc.org

**USING THE USES FOR
MANAGEMENT.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| August 8 | Fraternity of the Desert Big Horn Annual Banquet, Stardust Hotel, Las Vegas
For more information, call Bill Vasconi at 702-645-4265 |
| September 20 | National Public Lands Day |
| October 15-16 | Nevada Weed Management Association Conference
Stockman s Hotel, Elko. Registration now available
Call Larry Hughes at 775-782-9835 |
| November 6-8 | Nevada Farm Bureau Convention, Winnemucca
775-738-9214 |
| November 19-21 | Nevada Cattlemen's Asscoiation 68th Annual Convention
John Ascauga's Nugget, Reno. 775-738-9214 |