



territory

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special places, people and events ~ brought to you by Nevada Land Trust

Fall 2014 · Volume 16 · Issue 2

Protecting Habitat and Preserving Access in the Sierra

Ash Canyon Project Added

by Alicia Reban

Nevada Land Trust conducts an assessment on every new project opportunity to ensure that limited staff resources and precious donor contributions are used wisely and deliver the biggest conservation return possible. NLT's new Ash Canyon project checks most of the boxes on the inventory portion - from wildlife and water, to history, public access, and location next to other protected lands. Located high above Carson City, these 45.5 acres include the main access route to the east side of Lake Tahoe State Park and the parking area for Hobart Lake.

"It's a beautiful place to ride and hike," says Michael Tristram, an avid hiker, biker, equestrian, and member of Nevada All-State Trail Riders, "and it's critical that we protect it. Access from the east side is so limited, and too much has been lost over the years. People don't want to have to drive for miles before they can even start to hike or ride. They want to get up there and get going," she adds, emphatically.

The land contains a significant meadow complex, and includes dramatic granite outcroppings and mixed pine and fir forest with stands of aspen at an elevation of 8,000 to 8,500 feet. "The meadows here are part of a unique wildlife corridor," reports NLT's Chuck Pope. "These animals move from meadow to meadow. It's their pathway, and we need to protect all the links for it to work."

The area is home to an impressive 170 species of birds, including the Mountain Willow Flycatcher, hawks, and eagles, and falls within Nevada Audubon's Important Bird Area in the Sierra. Seventy species of mammals, from black bear and mountain beaver to the Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare and pine marten consider this land part of their home range. It's also prime habitat for numerous amphibians, such as the endangered yellow-legged frog.

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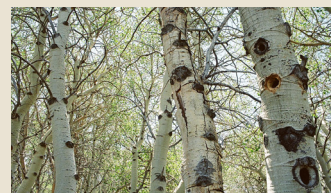
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Thoughts from the Executive Branch

by Alicia Reban



"Friends, you and me...you brought another friend...and then there were three...we started our group...our circle of friends...and like that circle...there is no beginning or end." - Eleanor Roosevelt

Circles. Of life, of friends and family, of seasons, of project cycles. Seems to be a theme for me of late, on every level. We've said goodbye to some dear friends at NLT - to Annaliese Odencrantz, Gene Sullivan and LeRoy Pendleton - generous souls gone, but not forgotten. Chuck and I have shared well wishes with agency partners who are retiring - most recently Carson City's Juan Guzman who turned us loose to secure 3 miles of Carson River frontage last year. We welcome Ann Bollinger's appointment as Carson's new Open Space Administrator.

Geographically, our circle has expanded to take in more of Nevada at the same time we're committing ourselves anew to stellar projects in our backyard. We're tying up loose ends on the Tahoe Meadows acquisition (thank you all for helping!), and moving other projects to the front burner. Chuck and the projects staff are working on some exciting acquisitions along the Sierra Front and taking the fight against invasive weeds to a new level. We're coming home to the Truckee River - having been asked to shepherd a comprehensive initiative we're tentatively calling *One River* to bring together people and agencies to actively plan for the future of this lifeline in all sectors of the community - beyond single projects and jurisdictional boundaries.

The circle of support for Nevada Land Trust is growing as well - from vital new members at the \$35 level to a \$100,000 pledge from a fund holder at the Community Foundation of Western Nevada for the Jobs Peak Ranch project. Our board is reaching out to other leaders across the region to engage them in the work of NLT. We've been having exciting conversations with individuals and couples around legacy gift planning - so that they can continue to influence the things and places they care about long after they're gone. I've had a chance to visit recently with Senators Heller and Reid to ask for their support in making a conservation easement tax incentive permanent, which will benefit ranchers and others who want to protect their land by providing additional assistance.

Changes are coming to the Banff Mountain Film Festival, as we bid adieu to the Nugget and the generosity of the Ascuaga family over many years, and move everyone's favorite film evening to the Pioneer Center in April. And, in an effort to keep rolling ever forward, NLT's board and staff will gather in early winter to look closely at how we can do an even better job of conserving the special places and open spaces of Nevada as we launch a strategic visioning and planning process to chart our course over the next several years.

I was fortunate to be able to head out to Baker this past July, to spend time with Dave and Roberta Moore and explore ways in which we could ensure their original vision for NLT's David E. Moore Bird and Wildlife Sanctuary will stand in perpetuity.

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Front page photo: Ash Canyon by Taylor Gipe

territory is printed semi annually by Nevada Land Trust. Issue Date: Fall 2014

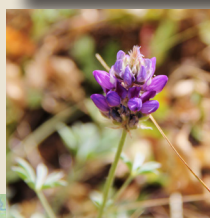
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Thanks to a \$250,000 grant award from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Desert Terminal Lakes Restoration Fund, NLT is now focused on raising matching funds to complete the acquisition. "We are engaged with our partners at Nevada State Parks and Carson City, and we're beginning to approach private donors," explains Chuck Pope. "This is an important acquisition to so many people, and we're counting on their support. Saving these kinds of special places truly takes a village."



The Moores are preparing to expand the Sanctuary with the gift of 32 adjacent acres - fantastic land rich with wildlife and history in the shadow of Wheeler Peak and Great Basin National Park.

Driving across Nevada certainly gives one time to think and reflect, and I realized that going to Baker represented a true full circle moment for me personally as well as professionally. I really got in touch with the younger me, who, back in 1999, took a call from this man that wanted to facilitate the protection of 400 acres at the gateway to Great Basin National Park. In 1999, NLT was just the board, me and Becky Stock on staff, a handful of supporters, and big dreams. Our learning curve was steep indeed. At that point, we'd only completed the Washoe Parks Foundation addition of 80 acres to Rancho San Rafael Park, thanks to the Thornton family. Baker was our first project from scratch, and the first time I'd truly experienced what it felt like to help save a special place. I was hooked.

I was able to sit across from Dave this summer, look him in the eye and thank him for believing in NLT way back in

the very beginning. And yes, I cried. I got to thank him for putting his faith in us and our vision and our intentions - which in looking back, over 42,000 acres later, was quite remarkable. Somebody had to go first, and he was patient and willing. He taught me more through that process than he realizes - like how to communicate with landowners and donors. We laughed about my explanation of a conservation easement to a neighbor back in 1999, before we'd ever done one. I said "dirt" to refer to the land beneath the easement (I'd picked that up from training somewhere, and thought I was being cool) and he set me straight. "It's *soil*," he instructed. "Not *dirt*. *Soil* is something precious." I have never made that mistake again. He wanted us to succeed from the get-go. I hope you enjoy reading more about Dave in this issue.

Like the Moores, we're grateful that you are in our circle too. Whether landowner, agency partner, donor, volunteer, or friend - you are NLT and NLT is you. Enjoy the fall ahead - the cooler days and nights, the colors of the leaves and the way the sunlight begins to slant and turn the sky a bluer hue.

May the circle be unbroken,
A.



Roberta and David Moore, 1990

an insider with an outside view: David Moore

Part of a regular series of interviews with NLT board, staff and friends

by Alicia Reban

In 1999, David Moore facilitated a gift of 400 acres in eastern Nevada to the Nevada Land Trust, made possible by his stepmother Ilo Moore, who loved all kinds of birds and was captivated by the oasis created here by Baker and Lehman Creeks and the neighboring Great Basin National Park. Just outside of Baker, Nevada, the land sits in the shadow of Wheeler Peak and within sight of the Utah border. This part of Nevada is not for the faint-of-heart: its rugged beauty will take your breath away, and living here requires a unique combination of self-sufficiency and creating a strong network with distant neighbors. It's not "on the way" to anywhere in particular – you've got to want to go there, and it's well worth the trip.

David first learned of NLT (then "Nevada Land Conservancy") via a contact with the Sundance Institute in Utah. He was searching for a way to protect the gateway area to Great Basin National Park, and his inquiries led him to our fledgling land trust. Ilo, who shared David's vision and underwrote the project, insisted on calling her gift the "David E. Moore Bird and Wildlife Sanctuary," which David likes to downplay. "It's not important what it's called," he reminded me. "What's important is that it's protected." To underscore Ilo's original intent, the Sanctuary was named an Audubon Society Nevada Important Bird Area in 2003, in part for its large population of long-billed curlews.

David Moore himself is practically a national treasure. He and his very creative wife, Roberta, a retired park ranger

and interpretive specialist, live just outside Baker, adjacent to the Sanctuary. David served in the US Marine Corps from 1960 to 1968, spending much of that time in the Far East, including Okinawa and in Vietnam. Upon leaving the Marine Corps, he entered the National Park Service ranger program at Grand Canyon. He was assigned to Yosemite upon graduation, which was an interesting place to be in the late 60's – at the intersection of nature and the social unrest of the times. After additional training in law enforcement, Dave was dispatched to Lake Mead in southern Nevada. In 1974, Dave and his family moved to Baker, where he became superintendent of Lehman Caves National Monument – which would ultimately become part of Great Basin National Park (GBNP).

After seven years at Lehman, and participating in the preliminary meetings to establish GBNP, Dave got the call to become the first superintendent of the newly-established Kenai Fjords National Park, which resulted from President Jimmy Carter's Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act passed in 1980. After Alaska, Dave was superintendent at Chiricahua National Monument and Fort Bowie National Historic Site in Arizona. Dave's last official role with the National Park Service was in charge of Joshua Tree National Monument, where he revamped management and built lasting alliances with neighboring landowners before retiring in 1993. It was at Joshua Tree where he first helped process gifts of land made by caring local donors to expand the park and protect its resources, and saw first-hand the benefits of this kind of philanthropy. "If you really want to be sure the land is protected," he recalls advising a friend who wanted to see his land remain wild, "make sure you give it to someone who can do just that."

Dave still keeps an eye out for the Sanctuary, serving as caretaker and Advisor to NLT. He and Roberta are preparing to gift an additional 32 acres to NLT to expand the protected area.

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Earth without “Art” is just “Eh”

by Tracy Visher

Fall in the Truckee Meadows.... our days turn to cozy fires, kettles of soup, thoughts of upcoming holidays and a keen appreciation for the natural beauty that surrounds this time of year.

On October 23-26, fall also brings a great opportunity to support Nevada Land Trust and bring home a treasure or two to adorn your home or give as a holiday gift to a lucky friend or family member.

Nevada Land Trust is pleased to announce our second annual “Open Spaces and Special Places ~ The Art of Conservation” benefit art show. We are fortunate to once again collaborate with over 20 of the region’s finest artists as they share their vision of Nevada’s open spaces. Enjoy paintings in oil, watercolor or pastel, photography and various 3-dimensional mediums as well, such as glass, ceramic and fiber art.

During the year, many of the artists have joined us on some of our conservation properties to paint and photograph in plein air. We are excited to see what they have created as a result of these trips!

Please join us at the Wilbur D. May Museum in Rancho San Rafael Park, Thursday, October 23, 2 - 4 pm, Friday and Saturday, October 24 - 25 from 10 am - 4 pm, and Sunday, October 26 from 12 noon - 3 pm.

Our artists generously donate 50% of the proceeds from their sales to Nevada Land Trust so that we may continue to protect those special places that inspire them.

Pictures above: Participating Artists’ work.

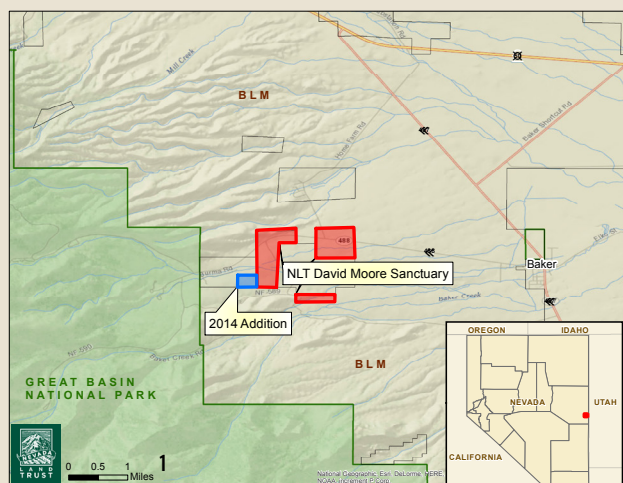
Below: Artists at work, painting on NLT’s various project sites.



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an insider with an outside view: David Moore



Dave and Roberta also look for other opportunities for land and water protection in this remarkable part of Nevada, fostering connections and conversations with landowners who may be interested in protecting their ranches. They're both concerned about water issues in the Snake Valley, and advocate for protection of other irreplaceable Nevada landscapes.

I had a chance to interview David Moore on my last trip to Baker:

Alicia Reban: Why did you come back to Baker?

David Moore : When I was first here, back in 1974, it felt like home, and it's been that way ever since. I've met so many good people in this valley, and many of the families that welcomed me so deeply back then are still part of our lives today. Throughout my career, the loss of my first wife Janet, and building a new life with Roberta, my compass always pointed me here. This is my home.

A: How did you become such a strong conservationist?

D: I didn't start out that way. I spent a good deal of time camping with my family as a kid, and I was comfortable outdoors, but caring deeply about parks and special places just wasn't something on my radar yet. We, my first wife Janet and I, were thrilled to be accepted into the National Park Service. Back then, there was an expectation that one's spouse would volunteer in the parks, so it really was a package deal. Our family became part of this larger parks family. After we got in and really saw and experienced what parks were all about, they started meaning something to me and my

family. Because of that, I became keenly aware of other areas that needed protection. I'm also inspired by an inscription on Wallace Stegner's tombstone that says "A Life that Mattered." That's exactly the kind of life I want to live.

A: So why Nevada Land Trust? Back in 1999, we were still a little wet behind the ears. What made you trust that we could get the job done, and help you to conserve the 400 acres near the park?

D: I tried and tried to find someone to help me protect this land. I reached out to a few national groups, but got no response. Julie Mack at Sundance knew you and said you could help. And you called me back! I was impressed by the excitement and enthusiasm that you and Becky brought to the project. The board was excited. It was contagious. I like that many of the people I met back in 1999 are still part of NLT, like Harry, Ginnie, Don, Candace, and you. It says to me that the group has strength and staying power.

A: You and I have been trading some powerful quotes of late. What's your favorite?

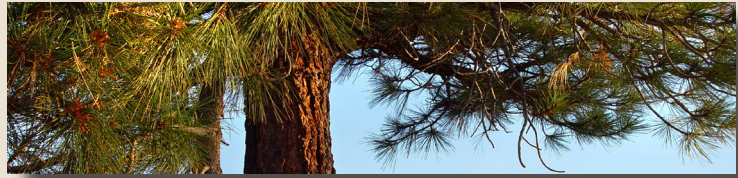


D: That's easy. It's from Aldo Leopold, in *A Sand County Almanac*: "...I am glad I shall never be young without wild country to be young in. Of what avail are forty freedoms without a blank spot on the map?"

IF YOU GO: To visit NLT's David E. Moore Bird and Wildlife Sanctuary, call NLT to make arrangements. For more information on visiting Great Basin National Park, go to www.nps.gov/grba/index.htm. Great Basin National Park became America's 49th national park in October of 1986. It's the only national park in Nevada. For more information on Nevada's Important Bird Areas, go to www.nevadaaudubon.org/iba.html

the giving tree

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going places

*see what's next on the horizon
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Open Spaces and Special Places: The Art of Conservation / 10.23 - 10.26 2014

This is a benefit event for Nevada Land Trust that will be held on October 23-26th, at the Wilbur D. May Museum, inside Rancho San Rafael Park in Reno.

Banff Mountain Film Festival/ 04.02.2015

After many years in John Ascuaga's Nugget, we are excited to be moving the event to a new location. Watch for your invitation and join us April 2nd at the Pioneer Center in downtown Reno!



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