



# territory

this land is your land

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

Spring 2013 · Volume 15 · Issue 1

## North by Northwest:

### *First Two Acquisitions Completed*

by Patty McCleary

The Greater Hart Sheldon region is a little known and remarkably diverse area that straddles the Oregon-Nevada border and spans over three million acres. It is home to pronghorn, sage grouse, big horn sheep and other species that thrive in the high desert and lush wetlands that comele with stunning geologic formations.

Less than six months after becoming an acquisition partner with the Greater Hart Sheldon Conservation Fund and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NLT has made significant progress in our effort to acquire high priority inholdings in the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge and Sheldon National Wildlife Refuges.

In late December 2012, we completed our first project with the acquisition of an 80-acre property, an inholding in the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge. This tract also includes highly important rock formations that are part of the west face of Hart Mountain for which the Refuge is named.

In January, we acquired Beatys Butte parcels through participation in an online auction. Quick action and nerves of steel served us well as we secured the Beatys Butte tract, 1,131 acres which include important habitat for sage grouse and improves the connection between the Hart Mountain and Sheldon Refuges.

“Working here makes sense,” said Chuck Pope, NLT’s Co-Executive Director. “Nevada’s wildlife knows no boundaries. They don’t stop at the state line because their habitat doesn’t stop at the state line. If we can address their full range, then we can do a better job supporting them, whether we’re talking sage grouse or pronghorn. Connectivity is the buzzword, but a species’ full range is something I think we can all understand and support.” he concluded.

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## Thoughts from the Executive Branch

by Alicia Reban



Nevada Land Trust's governing board met in late February to review the year just past, and plan for the year ahead. They expressed their appreciation to Trent Schmidt, who recently wrapped up his two-year term as Chair, and welcomed Karen Ross as the new Chair of Nevada Land Trust. We looked back over the organization's history, including watching 1998's long-lost video produced in the first nine months of our existence. We had used it to reach out to others and begin the process of building support for this organization and mission before we had yet to complete a single project. It was truly moving to hear some of NLT's most respected founding voices speak of their reasons for helping Nevada's first land trust get off the ground:

*JACK TRAINOR: "...just looking at Mount Rose or the flanks of the Sierra is really the best rationale you can come up with for preserving open space...[or] the parks in the Truckee Meadows [like] Idlewild or Wingfield. Those became open space because of the effort of people....They were born as open space, but their remaining open space required the action of people with foresight and desire to keep them that way....land remains open space only because somebody has an idea that's the way it should be. And they push and they push and they push to have that happen."*

*GINNIE KERSEY: "I think the effort in our state and in our community to save open space before it disappears and we no longer recognize the reason why we live in Nevada made it important for me to get involved....When you live in Nevada and you are used to open space, and then you go someplace else in our country...you realize they don't have those things anymore...you come to realize it's essential that Nevada not become that way. We [must] preserve what is – the open sky, the open fields, the open view of the mountains and...the beautiful sunsets that you can see instead of just being surrounded by humanity."*

*MARNA GRIFFIN: "...one of the things I'm most concerned about is keeping small pockets of open space in the city so that our children can walk from their homes and still have that freedom that open space provides...."*

*BILL WHITNEY: "They're not making open space anymore. Once it's gone, it's gone."*

Well said, indeed (and still relevant 15 years and 41,000 acres later!). NLT is a direct result of the passion and dedication of all the founders, and all the board members serving since who share that passion and dedication. All the landowners, agency friends, foundations, donors, members, and friends who've walked this path with us should share in that credit. My sincere, heartfelt thanks to you all.



Karen Ross, shown here at the summit of Wheeler Peak in eastern Nevada, is the new Chair of the Nevada Land Trust. An avid outdoorswoman, Karen is the manager of Community Relations for NV Energy.

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P.O. Box 20288, Reno, NV 89515 Phone 775.851.5180 / Fax 775.851.5182  
[www.nevadalandtrust.org](http://www.nevadalandtrust.org) and [info@nevadalandtrust.org](mailto:info@nevadalandtrust.org)

Front cover photo of Hart Mountain by: Catlin Gabeltrip

## Banff Mt. Film Festival Return Engagement on March 26

*New reception for VIP ticket-holders  
features winning Banff Photographs*

It's hard for me to believe that the twelfth annual Truckee Meadows tour of the Banff Mountain Film Festival is rapidly approaching, and it will be here on Tuesday, March 26! This return engagement will once again be held in Sparks at John Ascuaga's Nugget in the Rose Ballroom from 7-10 p.m.

One of the most amazing things about the Banff Mountain Film Festival is just how memorable the films are. Some of them really stick with you for years. If you asked what my favorite Banff film is of all time - and it would be hard to give just one - I'd say it was a 1993 film about a family fishing with their cormorants on China's Lijang River. Since Nevada Land Trust made it onto the annual Banff Mountain Film Festival Tour in 2002, it's not uncommon during Banff season to hear discussion of favorites and memorable films from years past - particularly among the incredible volunteers and sponsors who help make the evening happen. Last year it was the crocodile and a situation that was hard to shake. Before that it might be the crazy base jumping film, or even the caribou migrating to Alaska National Wildlife Refuge, or the guy who walked alone across Australia.

We have staff still chuckling about some of the lighter moments, like the search and rescue cats, or the guys that approached backyard trampolines with an out-of-bounds elite climber-type intensity. You hear it in the audience too - from the collective gasps, or the applause response - and you have a hint which ones will stick.

The Banff Mountain Film festival is our largest annual fundraising event, bringing in much-needed funds to help pay for land protection and restoration projects throughout the year. Dollars raised come from event ticket sales, raffle tickets, sponsor donations, and, new this year, a special Nevada Land Trust membership promotion the night of the event. Look for details on the tables and at the NLT booth - and take a moment to meet some of the artists that will be featured at the July art event (story on page 5)!

This year we are adding a new VIP reception for Banff sponsors and VIP ticket holders from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in Pavilion A on the second floor of John Ascuaga's Nugget. VIP tables are located directly in front of the Nugget Rose Ballroom's largest video screen. In addition to the premier center seating, VIP ticket holders will enjoy drinks and hearty hors d'oeuvres and a special display of winning photos from the 2012 Banff Mountain Photography Competition - the first time we've brought it in.

Our staff and board sincerely thank the amazing sponsors, raffle donors, volunteers, and of course, our great audience for making this event possible. I wonder...what are the films we'll be talking about next year? See you on the 26th!

*Becky Stock*



From the film: Crossing The Ice

Thank you 2013 Banff Sponsors!



## Ron Johnson April 16, 1940 - January 17, 2013

Nevada Land Trust lost one of its own in January when board member Ron Johnson passed away unexpectedly on January 17th at his home in Reno. Ron was an avid outdoorsman who loved hiking, skiing, and exploring the hidden treasures, trails, and back roads of Nevada. He joined the board in January 2009, bringing with his service that deep passion for the great outdoors as well as his background and skills in accounting and business. He is sorely missed.



## Sowing the Seeds of Change

It was a foggy and chilly January morning when 30 NV Energy and community volunteers took to the hillsides of Washoe County's Bartley Ranch to plant seed that will continue the restoration of this beloved park in the aftermath of the Caughlin Fire of November 2011. With funding from an NV Energy Foundation grant, Nevada Land Trust worked cooperatively with Washoe County Parks to implement a restoration plan that has been in the works for the past year. Many charred trees have been removed in the park, with a few left in place as habitat for birds. Shrubs have been replanted on the hillside, and the important remaining step was the reseeding that will stabilize the hillsides and establish more desirable plant species. This part was literally in the capable hands of volunteers.



Photo by: M. Visher

Led by crew leaders from Washoe County Parks and Nevada Land Trust, volunteers spread out across the hillside moving in a coordinated grid to hand broadcast native grass and wildflower seed over 24 acres. Mother Nature could not have been more kind, as conditions were perfect for getting the seed off to a terrific start.

Volunteers braved muddy, slippery hillsides saturated by recent rain and snow storms, creating the perfect base for the seed. Then, as if made to order, a snowstorm the next morning covered the hillsides, hiding the seed from hungry birds and giving it an added shot of moisture.

Many thanks to the 25 NV Energy employees, family members, and friends who contributed to restoring this important community park. Volunteers unanimously agreed that they will be coming back in the spring to stroll the paths through Bartley Ranch and enjoy the sight of thriving native grass and wildflowers planted way back in the middle of winter.

Karen Ross

## It's Your Estate Free Planning Workshops Begin April 2

Financial and estate decisions require knowledge in many areas; accounting, finance, legal, insurance, taxes, investments and charitable planning.

Learn what you need to know during the *It's Your Estate* workshop series presented free-of-charge by the Community Foundation of Western Nevada (CFWN) and sponsored by Nevada Land Trust and other nonprofit organizations.

Experts will answer all your questions and help you navigate

the areas of advanced health care directives; charitable income & tax planning; IRA, 401k, 403b and 457 plan distributions; being a trustee and executor; and more. This is a public education initiative, not a sales pitch for products or services.

The workshops take place over eight consecutive weeks and are held at several convenient locations and times.

For reservations and information, call CFWN 775-333-5499 or go to [www.cfwnv.org](http://www.cfwnv.org).





Lamoille Canyon, by Pat Wallis



Photo by: M. Blach

## The Art of Conservation

Celebrate the beauty of Nevada through the eyes of the region's most distinguished painters at the first ever *Open Spaces and Special Places: The Art of Conservation*, a benefit event for Nevada Land Trust during Reno's Artown July 20-21 at the Wilbur D. May Museum at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park.

Through this unique collaboration, artists are spending time with Nevada Land Trust on and around project sites throughout the region, at "paint-ins" spanning all seasons. For the July show, artists will include at least two paintings of Nevada Land Trust conservation sites, and the artists will generously split the proceeds from event sales with NLT to help protect these areas.

Confirmed artists for July show as of March 4, 2013 include: B. Amme, S. Amme, E. Auriemma, V. Cohen, J. Edmondo, C. Grigus, J. Hilbish, E. Holland, L. Jacox, L. Lightfoot, Lady Jill Mueller, V. Olds, C.J. Thompson, P. Vallis, and P. Woodward.

The event is sponsored in part by Washoe County, and is being organized by a group of dedicated artists and

conservation supporters including Erik Holland and Judy Hilbish, who sought to expand the reach of the Winnemucca Ranch Art Show in collaboration with Nevada Land Trust.

Two special *Open Spaces and Special Places for Kids* paint-ins for children ages 5 and up will be held on Friday, July 20 at 10 am and 12 pm. Children will learn about plein-air painting, then capture scenes around Rancho San Rafael Park. Space is limited, pre-registration is required, and parent/guardian participation is necessary. Please call Ela to register at 775-851-5180 or [e.zawadzka@nevadalandtrust.org](mailto:e.zawadzka@nevadalandtrust.org)

Ela Zawadzka & Tracy Visser



Photo by: A. Reban

## an insider with an outside view: Jim Greil

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

*Jim Greil joined NLT's board in 2009, bringing an important agricultural perspective to the organization's governing board. Becky Stock sits down with Jim.*



**Becky:** What was it like growing up in Washoe Valley?

**Jim:** The Virginia Range to the east was where I spent much of my free time on horseback with my parents or in the old Jeep. I grew up here helping my family ranch the land and being steeped in its history. The ranch has ties to the Comstock, to the Stewart Indian School, and even to the interesting art and photography scene that was in Washoe Valley. I feel so fortunate to live here now with my wife Lou and, thanks in part to our conservation easement, I'm still farming the land that I love.

**B:** What kept you in ranching?

**J:** The experiences in farming and ranching here in Washoe Valley were the major factors in my decision to pursue a career in agriculture. I studied agriculture in college and then spent years in research and in production in California's Central Valley before taking a teaching position at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Since retiring from teaching, I've remained active in agriculture in the Great Basin as a consultant and a farmer. Even as a kid, I couldn't imagine not being in this business.

**B:** When did you first learn about Conservation Easements (CE)?

**J:** Living in California it was startling to see how last prime farmland was being paved over, and I could see it starting in Nevada as well. I became very interested in preserving farmland and open space. Among the options being used, conservation easements stood out as a tool, and I began introducing the concept in my classes.

**B:** You brought them to a new generation of students and future farmers and ranchers! How do you describe conservation easements to someone who's not familiar with them?

**J:** In simple terms, it's a legal agreement whereby a landowner agrees to give up the ability to develop his or her property in exchange for tax benefits or payment or both. Your partner in this

is a government entity or conservation nonprofit organization like Nevada Land Trust. Together you develop a document that protects the resources that bring someone like NLT on board in the first place, while preserving a landowner's underlying ownership and ability to conduct business. Conservation Easements stay with the property, and though they're still relatively new to Nevada, conservation easements have been used successfully in other parts of the country for over 75 years.

**B:** What do you say when someone asks you about your conservation easement?

**J:** Ours is Nevada Land Trust's very first conservation easement. It's also Nevada's first agricultural easement made possible through the Farm & Ranchland Protection Program (USDA), with help from the Nevada State Question 1 Program. The biggest benefit for me is the peace of mind that this land I love will remain in agriculture and open space forever no matter the ownership. I recognize this land's value to wildlife through its proximity to surrounding state and federal public land. The property provides a critical corridor to Washoe Lake water as well as important habitat for wildlife.



**B:** Do you talk to other ranchers about land protection?

**J:** Yes! I love the state of Nevada, and I really enjoy my current job which requires traveling the state visiting farmers and ranchers in remote open spaces. I've spoken to many ranchers who either have conservation easements on their land or who are considering conservation easements for themselves. I can tell them how my bargain sale easement has reduced my taxes and helped with cash flow. I can report that for others the estate tax benefits have allowed younger generations to continue ranching in their family's footsteps. Some ranchers have even been able to purchase additional ranch land and expand their agricultural holdings.

**B:** What's it like to work with Nevada Land Trust?

**J:** When I decided to look into a conservation easement, Nevada Land Trust kept being recommended as the ideal partner to assist. The whole process took a lot longer than I anticipated (through no fault of NLT) but I was kept abreast of each step. What was most impressive to me was that I was able to set the parameters and terms of the easement as I envisioned them and was not pressured into decisions uncomfortable to my family or me. In short, I was extremely satisfied with the process, the results, and with NLT.

*Becky Stock*

# the giving tree

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# going places

*see what's next on the horizon  
for the Nevada Land Trust*

## Banff Mountain Film Festival: March 26 2013

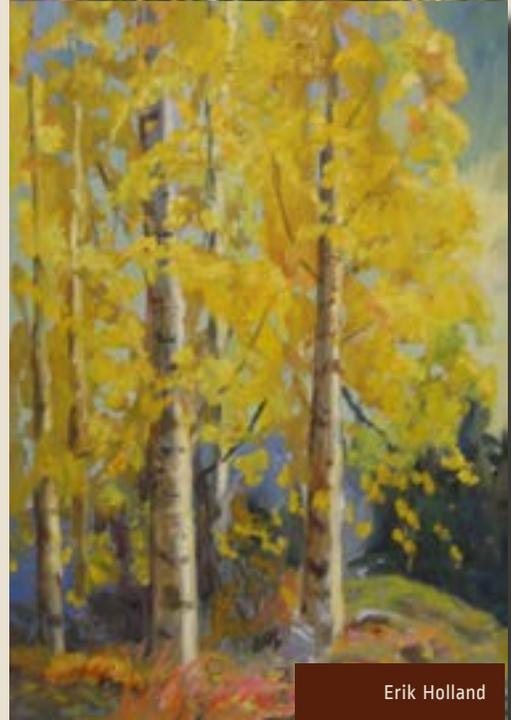
Come join our celebration of the great outdoors! The adventure begins Tuesday, March 26th at 7 p.m. in John Ascuaga's Rose Ballroom. Tickets are available at Nugget 356-3300, janugget.com and REI 828-9090 Call NLT for details: 775-851-5180.

## Open Spaces & Special Places -

### The Art of Conservation: July 19-21 2013

Celebrate the beauty of Nevada through the eyes of the region's most distinguished painters at the first ever Open Spaces and Special Places: The Art of Conservation benefit event for Nevada Land Trust during Reno's Artown July 20-21 at the Wilbur D. May Museum at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park.

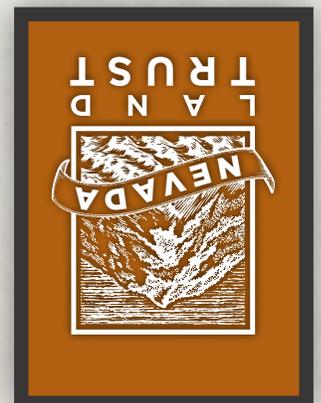
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Erik Holland

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