



# territory

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## Something to be loved and cared for

by Alex Hoeft

“When you love something, you take care of it and provide opportunities for people to come to it.” The size of the auditorium causes Cheryl Surface’s words to echo a little bit, dramatizing the situation.

It’s September 30. Over one hundred and twenty stakeholders fill the auditorium at McKinley Arts & Culture Center in Reno. Those gathered are all there for one purpose: improving the Truckee River. Cheryl Surface, captain of the recreation team, has just verbally listed suggestions for improving recreation on and along the Truckee River; suggestions that Surface and her team have been brainstorming for the past four hours. She closes, emphasizing that the Truckee River is something to be loved and cared for.

One Truckee River thinks so, too. The One Truckee River Initiative (the initiative behind the stakeholder forum, and brain child of Nevada Land Trust and Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful) is a collaboration of public and private partners working together to form a sustainable, clean and thriving Truckee River community.

The stakeholder forum is proof that the One Truckee River Initiative is answering a need within our region. Nine emerging issues were decided prior to the stakeholder forum: social, education, water quality, sustainable funding, stewardship, ecosystem, public safety, recreation, and quality of life. The forum was a chance for teams of prominent Reno, Sparks and Washoe County residents and representatives to form teams and get down to the bottom of each issue.

The auditorium was not only filled with people, but with noise: stakeholders excited to share their thoughts about improving the river, Northern Nevada’s lifeblood. The social team’s suggestion to start with taking care of the people living on the river, thus taking care of the illegal camping issue; the quality of life team’s points about incorporating cultural history and promoting community buy-in for the Truckee River; the ecosystem team’s focus on creating a list of appropriate plants for different reaches of the river so when a project is underway, the planner can pick a plant appropriate and beneficial to the area – just three of the many recommendations laid out in an exhausting and productive five hours.

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## Thoughts from the Executive Branch

by Alicia Reban



**H**onestly, I'm not sure whether I'm coming or going at this point, but there is much I am grateful for this Thanksgiving season! Here's a sample:

There are significant new conservation and restoration projects underway. Whether it's an amazing trail project above Incline Village, three big opportunities along the Sierra Front in Carson City and Douglas County, or the first conservation easement along the South Fork of the Humboldt River in Elko County - I'm grateful for the vision that is shared by those landowners.

I'm grateful for our friends at KTMB, and excited to approach our complementary missions in a whole new way through the One Truckee River Initiative (OTR). Greater impact is possible when precious donor and agency funds can be leveraged and activities coordinated by all stakeholders along Nevada's Truckee River. I'm also grateful for the vast planning experience of NLT's project leader Lynda Nelson, and for the energy and communication skills of OTR intern Alex Hoefl.

I'm grateful NLT was part of this year's celebration of newly-accredited land trusts at the Land Trust Alliance's annual Rally held last month in Sacramento. NLT was represented on stage by Sarah McNeal, who kept us organized and on task through the accreditation process. I was honored with LTA's prestigious Advocate Award for my work with Nevada's Congressional Delegation (especially with Senators Reid and Heller and their staffs) on the Conservation Easement Tax Incentive. Senator Heller has become a true champion for conservation easements as the Senate's lead sponsor of the bipartisan effort to make the incentive permanent.

We bid farewell to long-time NLT staffer Sonya Giroux and offer congratulations and best wishes as she joins the team in Senator Reid's Reno office. We welcome back Tracy Visher as Acting Finance and Administration Director. I'm grateful for her work to update our financial systems and procedures in concert with Rush Lambert's bookkeepers extraordinaire Wanda Rush and Kara Soderblom. I continue to appreciate the related wisdom and common sense of NLT's board treasurer Harry Parsons - not to mention his firm's (Pangborn & Company, Ltd.) completion of our annual 990 for the past 18 years!

Finally, I'm grateful both to NLT's long-term donors and to the growing group of individuals who have come recently to our cause. We have been so focused on the over 42,000 acres of land and associated water rights NLT has protected over the years - that we must now redouble efforts to build an even stronger base of core supporters to sustain those protection commitments and this organization over the long haul. Expect to hear more from me in the not-too-distant future as I reach out with invitations for you to join NLT's year-end Annual Campaign for a strong start in 2016, and to help with the remarkable new conservation opportunities ahead!

Ever grateful, Alicia

P.S. NLT recently co-sponsored the Family Estate Planning Series with Community Foundation of Western Nevada and other respected Nevada nonprofits. Please call me to learn how philanthropy can be beneficial to you and your family!

Front page photo: Truckee River by L. Neel

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# Land Trust Alliance Rally 2015 Highlights

by Karen Ross

Reed Simmons and I were proud to represent the NLT board at the Land Trust Alliance Rally held in Sacramento October 8-10, joining over 1500 land trust volunteers and professionals from across the country and beyond to learn from experts in the field. We had two significant moments of recognition for our organization: 1) Sarah McNeal accepting our accreditation award from Rand Wentworth, outgoing President of the Land Trust Alliance (right). 2) The second was a well-kept secret. Alicia Reban was recognized at the October 9 plenary session as the Land Trust Alliance's Advocacy Ambassador of the year for cultivating strong relationships with members of Congress and advancing federal pro-conservation policies that will benefit not only our efforts in Nevada, but those of land trusts, sportsman's groups, ranchers, and others across the country. Alicia gave a powerful and inspiring speech as she accepted the award.



## Fire & Weeds: nothing to "kid" about!

by Taylor Gipe

After another smoky summer, it is apparent that wildfires continue to be a threat in the West. To no benefit, invasive weeds are also outcompeting native vegetation in our region. A great way to fight fire is through preventative measures like fuels reduction where weeds pose an ongoing threat to our communities - both urban and agricultural. There are several methods to combat these weeds, including herbicides and mechanical removal, but recently Nevada Land Trust teamed up with Washoe County Parks and Vince Thomas of Goat Grazers to put his four-legged friends to the test at Anderson Park.

There are many advantages to using goats for weed reduction, including: vastly reducing the viability of seeds as they "pass through" the goats, promoting growth of native grasses, reaching where machines can't, cost effectiveness, no herbicides, non-hydrocarbon producing, and fun to watch!



For more information go to [www.goatgrazers.com](http://www.goatgrazers.com) or [www.livingwithfire.info](http://www.livingwithfire.info)

Above: Anderson Park during and after grazing.

“This is the start of an important community-wide conversation, and many more people will need to participate for the initiative to be successful,” said NLT’s executive director Alicia Reban. “Many organizations and individuals are doing good work on and along the Truckee River, but if we’re going to see lasting improvement in the health and well-being of the river, we’re going to have to work together across sectors and find new ways to communicate and collaborate, and new ways to solve the problems we face. After all, this entire region is connected to the Truckee River and depends on it in some way. Everything in, on, and along the river is connected to everything else. We can’t address any of these issues in isolation any longer and expect to be successful.”

More opportunities for engagement will come as part of the One Truckee River Management Plan, which will be completed mid-2016. More information, including a recap of the stakeholder forum, can be found at [onetruckeeriver.org](http://onetruckeeriver.org), and by following One Truckee River on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

*Pictures clockwise:*

1. Recreation captain Cheryl Surface recaps her team’s recommendations near the Forum’s close.

2. The Public Safety team discusses the current top issues in their area pertaining to the Truckee River.

3. The Water Quality team looked at features in place around McKinley Center that filter storm water runoff.

4. Truckee River near Dorostkar Park.

5. Participants, One Truckee River Stakeholder Forum on 9/30.





## Nature of Art

*by Judy Hilbish, Artist, Art Show Organizer, Volunteer*

The storm clouds rolled aside in July to give the artists and Nevada Land Trust two clear warm days to share art and information on the land trust's conservation accomplishments and goals. The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Nevada provided an excellent space among old cottonwoods and background pastures and hills to display the artwork of 22 local artists, photographers, and a glass fusionist. The artists, many who are plein air painters, brought over 80 pieces of art representing the outback and conservation areas of Nevada. Each agreed to donate half the proceeds from show sales to NLT.

The art was well received, and sales and donations were brisk at the evening reception. Tables of food were piled with sweet and savory snacks from the artists who showed that their talent extended beyond that of the art studio and encompassed the kitchen as well. Wine was donated by the Tahoe Ridge Winery and other beverages were sponsored by NV Energy. Nevada Land Trust Trustees Karen Ross, Katy Simon Holland, Ginnie Kersey and Candace Evert served guests and supplied information about land trust activities. Other NLT board members and staff mixed and mingled. Alicia Reban and Chuck Pope answered questions about not only NLT projects, but also about the artists, most of whom they know from previous shows.

Nevada Land Trust has actively supported the artists by leading paint-outs for them to

out-of-the-way private lands and otherwise unavailable places. The paint-outs started a number of years ago with Erik Holland and a group of painters who held annual art shows as a fundraiser to help preserve the Winnemucca Ranch area just west of Pyramid Lake. Through mutual interest in the area, Erik and Alicia joined efforts to bring art and conservation issues to the attention of more Northern Nevadans. The list of artists who have taken an interest in these efforts now numbers over one hundred. Each year a select number of this group bring their work forward to share with other outdoor minded art enthusiasts.



2015 AOC Sponsors: NV Energy & Tahoe Ridge Winery - Darrell and Marilyn Craig



Sheldon NWR, photo by Brian Beffort



Pronghorn, photo by Jim Yoakum



Badger, photo by Brian Beffort

# NLT Expands Hart-Sheldon Refuges

by Chuck Pope

On a rainy afternoon last week, I met up with officials from the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) near Denio, NV to visit NLT's most recent land acquisition on behalf of the Hart-Sheldon Wildlife Complex. The stormy skies were a dramatic backdrop for our reconnaissance work.

The Greater Hart-Sheldon Landscape spans roughly 853,000 acres in southeastern Oregon and northwestern Nevada. It's a high desert oasis with natural lakes, sagebrush flats, and rugged ridgelines that encompasses both the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge and the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, which were set aside for wildlife protection in the 1930's. Visitors to the remote region come for unparalleled viewing opportunities for pronghorn antelope and a host of other wildlife species.

NLT's involvement in the project began three years ago. Working with the Greater Hart-Sheldon Conservation Fund (GHSCF) and USFWS, NLT contacted owners of key private inholdings (surrounded on all sides by federal lands) to gauge their interest in selling land for wildlife protection purposes. A small group of landowners stepped forward to participate in the first phase of the voluntary program.

Starting in 2012 with the protection of 80 acres at Hart Mountain and nearly 1,132 acres that are considered prime Greater Sage Grouse habitat on Beatys Butte, Oregon, NLT's most recent acquisition of 20 acres near Fish Creek Mountain, Nevada was completed in mid-October. This brings the total

to 1,362 protected acres through 12 individual transactions to date.

NLT typically purchases the land first for later transfer to USFWS. Through these acquisitions, potential disturbance to wildlife is minimized, and the integrity of the area secured by removing the threat of fencing and structures in key habitat areas. USFWS is able to manage more efficiently and comprehensively when these isolated private "islands" are added to the refuges. NLT is partnering with Washoe County to facilitate the addition of 40 more acres within Sheldon to the refuge system in the near future.

To learn more about the Hart-Sheldon Refuge Complex, or to get maps and information for planning your own visit, go to <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/sheldon/> or [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/hart\\_mountain/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/hart_mountain/)

*Photo below, by C. Pope: USFWS officials tour latest NLT acquisition.*



# the giving tree

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## going places

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

### 03.29.2016 Banff Mountain Film Festival

New home: Peppermill Hotel and Casino in Reno. After many years at John Ascuaga's Nugget, and a stop in downtown Reno, we are excited to be moving the event to a new home! Watch for your invitation and join us March 29th at the Peppermill's Tuscany Ballroom. Bring your friends and enjoy a great night with films from all over the world.

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Left: NLT Vice-Chair Karen Ross and Trustee Trent Schmidt at Brews with Views hike on September 19.

Below: Hikers and bikers (including this whole bachelor party!) enjoyed Silver Peek beer and supported NLT at 2015 Brews with Views on September 19 at Marlette Lake.



Photo by Donald Miller