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Jobs Peak Ranch –

Trees, Trails, Wildlife, and Water

by Alicia Reban

Look east, and take in the breathtaking views across Carson Valley and the surrounding peaks. Look west through the trees in the shadow of Jobs Peak and you realize that seven pairs of eyes are staring intently back at you. Seven mule deer - part of the group that moves between the 400-strong Carson River and Hope Valley herds - winter here. “These deer need to be able to move freely between these areas during different seasons to survive,” said Nevada Land Trust’s Chuck Pope. He adds, “Winter access to this specific area is essential - it truly sustains them.”

Nevada Land Trust’s newest project is Jobs Peak Ranch, 359 acres located on the east side of the Sierra Nevada Range, and located just over the state line in Alpine County, California. Jobs Peak [There’s no apostrophe in Jobs!] was named for Moses Job who, in the early 1850’s, opened a store in nearby Sheridan, Nevada.

It is right that NLT take action to permanently protect this land. The need to safeguard wildlife habitat along five creeks, to support the health and well-being of the deer herds, and to improve trail access is vital. Success will offer the chance to provide a trail connection between the Faye Luther Canyon and Jobs Peak Ranch trailheads as part of the proposed Carson Valley 100-mile Discovery Trail. The effort has brought together the Alpine County Board of Supervisors, Douglas County, Nevada Department of Wildlife, the Carson Valley Trails Association, and others in support of Nevada Land Trust’s work to conserve this exceptional property.

In order to succeed, Nevada Land Trust must raise the necessary funds to protect Jobs Peak Ranch. Working with the California Fish and Wildlife Department, NLT will apply to the California Wildlife Conservation Board for public funding, but may need to match that contribution with nearly \$500,000 in private funds to complete the project by the end of 2014. To see maps and find out how you can help protect this habitat and make the trail projects possible, visit www.nevadalandtrust.org/JobsPeakRanch.

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Thoughts from the Executive Branch

by Alicia Reban



I've been thinking a lot lately about transformation and change. About how we – people and organizations – continue to evolve, and strive to become even better versions of themselves – if we're lucky. Nevada Land Trust will turn 15 this year. And we are still very much a work in progress. Some of our founders continue to be actively engaged in NLT, and have witnessed first-hand how far we've come from those early days. Others have joined us over time, bringing new energy and a sense of what is possible in our next 15 years. We've learned an awful lot about what works, and sometimes, about what doesn't. It's easy to point to the number of acres protected as a singular benchmark – what is more difficult is to quantify the relationships we've built over time. Built on trust and service and shared dedication to protecting the special places and open spaces of Nevada for future generations – they represent NLT landowners, donors, agency partners, and other friends who are helping turn the conservation vision into conservation reality. The journey is not without risk – very little that is truly great in this world is risk-free – but here on the eve of our 15th anniversary, as NLT enters a new strategic planning process to strengthen and sustain the organization and, more importantly, to strengthen and sustain our ability to conserve key lands and waters for people and for wildlife – I am so grateful to all who have been part of the journey to this point. I'd love to hear from you – to have your thoughts on conservation priorities and concerns as we enter this next chapter. You are, after all, part of our "small group," as in my favorite quote by Margaret Mead:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

NLT People: Restoration Specialist [Lynda Nelson](#) has been named Acting Projects Director, and we welcomed GIS Intern -turned- GIS Coordinator [Taylor Gipe](#) to the staff of NLT. Taylor is a December graduate of UNR and is active in his family's ranching business. The Gipe family worked with the Feather River Land Trust recently to place a conservation easement on their Greenville, CA ranch.

Front page photo: Jobs Peak by Chuck Pope, 2/25/2014

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As part of Nevada Land Trust's 15th anniversary this year, we're taking a look back at some of our favorite conservation stories. The original article appeared in our March/April 2007 newsletter. Enjoy!
- Alicia Reban

Ferrari Ranch Acquired

Community's Favorite Pumpkin Patch Stays Put



Frank Ferrari Sr. plowing his fields in the 1940s.

One of the hallmarks of land trusts is proven ability to provide positive conservation outcomes by meeting the needs of landowners. Nevada Land Trust's acquisition of the Ferrari Ranch east of downtown Reno for Washoe County as part of an early phase of the Truckee River Flood Project remains a strong testament to that skill.

Nevada Land Trust worked with the Ferrari family for close to two years to put a strategy in place for permanent protection of the family's beloved ranch – a strategy that both met the needs of the family and served the goals of the Flood Project. This was accomplished with the inclusion of a “life lease” for Frank Ferrari Sr., enabling him to remain on the land on which he was born. As a result, 22 acres of crucial flood plain area will be preserved as open space.

The ability to lease back the agricultural portions of the property increased the family's comfort level with the sale, and it has assisted Flood Project staff with management of the land prior to project

construction. As an additional benefit, local families and groups of schoolchildren have been able to continue their much-anticipated annual trips to the Ferrari's pumpkin patch.

“I don't think this would have been possible without Nevada Land Trust's hard work and dedication,” notes Frank Ferrari, Jr. “their professionalism, integrity, and sensitivity to the realities of a hard working ranch were critical. Believe me, we had other offers, but none that honored my family's long history with this land like they did.”

We checked in recently with Frank Ferrari, Jr., who seems to feel the same way about the process nearly eight years later. Visitors to the pumpkin patch this past October saw the Ferrari family as busy as ever – with Frank Ferrari, Sr. still calling the shots from atop his ATV. The Ferrari's choice to sell reflects their love of family, their love of the land, and their consideration of the safety and well-being of this community that has been their home forever. We are deeply touched by their commitment to the greater good, and are proud to have been a partner in this effort.

In 2006/2007, Nevada Land Trust secured more than 110 acres of land along the Truckee River in an early phase of the Truckee River Flood Project. Plans called for parks, trails, and open space along the river that would offer tremendous opportunities for recreation and wildlife in addition to the critical benefits in times of flood.



Frank Ferrari Sr. pictured with wife Joanne and Frank Jr. in 2006.

Are you Fire Ready??

by Lynda S. Nelson

As I sit at my desk writing this article, the corners of my mouth turn up into a smile as I look outside to see a light snow falling after an almost two-month absence of any moisture. The smile is short lived, though, as I consider the gravity of our situation in Northern Nevada and most of the Western United States facing extreme drought conditions. The reality of making up the vast deficit of precipitation we need to get to an average winter will more than likely not happen, so we need to prepare ourselves and our community for what could be a devastating wildfire season.

Some things you can do as individuals to become more “fire ready”:

- **MAINTAIN A HEALTHY LANDSCAPE.** Even with possible water restrictions, consider changing out your irrigation to a drip system to conserve water. Keep evergreens watered through the winter as they transpire year-long through their needles and lose moisture. They will need additional water for survival and to not become wildfire fuel on your property. If your property does not have any defensible space, begin planning how you can best retrofit your existing landscape into a more fire adapted landscape.
- **LEARN WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU IN OUR COMMUNITY:** The University of Nevada Cooperative Extension has the Living With Fire program <http://www.livingwithfire.info> that can help you assess your property for 1) defensible space 2) Built Environment 3) Evacuation 4) Access and 5) Community Protection.
- **KNOW WHEN THERE IS A “RED FLAG” WARNING POSTED** for our community and limit outdoor activity that can pose a threat for sparking a wildfire (using grinders, chainsaws, driving off-road, target practice). A Red Flag warning is a designation used by the National Weather Service to indicate that low humidity, high winds, and possibly erratic winds are predicted, creating low fuel moisture and a high probability of wildfire ignition.

- **UNDERSTAND WHAT WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT AREA YOU LIVE IN.** Washoe County has developed the Wildfire Risk Assessment strictly for planning purposes to better understand and predict fire behavior in our community: <http://wcgisweb.washoecounty.us/FireHazard/>

- Participate in the Nevada Wildland Urban Interface Summit and Nevada Wildfire Awareness Week activities (typically held in Spring) to learn more about specific programs in our community.



Scenes from the fire and restoration after the Caughlin Fire, November 2011.

Go there! Do that!

by Tracy Visher

Whether you have the “thrill seeker gene” that pushes you to experience life from cliff tops and ocean bottoms, or if you are restored by walking through a quiet forest glen, Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour can provoke, awe and inspire any who see it.

On Thursday, April 3rd at 7 p.m., in the Rose Ballroom at John Ascuaga’s Nugget in nearby Sparks, Nevada Land Trust will host the 13th year of this outstanding international, award winning array of outdoor films. Film makers from the USA, Canada, South Africa, UK and Norway will enthrall you with their stories of skiing, snowboarding, kayaking, slot canyons and breathtaking aerial scenery - indeed - you will find it all here!

We have perpetually had a sold out house, with the 2013 attendance topping 1200 outdoor enthusiasts! This is our largest annual fundraiser and proceeds help us to accomplish our mission to protect and preserve the special places and open spaces in Nevada (over 42,000 acres to date with more projects in the works). Tickets are \$20 in advance through the Nugget or REI (\$25 at the door) or you may purchase a \$55 VIP ticket that includes an invitation to a special reception, also at the Nugget, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. for a drink, hors d'

oeuvres and a silent auction of works by distinguished local artists. There is also a pre-show exhibit area open beginning at 5:30 p.m. Details: <http://nevadalandtrust.org/events/banff-mountain-film-festival>



From the film: Poor Man's Heli ©

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SCHEELS



Just Plein Fun!

by Tracy Visher

It's July in Reno and you are home with a couple of hot, bored kids. What to do? Bring them to Rancho San Rafael Park on Saturday, July 19th at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. for an outdoor art

class! Nevada Land Trust is once again hosting this fun Artown event under the trees in the arboretum. For a \$5.00 supply fee, your kids can receive an hour long lesson from one of Nevada's distinguished local artists. You must pre-register for these classes. We have two

age groups for each session; 5-7 and 8+. A parent or guardian is required to accompany all children. Please call our office at (775)851-5180 to learn more and to register. We will have a waiting list if classes fill up again like last year. Call early!



an insider with an outside view: Ginnie Kersey

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

by Alicia Reban

Ginnie Kersey has been involved in the Nevada Land Trust since the very beginning – returning to the Board of Trustees in 2013. Ginnie is familiar to many in northern Nevada through her work with the Great Reno Balloon Races, her passions for art, music, and parks, and her place in the greater UNR community as retired Budget Director for UNR. She is perhaps best known along with Clark Santini as a co-founder of Rancho San Rafael Park. We sat down recently for a look back at her fifteen years’ association with NLT and her love for open spaces and special places.



Ginnie and Clark Santini, 1981 at Rancho San Rafael Dedication.

Alicia Reban: I think most great conservationists have experiences in childhood that connect them to nature. Did you have that?

Ginnie Kersey: My Dad was in the Army. We moved around a lot, and I got used to being in places that were open and wild. Places a kid could have adventures, from the big woods near our home in New Jersey, to Monterey, and the Presidio in San Francisco. I could get out and do things. I had the freedom to explore. It was magical.

A: Tell me about coming to Nevada.

G: I first saw Reno when driving across country with my family when I was nine. We followed the old Harold’s Club signs the whole way. I remember being fascinated when we got to the Great Basin – I’d never seen anything like it before. I moved here in 1963, drawn to the mountains, the atmosphere. It was, and still is, such a neat place to live.

I loved the university community, and the chance I had there to connect with interesting people and see different aspects of the state.

A: So this “little park” you helped create – the one that happens to be beloved by thousands – can you tell me more about it?

G: Clark Santini had heard that Rancho San Rafael was for sale, and he convinced me to get involved to try to find a way to preserve it. We started with petitions, and discovered that many others wanted to see it remain open. We didn’t want to see it become “tower crane habitat,” a reference to the building boom going on in the 70’s. Reno at the time wasn’t particularly interested in helping, but we found support through Washoe County, who agreed to add it to the regional park system if we were successful, and helped with the bond issue in 1979 to pay back a loan we’d received from the state. It was important to so many people who could see the potential for our community. Rancho San Rafael Park was dedicated in 1981.

A: You have given so much to Nevada Land Trust over the years. When we did that video back in 1999 with your grandson Ryan, and your Mom, you spoke of how important it was that Nevada not become “that way”, referring to a place back East that was paved over and filled to the brim with people and traffic and congestion. Have we made some progress?

G: It has been, and continues to be, rewarding in so many ways. I drive through Washoe Valley, for example, and look out over Old Winter’s Ranch, and I think how amazing it is that NLT has been able to do so much there. Instead of 2,500 homes, there are wetlands and birds and trails and parks. I think we’ve made progress in making people aware of the importance of such things. I am proud that we’ve been able to pursue protection no matter how difficult the situation, with all the challenges of time and money – we’ve always found a way to get it done. It makes my heart sing. That’s why I’m still here.



Ginnie in a T6 preparing for Great Reno Balloon Race flyover, 2011.

the giving tree

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going places

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for the Nevada Land Trust*

Banff Mountain Film Festival / 04.03.2014

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The Art of Conservation for Kids! / 07.19.2014

It's July in Reno and you are home with a couple of hot, bored kids. What to do? Bring them to Rancho San Rafael Park on Saturday, July 19th at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. for an outdoor art class! Look for details inside this issue. **YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR THESE CLASSES!**



Vivian Olds teaches young artists,
Art of Conservation for Kids, July 2013.

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