



territory

this land is your land



Tahoe Meadows, by Mariusz Blach

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

Fall 2012 • Volume 14 • Issue 2

Nevada Land Conservancy becomes Nevada Land Trust

Putting the Trust in Land Trust!

by Alicia Reban

Nevada Land Conservancy, the organization you have known and supported since 1998, is changing its name. To be more specific, we're changing one word in our name. Other than that, Nevada Land Trust is the same dedicated board, the same qualified staff, the same mission, the same successful conservation toolkit.

I asked Harry Parsons, our treasurer and one of our founding board members, to put it in a little perspective.

"The name we chose fourteen years ago was a wish about what we hoped to be," said Harry Parsons, Nevada Land Conservancy's treasurer and one of its founding board members. "Over 41,000 protected acres later, our reality has been even better. We have taken on more complex conservation and restoration efforts, well beyond our wildest dreams. Landowners trust us to listen, speak clearly, and create solutions that meet their needs to protect land, water, and wildlife habitat. Agencies trust us to bring people together quickly around natural resource issues and get the job done. Donors trust us to be good and wise stewards of their precious charitable dollars. It is with the Board's appreciation to all our partners today and in anticipation of our supporters tomorrow that we become Nevada Land Trust," said Parsons.

In our first fourteen years, as Nevada Land Conservancy, we successfully completed eleven property acquisitions on the Truckee River, and we led the Washoe Valley initiative to protect the Old Winters Ranch. We've worked to acquire missing pieces within several of Nevada's Wilderness Study Areas, and protected world-class wildlife

continued on page 4...

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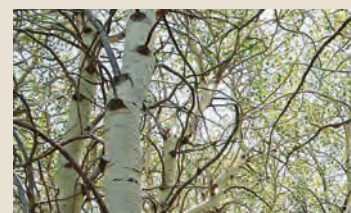
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Thoughts from the Executive Branch

by Alicia Reban



As Nevada Day approaches each October, I get a little more sentimental about my adopted western home. It started earlier this year, as Chuck and I were meeting with a rancher near Elko who wanted to work with Nevada Land Trust because we're "local." I appreciate this Nevadan's definition of local, because as Nevada's land trust, we share it. It just so happens I've been working on a theory about expanding distance as it relates to the West. I first noticed this phenomenon when I arrived in Nevada twenty-two years ago from Texas. There, particularly in north Texas where I grew up (and pretended to be "western"), the counties are more-or-less of similar size. Thirty miles from Denton in any direction, you're in the next county's seat. The definition of local, as it referred to neighbors, shopping, and perhaps most importantly, high school football rivalries, seemed to be about 20 miles or so.

Let's compare that to Nevada and the Great Basin. With apologies to Lyle Lovett and my family and friends back in Texas, I'm talking about the Real West here. What may be considered "local," as it applies to these parts, is HUGE, and requires travel over great distances. Travis County, in which the capitol of Texas is located, is about 1,000 square miles. Washoe County, Nevada, where I sit writing beneath the tree in front of our office, is over 6,000 (sorry, everything's NOT bigger in Texas). Humboldt County next door, is 9,000 square miles. Nevada Land Trust's recently completed Strategic Conservation Plan, covers a focus area of 53,000 square miles. NLT's closest project is the regional parkland on which our office sits. We can be down on the Winters Ranch in Washoe Valley in 15 minutes. Our Tahoe-area projects take an hour to reach, and the wildlife sanctuary at Baker takes 7 hours. We truly are Nevada's land trust.

Our newest project area, as the crow flies, is 150 miles north and east of where I sit. It even takes in a tiny swath of Oregon and California – areas important to Nevada's people and wildlife. Such distance presents both challenges and opportunities, but we are up to the task. We of course don't do this alone, but in concert with landowners, donors, agency friends, and others who realize that these large landscapes are precious, that what we do to protect it today will truly matter 100 years from now, and that in the meantime we'll need a little more gas money and time to get to these places we all care about conserving.

I do like Texas (and love some of its people and the dry-rub BBQ in Lockhart very much) and it's a nice place to be from, but I LOVE Nevada. Nevada is bigger and better in so many ways. It's more rugged, more wild, more real – the land and the people. The distance defines us. Many of us live and work where the people are, but our neighborhood is a big one, and we care about what happens to the deer and sage grouse habitat, the rivers, and the pine-covered mountains that stretch hundreds of miles in every direction.

As you consider your annual giving this year, know that every gift is important to us. We'll put it to good conservation work right here in the neighborhood. And about my developing theory, I'll let you know when I arrive at the distance factor. In the meantime, my sincere thanks for helping us go the extra mile.

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North Valleys Important

Bird Area Protected

218 Acres of Silver Lake Purchased

by Sonya Giroux

Thousands of birds are chirping and singing their appreciation! Nearly 218 acres of important migratory bird habitat near Stead will be saved as open space thanks to a purchase agreement between the Peter Echeverria Family Limited Partnership and Nevada Land Trust to preserve the land. Nevada Land Trust used the Nevada State Lands Conservation and Resource Protection grant program, matched by a generous donation from the Echeverria family, to purchase the land Friday, September 14.



Silver Lake, by B. Goodman

"The preservation of this land is truly something to celebrate," Nevada Land Trust Projects Director Becky Stock said. "Through the acquisition, we'll be able to almost double the amount of protected valuable wildlife, wetlands and recreational resources in the Silver Lake area." She added, "We were lucky to have such amazing partners for this project. It wouldn't have been possible without the help of attorney Craig Etem of Lionel Sawyer and Collins."

The purchase completes the protection of the lake bed of Silver Lake, and will allow for future recreational trails.

"Silver Lake is one of our region's special places," Nevada Land Trust Co-Executive Director Alicia Reban said. "It is an important part of the Pacific inland flyway and a vital nesting and migratory bird stopover. A place where the public may enjoy and learn from more than 80 species of birds and other wildlife that use the wetland and surrounding uplands throughout the year."

Nevada Land Trust will work with partner agencies, including Washoe County and local residents, towards creating a nature study area at Silver Lake similar to the one that currently exists at nearby Swan Lake.

13th Annual Beer Hike for Land Conservation

*Silver Peak Restaurant & Brewery's Spooner-Marlette
Lake Hike to Benefit Nevada Land Trust*



12th Annual Beer Hike 2011

Come and join the quintessential Sierra fall hike - glorious aspen, good friends, and a high mountain lake - capped off with a cold, refreshing beer. You are invited to join Silver Peak Restaurant & Brewery's 13th Annual Beer Hike on behalf of Nevada Land Trust, Saturday, October 13th. The event celebrates its third year on the Nevada State Park Spooner-Marlette Lake trail. Participants can enjoy a cold, award-winning Silver Peak beer at Marlette Lake for a suggested donation of \$5. The hike begins at 8:30 a.m. from the Spooner Lake parking facilities at the intersection of State Route 28 and U.S. 50.

The hike from Spooner to Marlette Lake is roughly 9.5 miles round trip with a 1200 foot elevation gain and no more than 5% grade, so participants are encouraged to drink lots of water when hiking. Participants can bike or ride horses up the trail, and hike-in camping is available near the lake. Remember, our state parks need help too -- parking is \$12 per vehicle with a \$2 discount for Nevada residents (please consider carpooling). This year's participants will have a chance to purchase a commemorative hike pint cup made of flexible, BPA-free silicone, or win a Half Dome 2 Plus Tent donated by REI.



NLT board and staff visit a prospective project

The definition of TRUST is simple: It is both character (who you are) and competence (your strengths and the results you produce). – Stephen M.R. Covey.

habitat atop the Granite Range, in Wall Canyon and next door to Great Basin National Park. After the Caughlin and Washoe Drive fires, we hit the ground running to provide emergency stabilization and replanting along Steamboat Creek and in Manzanita Canyon. We are currently working to protect the 1.76-acre private parcel which lies in the middle of the Tahoe Meadows adjacent to Nevada Highway 431.

Our new name – Nevada Land Trust, will help to better identify us. In spite of our conservation successes, we've often flown under the radar or gotten confused with state agencies and national conservation organizations. We have amazing land protection opportunities before us right now in the Tahoe Basin, the Sierra Front, near Winnemucca Ranch, and elsewhere in northern Nevada. We sincerely hope this change will help us better connect to more people who care about the land, water, wildlife, and outdoor recreation in the state of Nevada.

Nevada Land Trust Seeks Accreditation



The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. Nevada Land Trust is pleased to announce it is applying for accreditation in 2013. A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs. "Seeking accreditation is a rigorous process that requires us to look at every aspect of our organization, from project selection to fundraising to record keeping," states Sonya Giroux, Operations Director for Nevada Land Trust. "It's rewarding to see how Nevada Land Trust has matured in the past fifteen years, and we're excited for national recognition for the great conservation work we do here in Nevada."

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how Nevada Land Trust complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/tips-and-tools/indicator-practices>.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org and click on the "submit feedback" button, or email your comments to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 112 Spring Street, Suite 204, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Comments on Nevada Land Trust's application will be most useful by February 27, 2013.



Across the Sheldon 2011, by B. Stock

North by Northwest:

NLT Partners with Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge

by Chuck Pope

Located in far Northern Nevada, Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge protects more than half a million acres of high desert habitat for large wintering herds of pronghorn antelope, scattered bands of bighorn sheep, and a rich assortment of other wildlife. The landscape is vast, rugged, and punctuated with waterfalls, narrow gorges, and lush springs among rolling hills and expansive tablelands of sagebrush and mountain mahogany. Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge in southeastern Oregon is located on a massive fault block ridge that ascends abruptly nearly three quarters of a mile above the Warner Valley floor in a series of rugged cliffs, steep slopes, and knife-like ridges which is home to more than 300 species of wildlife. Featured species include pronghorn antelope, California bighorn sheep, mule deer, sage grouse, and redband trout.

"It is magnificent country, and truly worthy of its national treasure status," said Patty McCleary, Nevada Land Trust's Conservation Director. "I get why people go out of their way to come here, because the landscape is dramatic, and all the wildlife makes it even more precious."

Nevada Land Trust has become an acquisition partner with the Greater Hart Sheldon Conservation Fund (GHSCF) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to work with interested land owners who may hold key qualifying private parcels adjacent to and within the boundaries of those areas.

"We only work with willing sellers, and it's completely voluntary," emphasized McCleary. "The price paid for property selected for the program is the fair market value as established by an independent appraisal. It's pretty straightforward. As Nevada's first land trust we have built a reputation around listening carefully and working closely with landowners, businesses and public agencies."

Funding for the program comes from the Greater Hart Sheldon Conservation Fund (GHSCF), which has established a special fund to benefit the Sheldon and Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuges. Land acquired through the program will be owned by NLT until it can be added to the Sheldon and Hart Mountain National Refuges, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

an insider with an outside view: Becky Stock

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

Ela: Where did you grow up?

Becky: Albany, Oregon a small town on the Willamette River where anything grows!

E: What is it like to grow up on the farm?

B: Farming is a lot of hard work, and there's a lot of repetition, but your work is guided by the physical environment. If the crops are irrigated and fertilized they thrive, if they're pollinated they produce, but if it rains at the wrong time you can see a lot of energy and resources vanish.

E: Growing up on the farm means that many of your memories are probably entwined with nature, the seasons and the out-of-doors. Is that why you have decided to work for land trust? To be close to nature?

B: As a kid you take your background for granted, but I had easy access to rivers and trails and open spaces to explore by myself or with my horse. I value the access I had as a kid, and I want everyone to find that open space without having to travel too far. I like having new knowledge about why land protection is important, learning more about the science of why plant/animal diversity is critical, and how to actively increase that diversity. That is very rewarding for me.

E: Do you feel like those days on the farm shaped you into who you are today?

B: They certainly shaped my arms! I was moving irrigation pipe at the age of 10.

E: Why is it so important to protect places in Nevada, and what is "a special place" anyway?

B: You can argue that there's a lot of open space in Nevada already, but what's important is keeping the land and its resources healthy. A special place is rarely barren dirt (unless it's a playa), I'd say it's what is tied to the land that makes it special – plants, animals, water, scenic views, trails.

E: Land trusts rely on donations, grants, and public land acquisition programs to cover expenses. How do you convince people to consider donating money or land to preserve it?

B: I think understanding that when families donate money, and especially land, they may be donating their history and family pride. That can be hard to share or part with, so it's very important for NLT to recognize the value of the land we work with as part of something much bigger.

E: Protecting land is a long-term commitment, how do you achieve it?

B: Patience!

E: What are your goals as a Project Director for NLT for the next year?

B: To complete transactions that protect special places and open spaces for all to enjoy, and to make sure I take time to get out and enjoy them also!

E: What else do you like to do when you have spare time?

B: Ride horses, run, do long bike trips like Cycle Oregon, take Kirk and the dogs out to camp in the Great Basin and soak in desert hot springs, and support my husband's dreams to become a brewer of great beer!

E: And how's that coming?

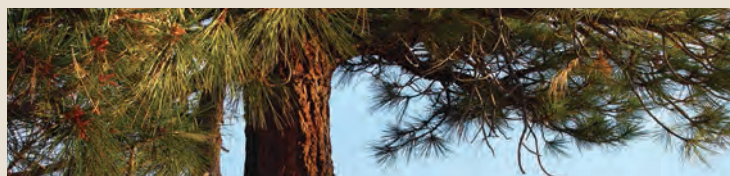
B: I'm never nervous tasting his brews, because he's gotten quite good at it. He won the 2011 Project Go Backwash event and his Reddy Eddy beer was on tap at Silver Peak recently. That was fun!



Becky in Fort Bidwell, California

the giving tree

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going places

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

Brews with Views Hike / 10.13.2012

13th Annual Beer Hike for Land Conservation. Silver Peak Restaurant & Brewery's Spooner-Marlette Lake Hike to Benefit Nevada Land Trust. More inside this issue.

The Great Basin Brew Relay! / 11.03.2012

This is a 4-person, 40 mile relay running event benefiting Nevada Land Trust. Each runner completes two 5-mile legs. Questions call Paul @ Sparks brewery: 775-355-7711.

Banff Mountain Film Festival / 03.26.2013

Come join our celebration of the great outdoors! The adventure begins Tuesday, March 26th at 7 p.m. in John Ascuaga's Rose Ballroom. Call NLT for details: 775-851-5180.



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