2023 NEVADA
ANNUAL REPORT

A Bright Future for Nevada

Together, we find a way

Mauricia M.M. Baca
Nevada State Director

ON THE COVER Lake Lahontan © Chip Carroon/TNC; THIS PAGE Mauricia M.M. Baca © James Lavish; OPPOSITE PAGE Places We Protect map © Sarah Byer/TNC; Ecoflight over the Amargosa River © Mauricia Baca; Trees at Independence Lake Preserve © Chip Carroon/TNC; Michael Clifford speaking at River Fork Ranch Preserve © Lori Leonard/TNC

FROM THE STATE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,
As this year comes to a close, I am looking forward to 2024, which marks our 40th year as a chapter. With our anniversary approaching, I have been thinking about how different Nevada might look without the work we have been able to accomplish together.

When I think about our achievements, as well as the upcoming challenges we face, the word that comes to mind is *transformation*. Four decades ago, as the chapter was just getting started, TNC helped to protect Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge from development. Ash Meadows is one of the most biodiverse spots in North America, and TNC Nevada shares a 40th anniversary with this important and beloved place. Today, when you look out from Ash Meadow's visitor's center to the boardwalk, you can imagine what it would have been like if there were 30,000 homes instead of the pristine turquoise springs full of rare and endemic fish that are there today.

Thirty-five years ago, TNC helped preserve another iconic place by making a deal with Howard Hughes Corp. to permanently protect 5,000 acres of the land surrounding Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Without that agreement, the beautiful lands we now cherish for recreation also would have been a subdivision.

The Truckee River would look completely different without the transformative changes we were able to make with our partners. We helped restore 11 miles of the river's natural curves after it was straightened to prevent flooding, which caused detrimental effects to the river's ecosystems. Now, native plants along its banks are lush, the fish and birds have returned, and anglers, hikers and recreationists can enjoy all the river has to offer.

Looking ahead, we know there is more transformation to come. Nevada is at the center of the clean energy revolution, and our state's lithium supply and solar energy development will likely be key to our country's decarbonization. At TNC, we are working hard to ensure that smart-from-the-start planning principles guide this new development, and that the much-needed transition to clean energy doesn't come at the cost of Nevada's wildlife, water and cultural resources. I'm excited to share an inspiring example from Pioche with you in this annual report.

You'll also read more about how policy successes like the bipartisan infrastructure bill and the Inflation Reduction Act are bringing conservation funding and transformative projects to Nevada and the West. At TNC Nevada, we are contributing locally and globally to TNC's ambitious 2030 goals, which will also support a transformative, abundant future for people and nature. You'll see those goals highlighted throughout this report.

I am so grateful for what your support has allowed TNC to achieve over the past four decades, and it makes me so hopeful for the future. Thank you for another great year in conservation.

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.

WHERE WE WORK

PROTECT

In August, State Director Mauricia Baca joined federal and nonprofit partners on an Ecoflight over Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge to discuss threats facing the refuge and its watershed and solutions. Since helping to conserve the refuge 40 years ago, TNC Nevada has continued to work with our partners to protect this incredibly biodiverse place for people and nature.

TRANSFORM

TNC Nevada and California—in partnership with the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California and the University of Nevada, Reno—are planning a prescribed fire training exchange (TREX) at Independence Lake and River Fork Ranch preserves next fall. TREX trainings are intended to build skills and create collaboration in controlled burning through a more holistic perspective that incorporates local values, helps build local capacity and supports community and landscape objectives.

INSPIRE

Every month, from March through October, we had expert TNC staff, trustees and partners speak at our Science & Nature Speaker Series at River Fork Ranch Preserve. Experts covered topics from birds to photography to pond turtle research to renewable energy development. In July, Nevada Conservation Scientist Michael Clifford shared his research on lithium extraction in the United States.

BY THE NUMBERS

11%

Bureau of Management (BLM) lands in Nevada that are groundwater-dependent ecosystems, according to the Nevada iGDE (indicators of GDEs) database. There are more than 12,000 springs and 2,800 miles of groundwater-dependent rivers and streams on BLM lands.

691,249

Acres containing 39 ecological systems that were assessed with our Landscape Conservation Forecasting™ tool. This work was done in partnership with TNC's Utah chapter at Boulder Mountain, between Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef national parks in Utah.

>600

Attendees who joined us at events at River Fork Ranch Preserve in 2023, in addition to more than 200 volunteers who helped out at our preserves this year. Thank you, volunteers!

INITIATIVES

2030 GOALS:
Conserving the World's Freshwater

Saving Healthy Lands for a Healthier Planet

RESILIENT LANDS

Using science and collaborative management for a better future

VISIT | Learn more aboutour preserves and lands we protect at **nature.org/placesweprotect**

The Sagebrush Sea is a big place—more than 150 million acres including the majority of Nevada—and has some seriously big problems, from weeds and wildfire to drought and climate change. But at The Nature Conservancy we have been rallying our people, projects, and partnerships across the biome to meet these challenges and demonstrate how applied science and collaborative management can bring us a better future. Tapping into the once-in-a-generation funding made available through the federal infrastructure laws, TNC teams are connecting across the West to accelerate stream restoration, grazing management innovation, and native seed science.

In August, TNC learned that the Bureau of Land Management awarded us $10 million to restore degraded streams, meadows, and riparian areas over six states from Oregon to Colorado. This partnership brings together several TNC priorities, including the Sagebrush Sea Program's focus on defending the best and last intact landscapes across the range with the Colorado River Program's priority on restoring watershed resiliency as a nature-based solution to drought. TNC will work closely with the BLM to restore over 100 miles of stream while improving the efficiency and effectiveness of how the BLM prioritizes, plans, and permits these efforts.

TNC is also putting together a large, multistate effort to connect our owned and partnered working ranches to demonstrate how virtual fencing can unlock adaptive management for conservation–compatible grazing. This emerging technology allows managers to control the timing and location of grazing with invisible boundaries planned on a computer and delivered via cellular networks to collars on animals. Together with the BLM and partners, TNC will show how virtual fencing works in large and rugged western landscapes and within agency policy. The outcomes will lead to healthier streams, fewer impacts to wildlife, and greater flexibility for livestock grazers to contend with the uncertainties of wildfire and climate change.

In addition to these two flagship, biome-wide, multimillion dollar collaborations with the BLM, TNC is also investing in other projects with state and federal agencies to reverse ecosystem loss in the Sagebrush Sea. This includes furthering the science of native seed restoration with the National Park Service by testing our innovations in parks across the range, and quantifying the need for restoration seeds across Nevada. With these efforts, TNC is rising to the moment and working west-wide to make large and lasting change that preserves the natural heritage of the Sagebrush Sea while preparing us for the changing world to come.

THIS PAGE Greater sage-grouse © Scott Copeland; OPPOSITE PAGE Sagebrush in the Black Rock Desert © Chip Carroon/TNC; Matt Cahill © Courtesy Matt Cahill

STAFF

Matt Cahill, Sagebrush Sea Program Director

Matt leads The Nature Conservancy's Sagebrush Sea Program, a collection of six states working together to improve conservation outcomes in sagebrush ecosystems. Together these states—Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming—are focused on innovative solutions that can improve restoration success and reverse the trend of degradation and wildfire in rangelands across the American West. Matt began with The Nature Conservancy in 2015, first as an ecologist implementing restoration in Oregon's sagebrush steppe, then as a collaboration specialist bringing partners together to find solutions to rangeland management issues. He lives in Bend, Oregon.

ONLINE

Learn more about Matt's work and listen to a recent interview with him at **nature.org/sagebrushsea**

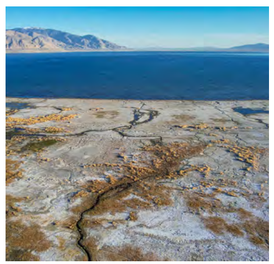
INITIATIVES

2030 GOALS:
Conserving the World's Freshwater

Helping People on the Front Lines of the Climate Crisis

RESILIENT WATERS

Developing strategies to protect Nevada's precious groundwater



THIS PAGE Walker Lake © Chip Carroon/TNC; OPPOSITE PAGE Ruby Valley © Chip Carroon/TNC; INSET Aspens in the Toiyabe Range © Chip Carroon/TNC; Mallard © Chip Carroon/TNC; Vivid dancer damselfly © Janel Johnson/NDNH

In Nevada, the driest state in the nation, groundwater-dependent ecosystems (ecosystems that depend on groundwater for all or part of their water needs) are crucial for plants and wildlife. Almost half of Nevada's endemic species rely on groundwater-dependent ecosystems (GDEs) for all or part of their lives. With less than 10 inches of rainfall per year in the Silver State, GDEs are also important for people: they are used for drinking water, agriculture, recreation, and cultural values.

For the past five years, we have been working to develop strategies to sustain and manage GDEs in Nevada. In 2019, we completed the indicators of groundwater-dependent ecosystems map, and found that more than 10 percent of Nevada is made up of GDEs. Last year, we completed an assessment of 12 stressors and threats that GDEs face in Nevada, and found that almost 40 percent of the wells we analyzed had significantly declining groundwater trends and that all of Nevada is predicted to be more "droughty" in the future.

We have almost completed the next step in this project and will soon be issuing a report on strategies to protect and conserve GDEs. With these strategies, we can help reduce impacts on and improve the sustainability of our state's groundwater-dependent ecosystems. Stay tuned to see the final report in the coming months on the Groundwater Resource Hub (linked on next page).

A sample of our recommendations include:

- Increase the understanding of co-benefits of healthy and restored GDEs
- Increase monitoring and reporting
- Consider GDEs in permitting, guidance and large-scale planning documents to identify and prioritize areas for protection and management
- Increase the pace and scale of GDE restoration
- Incorporate collaboration and communication to manage and sustain GDEs
- Increase awareness of the value of GDEs and the need to protect and reduce impacts to them

BY THE NUMBERS

50%

Nevada counties that received more than 80 percent of their water supplies from groundwater in 2015

ONLINE

Learn more about our work on groundwater at **groundwaterresourcehub.org/where-we-work/nevada**

INITIATIVES

2030 GOALS:
Tackling Carbon Emissions

CLIMATE ACTION

Powering communities with local, resilient renewable energy

LEARN | Learn more about our Mining the Sun initiative at **nature.org/miningthesun**

THIS PAGE Solar arrays outside of Las Vegas; OPPOSITE PAGE Power lines outside of Pioche, Nevada; INSET Peter Gower speaks to partners and community members at the Caselton site; Community meeting to discuss remediation and renewable energy opportunities; Aerial view of the Caselton Mine and Mill Site © Bridget Bennett

For almost a century, Lincoln County has relied on hydropower from Hoover Dam to supply its electricity needs.

But as Lake Mead's levels have dropped, the power the dam produces is no longer enough to meet the county's demand, and energy bought on the market can be expensive. So the Lincoln County Power District (LCPD) began looking for other ways to keep the lights on, including using renewable energy sources.

"We have been hydro-dependent for over 90 years," says Dane Bradfield, general manager of LCPD. "With the state of the rivers, we need to invest in renewable energy."

At the same time, the Greenfield Environmental Multistate Trust, under the oversight of the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection, and the Bureau of Land Management have been working toward the cleanup of contamination at the 3,200 acre Caselton Mine and Mill Site, an area near Pioche that was mined for silver, gold, lead, zinc and copper until the late 1950s.

Together, the partners are working with the community and other stakeholders to coordinate the cleanup of the site and discover beneficial alternate land uses for the community, including renewable energy.

"NDEP and the Multistate Trust are collaborating with community members, stakeholders, and various partners to explore potential future uses for this legacy mining and milling site, which can be incorporated into the site's remediation plans," says Jeff Collins, bureau chief of corrective actions at NDEP. "This plan aims to align with the community's future uses and interests, while addressing economic, social, and environmental challenges related to legacy mining and milling operations."

> "It takes a lot of effort on a lot of levels to make something like this happen. ...We're excited to have so many partners."
>
> – Dane Bradfield, General Manager, Lincoln County Power District

In 2020, as the Multistate Trust was exploring the option of renewable energy as a future land use for the Caselton site, NDEP connected them with TNC Nevada, due to our work on prioritizing previously disturbed lands for renewable energy development through our Mining the Sun initiative. We helped to convene a coalition of partners, including LCPD, the EPA, and the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL). NREL produced a solar technoeconomic feasibility study and found that solar energy could be cost-effectively produced at the site.

Now in late 2023, LCPD is moving forward with cleaning up part of the Caselton site and building a 2 MW solar array on it, with support from partners and community funding they received from Nevada Senators Cortez Masto and Rosen. They aim to have the project online in 2025, with groundbreaking happening in the next few months.

Building renewable energy on disturbed sites can solve multiple problems at once, says Jaina Moan, TNC Nevada's director of external affairs.

"We're working to reuse a mining space for renewable energy development in a way that meets the needs of that community in a very special way," she says. "And at the same time it's cleaning up environmental pollution."

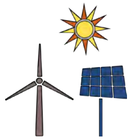
Peter Gower, TNC's Western U.S. and Canada Division climate and renewable energy program director says renewable energy can not only be a new land use for brownfields, but "it can also drive investment, attention, and solutions toward sites like Caselton that need remediation," he says.

In July, TNC Nevada and partners held a community meeting in Pioche to share updates with the community and get residents' input on the project. While there's still a funding gap for remediation of the entire site, the partners hope the success story in collaboration at Caselton can inspire additional support.

Bradfield is grateful for the partners' collaborative efforts on a monumental and innovative project.

"It takes a lot of effort on a lot of levels to make something like this happen, and we're really grateful that these agencies believe in us," he says. "We're excited to have so many partners."

BY THE NUMBERS



50%

The EPA RE-Powering America's Land Initative has identified enough mine lands, brownfields, and landfill sites to build half the solar capacity needed to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

POLICY

2030 GOALS:
Helping People on the Front Lines of the Climate Crisis

Tackling Carbon Emissions

Supporting Local Leaders

Advancing policy for climate and conservation

Partnering with local, state and federal governments to protect nature

Climate funding for Nevada

In 2023, investment in climate action from the Inflation Reduction Act began to make a difference for Nevada. The state of Nevada received $3 million from the IRA's climate pollution reduction grants, and the state will use the funds for the development of a priority climate action plan and comprehensive climate action plan for Nevada.

In September, the USDA awarded $15.75 million of IRA funding for urban and community forest projects in Nevada. TNC is working with UNLV, which was one of the grant recipients. This funding will help use natural infrastructure—tree canopy—to reduce the heat island effect in urban areas.

IRA funding provided opportunities to advance smart from the start energy siting, offering grants for technical assistance and community engagement for energy siting and permitting. We are working with the Nevada Department of Wildlife on a proposal for a renewable energy and wildlife conflict siting tool that agencies can use to screen proposals for wildlife conflicts.

We have also written support letters to grant applications that other entities in the state are submitting. We provided a support letter for the Nevada Clean Energy Fund application to EPA's Solar For All program, which could help spur the development of community renewable energy projects on abandoned mine lands and brownfields.

Our policy work

In 2023, Nevada trustees advocated for nature at the Nevada State Legislature and on Capitol Hill. During the 2023 Nevada legislative session, trustees and staff met with state assembly members and senators to share our support for water rights retirement legislation, conservation funding and smart from the start energy planning. In October, Nevada trustees visited Nevada's federal delegation in Washington, D.C. as part of TNC's Advocacy Day and Volunteer Leadership Summit.

ONLINE

Learn more about TNC's advocacy work at **nature.org/policy**

THIS PAGE TOP TO BOTTOM TNC staff at River Fork Ranch Preserve with James Settlemayer, director of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Assemblywoman Heidi Kasama © Jaina Moan; Last spring, TNC trustees and staff met with state legislators, including Nevada Senate Majority Leader Nicole Cannizzaro, to express support for water conservation, climate action, and conservation funding. © Jaina Moan; OPPOSITE PAGE Avi Kwa Ame National Monument © Chip Carroon/TNC; INSET LEFT TO RIGHT TNC CEO Jennifer Morris and TNC Nevada External Affairs Director Jaina Moan celebrating the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument announcement at the Department of Interior © Jaina Moan; TNC staff and trustees at Advocacy Day with Sen. Cortez Masto and Sally Jewell © Mauricia Baca

Avi Kwa Ame National Monument

On March 21, 2023, President Biden designated the Avi Kwa Ame, or Spirit Mountain, National Monument in southern Nevada. External Affairs Director Jaina Moan and CEO Jen Morris attended the Conservation in Action Summit where President Biden announced the designation and staff from the southern Nevada office attended the celebration event held at the Springs Preserve in Las Vegas.

Avi Kwa Ame is a very special place from an ecological perspective. In addition to honoring a traditional lifeway and sacred place for the Mojave, Chemehuevi and some Southern Paiute people, the Avi Kwa Ame area is one of the remaining unprotected, ecologically intact areas in the Mojave Desert. Protecting the landscape as a national monument ensures habitat connectivity between the Mojave Desert Preserve and the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, which spans across a transition zone between the Sonoran and Mojave deserts. Despite investments that the BLM has made to conserve this landscape, it is threatened with fragmentation from energy projects and associated roads and infrastructure, which can permanently disrupt ecological structure and function on the landscape. To protect the species and integrity of the Mojave Desert, we need to keep it intact, and the designation of the monument does just that.

The Nature Conservancy in Nevada has worked to conserve this landscape for 30 years. Our conservation actions include acquiring conservation easements for 160 acres at the Walking Box Ranch, located in the monument boundaries, and working with Clark County to purchase and retire grazing allotments to meet the goals of the county's habitat conservation plan for the Mojave Desert tortoise. Since 2014, we have commented extensively on the management of the Piute-Eldorado Valley Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The ACEC was chosen as the recipient site for mitigation dollars to balance the loss of habitat and other resources from solar projects at the Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone. TNC Nevada's conservation scientist Michael Clifford provided support as the monument was being developed by mapping the important conservation and ecosystem features, and these were incorporated into the final boundaries of the monument.

SCIENCE

2030 GOALS:
Tackling Carbon Emissions

Saving Healthy Lands for a Healthier Planet

Finding solutions for sagebrush conservation

Mapping the carbon sequestration potential of degraded rangelands

Rangelands are often ignored in the discussion of using land management to sequester carbon. However, TNC scientists' research has found that our rangelands can help to address our carbon problems by sequestering carbon dioxide, and that the carbon storage gains achieved by sagebrush restoration can be valued in carbon credit markets.

In partnership with the Nevada Division of Natural Heritage and Apex Resource Management Solutions, and with funding from the U.S. Climate Alliance, our science team recently mapped the cover of nonnative annual species over 120 million acres of sagebrush shrublands across the West. We simulated how much it would cost to seed sagebrush areas with perennial grasses and shrub species and how much additional carbon could be stored over 25 years compared to doing nothing. We found that replacing nonnative annual species like cheatgrass, an invasive species that covers rangelands extensively, with perennial grasses and woody species would be beneficial for wildlife, ranching and fire management. Seeding would also mostly store the additional carbon into soils, which represent a large percentage of ecosystem carbon and are a stable form of carbon storage.

Quantifying carbon sequestration potential

To find out how much carbon could be stored, and how much it would cost, we compared simulations of two scenarios: 1) seeding perennial grass and shrub species in sagebrush shrublands dominated by nonnative annual grass and forb species 2) and not doing any seeding. Using Sentinel-2 satellite imagery and analysis conducted in Google Earth Engine, we mapped the cover of nonnative annual grasses and forb species across a 120-million-acre geography centered on Nevada, where those species dominated the vegetation. Using spatial state-and-transition simulation modeling software with a carbon stock-and-flow sub-model that we populated, the comparisons were done across three large landscapes: the Columbian Plateau ecoregion in Nevada, the north-central Great Basin ecoregion outside the North American monsoon in Nevada, and the southeastern Great Basin ecoregion within the North American monsoon in Utah.

The net biome productivity (NBP) and cost per unit area of sagebrush shrublands was estimated by simulating restoration of nonnative annual species to perennial vegetation over a 25-year period. About 58 to 90 percent of NBP was stored in the soil. Across the geography, the most and least carbon stored, respectively, was in Utah, with 136,132 metric tons of carbon per year stored for $287 million, and the central Great Basin, where 3,196 metric tons of carbon per year could be stored for $23 million. Positive NBP values showed that ***sagebrush shrublands can store as much or more carbon than more productive systems in the United States and around the world***.

LEARN | Learn more about our research on carbon sequestration in rangelands at **nature.org/nvclimate**

152,071

Metric tons of carbon per year that could be stored in the soils of 120 million acres of sagebrush shrublands across the intermountain West, if they were seeded with native annual plant species and forbs that replace nonnative annual grasses.

Seeding degraded sagebrush rangelands to achieve these multiple conservation goals and sequester carbon is worth pursuing. With little existing research on this topic, this transformative study is the first of its kind on intermountain West sagebrush. Further funding of studies like this can support a future carbon market.

Seeding degraded landscapes The science team simulated the seeding of landscapes covered by nonnative annual grasses (left) as compared to a healthy, diverse landscape (right). © Louis Provencher

THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE PAGE Sagebrush at Virginia Peak © Chip Carroon/TNC

2023

YEAR IN PHOTOS

2023 was an incredible year for conservation, from policy wins to scientific achievements to new and old friends attending events and getting out in the field with us.

Thank you to all who donated to us this year, whether you visited or volunteered at a preserve, attended an in-person or virtual event, or supported our scientific and conservation endeavors. Together, we are making Nevada a better place for people and nature.

See the latest Nevada photos! Follow us at @nature_nevada

Nevada State College visit to the Oasis Valley In April, NSC students performed various water quality assessments, caught macro invertebrates, and learned about some of the species we help conserve on our preserves. © Matt Rader/TNC

Volunteeer docent training at River Fork Ranch Preserve In April, we welcomed 15 docents! They participated in a full day of training and are helping us throughout the year with staffing the Whit Hall Interpretive Center and organizing community events. © Lori Leonard/TNC

View from Independence Lake Preserve After record snowfall last winter, our cabin at Independence Lake Preserve was still completely buried in March. © Fred Mitchell

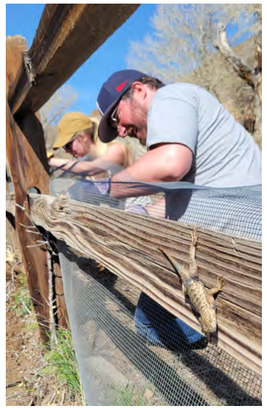
High waters at River Fork Ranch Preserve Volunteer Chip Carroon took these aerial photos in May during flooding from the incredible snowfall we had last winter. River Fork Ranch permanently protects 800 acres of floodplain at the confluence of the east and west forks of the Carson River. By giving rivers room to swell beyond their banks in times of high flow, undeveloped floodplains reduce flood risk to communities downstream while allowing groundwater aquifers to recharge and natural water purification processes to function. © Chip Carroon/TNC

Expert BioBlitz at the Atwood Preserve In May, we held an expert bioblitz at the Gary and Lajetta Atwood Preserve. The scientists who spent the weekend with us made some exciting new discoveries (including rare plants) that we will share more about soon. © Peter Castagnetti

Legacy Club Field Trip to the Oasis Valley Legacy Club members joined us for a field trip to the Torrance Ranch and Atwood preserves in April. Amargosa River Project Manager Matt Rader caught an Amargosa toad for the attendees to see up close. © Dan Quinn

Legacy Club field trip to River Fork Ranch Preserve Legacy Club members also visited River Fork Ranch Preserve in May, and joined expert birders Jim Woods and Doug Stinson for a bird walk. © Simon Williams/TNC

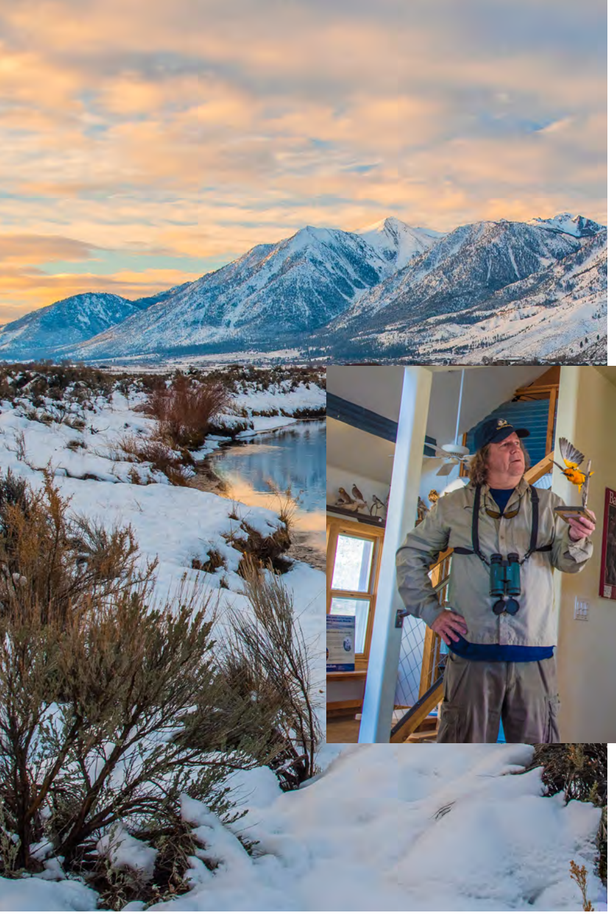
Patagonia employees at McCarran Ranch Preserve In May, volunteers installed beaver guards and removed trash and old fencing that was a barrier to wildlife. Thank you, volunteers! © Martin Swinehart



Board of Trustees meeting In September, TNC Nevada staff and trustees met in Elko for our quarterly board meeting. They got some much-needed time in nature by taking a hike at Lamoille Canyon. © Mauricia Baca

Yellow-headed blackbird Volunteer photographer Chip Carroon, whose photography you see throughout this report, captured this image in the Ruby Valley. © Chip Carroon/TNC

Strategic planning session Last summer, we completed our new strategic plan, which will guide our work over the next three years. In May, staff and trustees had a working session to discuss the plan. © Chip Carroon/TNC



VOLUNTEER

Doug Stinson

Over the past two years, Doug has been a huge help with many different projects at River Fork Ranch Preserve. He has led bird walks, done restoration work, mentored students, given educational presentations to the community, and more.

"Doug is willing to help out with just about anything that might be happening at River Fork Ranch," says Lori Leonard, RFR preserve manager. "He's an incredible naturalist, with an keen ability to spot critters outdoors that go unnoticed by most. He has done so much great work for TNC Nevada."

Born and raised in California, Doug first became interested in conservation when he took classes in natural history at Cuesta Community College after finishing his four years of service in the U.S. Marine Corps. At home, he loved sitting in the backyard and birdwatching and planting native plants in his garden to attract pollinators and wildlife.

Doug's conservation career has led him all over the U.S. He helped reintroduce falcons in California and Texas and snowy plovers along the coast. He has worked with nonprofit groups to do invasive weed removal and restoration work for almost four decades. He also worked at a Wild Birds Unlimited store for 18 years. Doug moved to Nevada eight years ago and now makes his home in Gardnerville.

His favorite part of volunteering at RFR is doing restoration work, such as invasive weed removal and planting, to support wetland habitat.

"My favorite thing is restoring the habitat and seeing the insects, mammals and birds return," Doug says.

VOLUNTEER | Want to get involved? Email us at **nvfovolunteer@tnc.org**

STAFF

David Arnold, Logistical Policy Associate

David served as our Logistical Policy Assistant during the 2023 Nevada legislative session. He was instrumental in our work at the legislature this year, and we couldn't have accomplished as much as we did this session without him.

David's accomplishments include creating a bill tracker to help us keep track of important bills on water, energy, climate and environmental justice moving through the legislature. He also researched and wrote a report on environmental justice in Nevada and helped us plan a lobby day for our trustees.

"It felt great to see my work having a direct impact, and watching it happen in front of me," David says.

David says he has always had an interest in politics and nature and that this job experience has made his passion for conservation even greater.

"I'm looking forward to bringing my knowledge to help promote conservation around the world," David says. "One issue I've studied a lot is environmental justice, and one day I want to help combat environmental justice issues in Africa."

Thank you, David! We are wishing you all the best and we can't wait to see what you do next.

STAFF

Charlene Blackstone, Associate Director of Development

Charlene joined the TNC Nevada team in April and works out of our Las Vegas office. As Associate Director of Development, she is focused on getting to know TNC donors and community members in Las Vegas and connecting them to our mission in the most meaningful ways. She also works hard to bring awareness to and find funding for our scientists' research. "I have one of the best and fun roles at TNC because I get to meet all different kinds of interesting and caring people," Char says. "There is a huge opportunity to connect the community to our mission and inspire impact."

Char is grateful she got to grow up in Nevada while her father served in the military. "Being able to grow up in one place allowed me to truly plant my roots and grow a connection to the community," she says. She has worked and volunteered for multiple nonprofits in Las Vegas. She has always had a love and appreciation for nature and enjoys traveling and hiking, and is now grateful she can combine her two passions for philanthropy and nature in her work at TNC.

Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, volunteering, attending concerts and plays, watching classic movies, playing the saxophone, and exploring new good food and drink spots around Vegas. Her favorite outdoor place in Nevada is the Deadman Canyon's Hidden Forest, where she loves to hike to experience both desert and forest landscapes.

Meet Our New Board Members

TRUSTEE

Tyler Jones

Tyler Jones is the founder and CEO of Blue Heron, and leads the firm's culture, philosophy and overall vision.

Tyler is a fourth-generation Nevadan who was raised in Las Vegas. He learned the construction trade starting at a young age from his father, Steve, and studied architecture at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Under Tyler's visionary leadership, Blue Heron has won numerous industry design awards and has achieved Platinum LEED certification by the U.S. Green Building Council and Emerald certification by the National Green Building Standard. Blue Heron is known for Vegas Modern™, a distinct and innovative design philosophy inspired byTyler's commitment to push the status quo and transform construction and design.

TRUSTEE

Mark Maffey

Mark Maffey is the Vice President of J.A. Tiberti Construction, where he has worked for 15 years and has managed more than $600 million in successful projects. As Vice President, Mark is responsible for daily operations of the company, as well as the review and management of all contracts and legal matters. Mark has worked in the construction industry for almost two decades and he is also LEED Certified for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of green buildings.

Mark is active in youth sports with his wife and four children, and he enjoys skiing, fly-fishing, big game hunting and working chukar with his English setters. Mark and his family spend much of their time in rural Nevada visiting family, friends and new places.

TRUSTEE

Elizabeth Raymond

Elizabeth is a Grace A. Griffen Professor of History Emerita at the University of Nevada, Reno. She grew up in Kansas City, MO, and moved to Nevada in 1980 after finishing her education at Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania. Though she didn't think she would stay in Nevada, she has found the state to be a source of endless fascination. Her teaching and research have centered on the complex relationships between people and place, which led in turn to her long-standing interest in TNC Nevada.

Elizabeth has served as the department chair, faculty senate chair, and director of strategic planning at UNR, and as a board member and vice chair of Nevada Humanities. She enjoys camping, traveling across the state and visiting TNC preserves with her husband, Jim Pagliarini.

TRUSTEE

Dana Wiesner

Dana is a Las Vegas resident and a UNLV graduate. She was one of the first Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographers in Nevada and worked for multiple hospitals in the Las Vegas Valley over the course of her 40-year medical career. She also served as an adjunct professor at UNLV, teaching ultrasound courses.

Dana's philanthropic experience includes serving as president for The Meadows School Parents Association, the National Charity League (of which she was also a founding member) and the Assistance League of Las Vegas.

Now that she is retired, Dana tries to spend as much time as possible outdoors, walking, swimming and traveling. She has visited many places, but her favorite trip is to visit her children and granddaughter in Boston.

40 Years of Conservation Success

TIMELINE 1984-2023

1984 We turned a planned 20,000-lot subdivision into the 13,000-acre **Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge**. © Simon Williams/TNC

1987 We crafted Nevada's **first conservation easements**, saving 7,000 acres of wetlands and two family cattle ranches at Franklin Lake. © TNC

1988 A win-win for developers and nature, we protected 5,000 acres at **Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area**. © Simon Williams/TNC

1990 We secured **$47.2 million for conservation** through Nevada's first statewide conservation bond, Question 5. © Simon Williams/TNC

1991 Nevada became the first TNC chapter to conserve **1 million acres**, largely thanks to our work to save desert tortoise habitat. © Dana Wilson/BLM

2000 Thanks to generous support from donors, we launched our work on the Carson River with the purchase of 800 acres at **River Fork Ranch**. © Simon Wililams/TNC

2012 We worked with partners on **a historic agreement** between the U.S. and Mexico on the Colorado River to help raise water levels in Lake Mead. © Simon Williams/TNC

2013 We celebrated the **restoration of 10 miles** of the Truckee River at our fifth project area on the river, the Tracy site.© Simon Williams/TNC

2014 We began evaluating up to **2 million acres** of land in eastern Nevada to guide restoration efforts, supporting sage grouse and the state's economy. © Joe Kiesecker

2019 We acquired the 900-acre **Atwood Preserve** to help protect the headwaters of the Amargosa River. © Chip Carroon/TNC

2022 We planted **100,000 trees** along the Amargosa River to provide habitat for birds and wildlife and help them adapt to climate change. © Michael Clifford/TNC

2023 We completed a new **strategic plan** to guide TNC Nevada's efforts for the next three years, with a focus on resilient lands, waters and people, and climate action. © Chip Carroon/TNC

LOOK BACK | Learn more about our conservation legacy at tinyurl.com/tncnvhistory

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EVENT

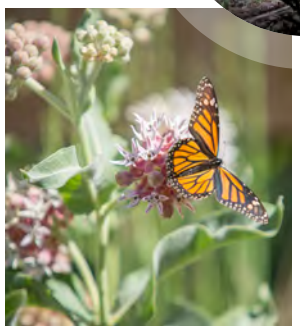
Will you be at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko January 29–February 3, 2024? So will TNC! We are a proud sponsor and we hope you'll let us know you're there and come find us at a panel about regenerative agriculture.

For more information, please email Kristen McInnis at **kristen.mcinnis@tnc.org**.

THIS PAGE CLOCKWISE Ruby Valley; Memory Ranches © Chip Carroon/TNC; Bobcat © John Axtell; Monarch butterfly © Simon Williams/TNC; Verdin © Len Warren; TNC Nevada trustees and staff at River Fork Ranch Preserve © Chip Carroon/TNC





NATURE THANKS YOU

Building a bright future for Nevada

The Nature Conservancy in Nevada proudly stewards the abundant natural resources of our state with a goal of ensuring that what makes Nevada special will be here for future generations to enjoy. Our efforts to preserve, protect and restore important places for both humans and nature are possible because people like you choose to invest in our work. We are incredibly grateful for your trust in us, and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.