

# Northeastern Nevada Stewardship Group

*Working Together For Healthy Landscapes and Quality Lifestyles*

2006 – 2007

## Second Annual Newsletter

### *Program Highlights*

#### **Nevada State Lands, Question 1 Habitat Conservation Plan Funding Agreement signed in March 2007.**

A joint effort between State Lands, Elko County, and NNSG will hire the Watershed Assessment Coordinator to direct the development of the Habitat Conservation Plan for the Tuscarora Watershed. Through coordinated efforts of a Watershed Working Group and resource specialists, the Coordinator will manage the Tuscarora Watershed Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Plan process. Residents and citizens with interest in the watershed area will engage in watershed analysis planning, the outcome being, suggested management actions to improve opportunities for wildlife, livestock production, based on increasing the functionality of watershed values.

The Q-1 grant distribution is in the amount of \$151,505.00, with term of work from July 2006 – December 31, 2008. NNSG is anxious to explore the potential benefits of watershed collaboration as a tool to produce sustained resources at the landscape scale.

#### **NNSG Sagebrush Habitat Demonstration Project 2002 – GLCI grant project: Northeastern NV Vegetation Demonstration Plot Project - 2006**

NNSG's 1,184 acre plot located north of Deeth, NV served as both seed collection site, and through a Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) grant initiated an ongoing monitoring regime for the plots. NNSG partnered with the Starr Valley Conservation District to gain the \$1,545.40 award which purchased GPS instruments, and 2 Laser Point Sticks used to establish the transect lines across the acreage. Gary Back, SRK and assistants, gathered field information and wrote the monitoring plan. The intent has been to offer the Demonstration Plot for Great Basin College student use in their agriculture training programs, or other GBC applications, and others with interest.



Members of the Wells FFA group gathering sagebrush seed on NNSG's Demonstration Plot, for application on 2006 burns.

#### **Mining and the Community – A Partnership 2003 – 2007: Great Progress!!**

Discussion and planning for "life after mining" in our mining-dependent communities, has become rich with communications and connections from Elko, to Battle Mountain, and onto Winnemucca/Lovelock since the initiating workshop held in the Fall of 2003.

Each community has a distinct vision and set of needs that will determine how community sustainability will be written. But common to each are the fact that mining properties exist and will close at a point in the future; some being much sooner than others. The Bureau of Land Management plays a specific part in this dialogue through their Land Use Planning process which has begun in Winnemucca in 2005 – the Battle Mountain District in 2008, and Elko District in 2009. Community sustainability will be considered in these plans. Discussions and connections will continue.

#### **Many thanks to Stewart Wilson for his work on behalf of NNSG!!**

Stewart Wilson, Wilson and Barrows, has assisted with our organizational responsibilities since 1998.

#### **The Community-Based Leadership Lady, Helen Hankins, is moving on.**

Helen initiated the Partnership training for northern Nevada in 1998, and has been a consistent supporter of NNSG. She will be in Phoenix, AZ working as the BLM, Associate State Director. We wish her the very best!!

### *A Note from President Gerry Miller :*

Whew! The year since my election as your president has really flown by and with some more notable accomplishments:

- Our Flagship document the "Elko County Sagebrush Ecosystem Conservation Strategy" – has been approved by the Elko County Commissioners.
- The Bylaws of the organization were amended to expand the Board of Directors from nine to eleven seats.
- We fully support the Sage-Step community surveys of the county.
- NNSG participated in the 2006 Workshop on Collaborative Watershed Research & Management in the Great Basin with a poster describing the 2005 very-large scale aerial (VLSA) imagery project on 25,000 acres of the Rock Creek watershed. Using this cutting edge technology is how I envision future methods of monitoring rangeland health.
- It has been my pleasure to serve you as your President, for in my opinion; the members of the Northeastern Nevada Stewardship Group are "***modern pioneers***"

### Dates To Remember

Annual Meeting April 19, Northeastern NV Museum 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

5<sup>th</sup> annual Weed Summit May 1-3<sup>rd</sup>, Convention Center

National Trails Day June 2<sup>nd</sup>, South Fork State Park

Friends of the Forest June 30<sup>th</sup> Powerhouse Picnic Group Area

Fire and Vegetation Management Workshop – July 12 – 14<sup>th</sup>

Lamoille Institute for Educators July 30<sup>th</sup> – Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>

National Public Lands Day – Sept 29, SnoBowl Outdoor Recreation Workshop - in October



Ed Sarman leading the closing discussion during 2006 LIFE ranch tour

**An Opportunity to Build Bridges** Summer 2006, NNSG was invited by the Nevada Natural Resource Education Council (NNREC) to add a production component to their Lamoille Institute for Educators (LIFE) program. LIFE provides a week-long out door environmental education experience for teachers k-12. NNSG's role is to connect livestock production practices and environmental protective measures utilized on ranch properties. Ed Sarman of Lee Livestock, Lamoille hosted the group of teachers. Morning presentations were made by Dr. Ben Bruce, UNR, Dr. Tom Harris, UNR, Kent McAdoo, Cooperative Extension, and Janet Petersen. NNSG's focus was on resource use, community and history. Chuck Petersen, NRCS coordinated the presentation periods. There was a great exchange of questions and information. NNSG and Lee Livestock will welcome the 2007 teachers as they discuss Water and Wetlands.

**Strengthening the Northeastern Nevada Stewardship Group** And strengthening community ties. NNSG has qualified for a National Forest Foundation (NFF) Continuing Award which will support a part-time Executive Director. The director will assist with non-profit administrative duties, membership building, and activity coordination. NNSG will host Friends of the Forest activities, and encourage community participation in restoration projects. Community announcements will be made.