

Northeastern Nevada Stewardship Group

Working Together For Healthy Landscapes and Quality Lifestyles

2010 – 2011

Sixth Annual Newsletter

Program Highlights:

How Are You Getting By? Sustainable Practices from the Hungarian Puszta to the American West

The Northeastern Nevada Stewardship Group (NNSG) partnered with the Western Folklife Center along with sponsors- JBR Environmental Consultants, Inc., Knight Piesold, Enviroscientists, Great Basin Ecology, Da Ka Doiyabe RC&D Council



Members of the Sustainable Practices panel during the 2011 Cowboy Poetry Gathering

On Saturday morning of the 2011 Cowboy Poetry Gathering, NNSG put on a sustainable practices forum. Participants include Agnes Kemecei, Manager, Heritage Breed Animal Park, Hortobágy Non-Profit and Imre Juhasz, also from Hungary; Harvey and Tom Barnes, ranchers, Jiggs, Nevada; and Agee Smith and McKenzie and Jason Molsbee, Cottonwood Ranch, O'Neil Basin, Nevada. The facilitator was Gareth Fisher, graduate student in Range Management at U.C. Berkeley. The discussion centered on threats to ranch sustainability and methods panel members have used to counter these threats. The audience was about 90

people. Afterwards, a lunch put together by the NNSG Board of Directors was offered so participants could meet and talk to the panel members. Over 100 people ate Hungarian goulash, American stew, lentil soup, cheese and bread along with Leta Collord's cookies. The lunch was finished off with shots of apricot brandy.

North Fork PMU (Greater Sage-Grouse Population Management Unit) Assessment Report

On January 20, 2011 NNSG presented the draft report to 38 people. Gerald Miller, coordinator of Da Ka Doiyabe RC&D Council and advisor to NNSG presided over the meeting. The assessment was secured through a Habitat Conservation bond by NNSG and Elko County under Nevada State Lands, Question 1 program. The contract was in the amount of \$223,000.

The report was made by Dr. Gary Back of Great Basin Ecology, Inc. who explained the process used for assembling habitat data across the 1.7 million acres of the study region. The Draft of the North Fork PMU Assessment can be found on our website at www.nnsg.org "Having completed one PMU/watershed assessment, we look forward to showing the public the work being done on our second assessment, the North Fork PMU/watershed. The data gathered during this process should be a great help to land resource managers," said Larry Hyslop, president of the NNSG. Sage grouse conservation and PMU ecological assessments make a distinct difference in providing tools for sustainable resources, according to the stewardship group. The tools can help those in livestock production, recreation, citizens concerned with hazardous fire or responsible for helping to manage public lands.

Forum with the Agencies- Recreation in Elko County

Forum participants: Guy D. Wagner, Rod Wittenberg, Joe Doucette, Jim Wilkinson, Ken Miller, Gar Abbas, Cheri Howell, Sherri Eklund-Brown, and Steven Lewis



Moderator Steven Lewis leading the discussion during the recent Forum with the Agencies on Recreation. (11/4/2010)

About 30 people attended this forum which was devoted to allowing the audience to ask questions of local land agencies about recreation on Elko County's public, state and county lands. Many questions concerned the U.S. Forest Service's Road Management Plan, but audience members also asked questions concerning trails, off-road vehicles and dispersed camping.

Lamoille Trail Dinner and Presentation

On October 22, 2010 NNSG members and friends gathered at the Lamoille Rancher's Center for a great tri-tip feed and presentation on the Lamoille – Secret Pass Trail. The feed was provided by the Nevada Chapter of the Dutch Oven Society - a jolly, capable group of folks, passionate about the proper grazing of western rangelands, as well as, their cooking. A diverse group of the community, numbering around 80, enjoyed the evening. The friends attending donated generously to support the dinner, with some funds available for NNSG's organizational needs. Sue Kennedy and Bill

Wolf presented the ambitious trails project, initiated through meetings held in 2003 and 2005 by the Recreation Pod of NNSG. The project will be built in phases, with the first leg accessing at Lamoille Canyon, traversing the hillsides to Talbot Canyon. The trail hugs the north shoulder face of the Ruby Mountains at an elevation, on non-wilderness land, appropriate for hikers, horsemen, and bikers. Kennedy emphasized the partnerships necessary to bring this trail system into fruition; she outlined the work agenda for 2011 necessary to move the trail forward: securing the NEPA clearance due soon, organizing trail crews for work when the weather breaks, and furthering necessary arrangements and requirements for the following trail phases. It was a great evening! Below is a view of Lamoille Creek and Spring Creek from the new hiking trail. (10/1/2010)



Dates To Remember

NNSG Day 4/14

NNSG Annual Meeting 4/20

Earth Day 4/22

Arbor Day 4/29

Elko Clean Up, Green Up & Recycle Day 4/30

9th Annual Weed Extravaganza 5/3-5

Wild Horse Forum 5/12

National Public Lands Day 5/14

National Trails Day 6/4

National Trails Day- SECRET-LAMOILLE TRAIL GROUNDBREAKING

On June 5th, 2010, volunteers met to begin construction of the Secret-Lamoille Trail at the pullout above the Powerhouse Picnic Grounds. The event was part of National Trails Day, which is celebrated by communities and volunteer groups across the country. Volunteers worked hard digging, raking, removing roots and rocks. Lunch was a spaghetti feast. Funding for the event was provided by the Northeastern Nevada Stewardship Group, with contributions from the US Forest Service, Event Source Inc. and the Friends of the Secret-Lamoille Trail.



Above, Ruby Mountains and Jarbidge districts Ranger Gar Abbas, right, takes a quick breather while Gerald Miller, past president of the Northeastern Nevada Stewardship Group, pulls some sagebrush from the trail.

**Stay current with NNSG activities and
volunteer opportunities at**

www.nnsg.org



Jim Evans, left, and Gary Brackley are doing field work for Great Basin Ecology, which is preparing the North Fork Sage Grouse PMU Assessment.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Hard to believe our group is finishing up its eleventh year. Our small board of directors has remained busy, although more board members to share the work would be nice. During 2010-2011, this energetic group has continued doing two things we do best. One is working with partners, whether it is the U.S. Forest Service in building a trail, the Western Folklife Center with a symposium on energy and a sustainability panel, numerous agencies concerning recreation in Elko County, the people of Tuscarora concerning weeds or the state and county with our conservation assessments. The second is providing educational get-togethers for the general public such as the recreation panel, sustainability panel, trail overview and Dutch oven meal, the ground breaking for the Lamoille-Secret Trail or partnering with the various activities and SWEATCo projects throughout the year. This work continues into our next year as we will offer a wild horse information meeting with personnel from the national and state offices of the Wild Horse and Burro Program and local BLM office, May 12, Convention Center. We will also continue looking for funding to continue our conservation assessments and we will finish up the ten-year study of our test plots. Let's join together and celebrate this successful year and look forward as we continue our pursuit of: "Working Together for Healthy Landscapes and Quality Lifestyles!"

Larry Hyslop, 2010-2011 President