



# Our Path Forward



FROM THE STATE DIRECTOR

Together, we are creating a future where both people and nature thrive



Dear Friends,

Gratitude.

As we work on our annual report each year, I find it so appropriate that our donors receive it at Thanksgiving. Every story reminds me that it's our generous donors—

YOU—who make our work possible. Our entire team is so thankful.

We hope you enjoy this look back at all we accomplished in the past year. We welcomed three incredibly smart, passionate people to our conservation staff: Heather Giger, Peter Gower and Matt Rader, who will be led by our new Conservation Director, Mickey Hazelwood. We made significant advancements in projects like forest management, research on groundwater dependent ecosystems and restoration options using native seeds. We entered into important partnerships that will advance the cause of conservation across the state and across our three areas of focus: resilient lands, resilient waters and climate action. We have a lot to celebrate!

Looking forward, we also see that the work ahead of us is daunting, with many challenges facing our great state:

- The ongoing drought poses real threats to the Colorado and Truckee Rivers—the primary sources of drinking water for Nevada's largest population and habitat centers.
- Nevada's lithium deposits will drive the country's green energy transition, and lithium mining could have impacts on ecosystems that are home to rare species. Our science team is studying the potential environmental impacts of this industry.
- Wildfire continues to be a threat to our forests and rangelands and our communities.

But no matter the odds, since 1951, The Nature Conservancy has collaborated with partners and local communities to find a path forward together. In Nevada, we are working to address planet-sized problems, and we know that together we will create planet-sized solutions. And you, our amazing donors, work with us to find ways of ensuring that the resource-rich state we are blessed to call home remains just as beautiful and pristine for future generations as it is today.

Thank you for being part of our journey. The work is not done, but together we are creating a future where both people and nature thrive.

Mauricia M.M. Baca, Nevada State Director

WHERE WE WORK

PROTECT

Through mid-November, we are conducting mechanical forest thinning on 225 acres at Independence Lake Preserve. The forest thinning will help reduce the density of conifer trees around the preserve, which should help reduce the risk of severe wildfire and lessen the effects of drought on the remaining trees. Thank you to Cal Fire and the Truckee River Fund for supporting this project.

TRANSFORM

In August, Amargosa River Project Manager Matt Rader and local partners and volunteers helped build important breeding habitat for Amargosa toads at a private property called Springdale in the Oasis Valley near Beatty, Nevada. The total area is about 5,000 acres and consists of five ponds with shelves for breeding and a central deep pool for tadpole refuge.

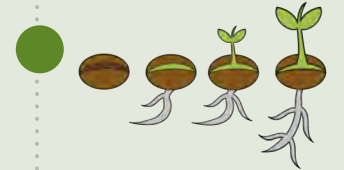
INSPIRE

We held two Family STEM Nights in summer 2022 at the Whit Hall Interpretive Center at River Fork Ranch Preserve in partnership with Sierra Nevada Journeys and River Wranglers.



BY THE NUMBERS

350,000



Sagebrush seedlings were planted based on our science-based recommendations using Landscape Conservation Forecasting (LCF) for Nevada Gold Mines' sage-grouse mitigation program.

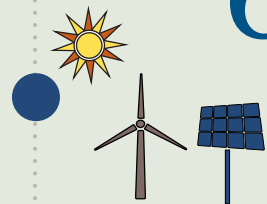
396,406



Acres were mapped by our science team. In April, they received a Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act award to implement Landscape

Conservation Forecasting™ for the southern Snake Range encompassing Great Basin National Park and BLM and U.S. Forest Service lands around the park. In July, they hiked and drove roads between 5,300 and 13,063 feet in elevation to begin remote-sensed mapping, with more to come in October.

694



Renewable energy sites on former mine lands in Nevada could power more than 747,000 homes while protecting more than 396,000 acres from development.



The Nature Conservancy in Nevada

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



# RESILIENT LANDS

## A public-private collaboration to protect the Truckee River

### Partners sign 10-year agreement to improve forest health



In September, the United States Forest Service (USFS) signed a memorandum of understanding with four entities, including The Nature Conservancy in Nevada, forming a public-private partnership to document their commitment to increase the pace and scale of forest management in the Middle Truckee River Watershed.

Located in the northern Sierra Nevada mountains, the Middle Truckee River Watershed includes approximately 315,000 acres of land, of which 260,825 acres is managed by the U.S. Forest Service in the Tahoe National Forest. The watershed spans three California counties and one Nevada county, and it encompasses important forest and meadow ecosystems, the Truckee River, recreational resources, communities and water resources. In addition to the USFS and TNC, the Middle Truckee River Watershed Forest Partnership includes the National Forest Foundation, Truckee Meadows Water Authority and the Truckee River Watershed Council.

A history of fire suppression in the region has resulted in increased forest density and less fire frequency. These conditions increase the risk of high-severity wildfires and threaten recreation and communities surrounded by the Tahoe National Forest, according to Jonathan Cook-Fisher, district ranger for the Tahoe National Forest, Truckee Ranger District.

“Increasing the pace and scale of forest management work is critically important for protecting our community from wildfires and improving ecosystem health,” says Lisa Wallace, Truckee River Watershed Council executive director.

The goals of the group are to develop a 10-year vegetation management plan; improve and restore forest health and resilience; reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire; protect communities from wildfire impacts; protect and secure water supplies and infrastructure; and identify and reduce resource gaps to increase the pace and scale of implementation.

“...There is a high likelihood of intense wildfires that would impact people and nature absent the important work this public-private partnership intends to tackle.”

– Mickey Hazelwood

“Northern Nevada relies on the forested headwaters of the Truckee River for a high-quality water supply,” says John Enloe, director of natural resources at Truckee Meadows Water Authority. “It’s essential that we collaborate with our upstream partners to protect our watershed, increase the region’s resilience to wildfires and mitigate potential



water quality impacts that can result from wildfires.”

Collaborative forest management work is already underway throughout the watershed, including the Ladybug Project, a 2,500-acre project near Stampede Reservoir, and 7,000 acres of corridor work along Highway 89 near Alpine Meadows Resort. Projects to improve forest resilience include thinning smaller trees, prescribed burning, meadow restoration, clearing underbrush, and more. Although the partners are completing a 10-year vegetation management plan, it is expected that additional work will be needed beyond the decade-long period.

“The Nature Conservancy has been working to advance healthy forest management in the Middle Truckee River for years,” says Mickey Hazelwood, conservation director for The Nature Conservancy in Nevada. “Our science demonstrates there is a high likelihood of intense wildfires that would impact people and nature in the area absent the important work this public-private partnership intends to tackle.”



# RESILIENT WATERS

## Understanding the stressors and threats impacting groundwater



This was groundwater’s year: 2022 was the year when organizations around the world— including The Nature Conservancy — drew attention to the importance of groundwater for biodiversity and for people.

Amazingly, 30 times more freshwater on Earth is stored underground and out of sight than in all of Earth’s wetlands, rivers, reservoirs and lakes. In fact, only one percent of available freshwater can be seen on the surface, as two-thirds of the Earth’s freshwater is frozen in glaciers and ice caps, and nearly one-third is groundwater.

Nevada has groundwater under much of its surface allowing for plants, animals and people to thrive in places that receive very little precipitation. The plants and animals that rely on groundwater are called groundwater dependent ecosystems, or GDEs. When you look across a desert or grassland, you might be able to pinpoint the GDE from the green trees or bushes that may stand above the otherwise dry landscape. Plants that can put their roots down into the deep groundwater create refuges for birds and animals that would otherwise have to travel long distances to find surface water.

With an average of less than 10 inches of rainfall each year, Nevada is the nation’s driest state. However, underground water supplements rainfall to enable incredible biodiversity in Nevada. The Silver State has the 11th highest biodiversity in the U.S., with more than 300 species found nowhere else in the world.

In 2022, TNC in Nevada celebrated the year of groundwater by releasing a critical study on the stressors and threats that the state’s groundwater dependent ecosystems face. In our research, we found that all of Nevada is projected to be more “droughty” in the future, and all GDEs in the state are at risk of less water availability. The report is designed to make the invisible groundwater visible so that we can work together to manage it wisely and ensure that there is enough for nature and people for generations to come.

### BY THE NUMBERS

39%



of more than 6500 wells analyzed in our stressors and threats report had significantly falling groundwater level trends.



### ONLINE

Learn more about our work on groundwater at [tinyurl.com/groundwaternv](https://tinyurl.com/groundwaternv).



# CLIMATE ACTION

## Smart planning for Nevada's clean energy future



2022 was a momentous year: the U.S. passed the largest investment in climate action in history, which will help reduce emissions by 40 percent by 2030 and will bring big economic benefits to Nevada. We made important progress with our partners on renewable energy planning, carbon modeling, our Mining the Sun program and more. Read on for some important highlights we achieved with your support.

### Carbon emissions modeling

The state of Nevada has a goal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. To understand how Nevada can achieve this goal, we partnered with the Clean Energy Conversions Lab at the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy at University of Pennsylvania. The researchers modeled economy-wide pathways to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The five different scenarios in the report examined strategies to reduce, avoid, and remove emissions in the atmosphere. The final report, published in 2022, included an analysis of the electricity and land area needed to achieve net-zero scenarios.

### Smart-from-the-start energy planning

The build-out of additional energy infrastructure could have disastrous effects on Nevada's wildlife, open spaces, cultural and historic places, and outdoor recreation opportunities. However, our science has shown that it is possible, with careful planning, to build the clean energy and climate infrastructure we need while conserving our natural and working lands. In Nevada, we can do this with smart-from-the-start planning, which identifies where renewable energy

generation, transmission, and storage can be deployed with as little impact as possible.

TNC published the **Power of Place - West** study in 2022. It is a comprehensive energy, economic, and geospatial study that analyzed dozens of scenarios that achieve clean energy goals by 2050 in 11 Western states. This analysis is necessary because without being mindful about where and how we develop this new energy capacity, we risk losing some of the West's most important natural areas and working lands. Specifically, the researchers identified an optimal development scenario that affordably reaches net-zero by 2050, while still preserving nearly 50 percent more sensitive natural areas and working lands than by following today's energy development practices. **Power of Place - West** provides policy recommendations for regional and state leaders who are making decisions about energy in their states.

### Repurposing mine lands and brownfields

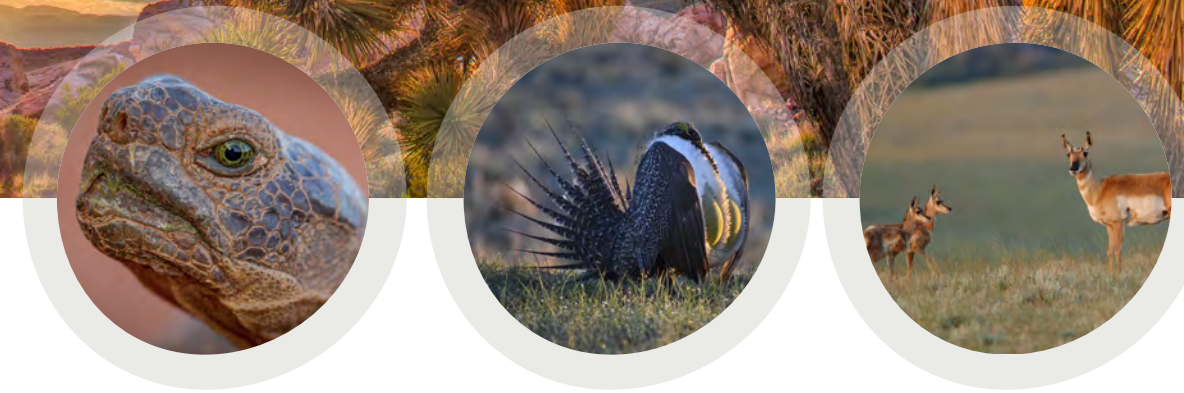
Nevada's mine lands and brownfields can also play an important role in our clean energy transition: 694 potential sites in Nevada could generate more than 4,000 megawatts of electricity and power more than 700,000 homes. In 2022, we explored developing renewable energy at three different mine sites in Nevada. We also asked our lawmakers to include a provision in the Inflation Reduction Act to extend renewable energy tax credits for renewable projects built on brownfields and mine land. A 10 percent tax credit booster for building on these sites was included in the final legislation, which passed in August. This is a benefit to our Mining the Sun program and the achievement of a policy goal we have worked on for several years.

### BY THE NUMBERS

# 50%



of our natural and working lands could be protected if we pursue smart-from-the-start energy planning, as compared to current practices, with a cost of only 3% more per year and while still reaching net zero by 2050.



 **ONLINE** | Learn more about our Climate Action Initiative at [nature.org/nvclimate](https://nature.org/nvclimate)

THIS PAGE TNC staff and partners overlooking lands that could be used for renewable energy development © Chip Carroon/TNC; OPPOSITE PAGE Gold Butte National Monument © Chip Carroon/TNC; INSET Desert tortoise © Adam Elliott/TNC Photo Contest 2021; Sage-grouse © Molly St. Clair/TNC Photo Contest 2019; Pronghorn antelope © Janet Haas



# Innovation in our Initiatives

## How a small science team is taking on big challenges



Though TNC in Nevada is one of the organization's smaller chapters, our science staff consistently "punch above their weight," says Louis Provencher, director of science. "When I meet my peers, they are pretty blown away by how much we are doing."

More than 6 million acres across the country have been mapped using our tools and more than 300,000 acres have been treated by land managers using our recommendations. So how is such a small team taking on such ambitious work?

### Investing in our people

The science team's story starts in 2003, one year after ecologist Provencher began working for the chapter. Soon after he started, he had a question: was there a way to achieve more conservation more efficiently?

"I care about conservation on public lands, and what has always been important to me is how can you restore the most area in the most cost effective way?" Provencher says. "How can we help land managers make the best decisions for nature with the least cost?"

This challenge inspired him to create Landscape Conservation Forecasting™, a science-based tool using maps, models and metrics to find the most cost-effective land management solutions that benefit both people and wildlife.

But LCF projects are complex, and more scientists were needed to manage them. Given the chapter's small budget, a new business model was needed, which continues to this day: A majority of the funding for our current team of our four scientists comes from government grants and awards,

which they "hustle" to find themselves, Provencher says. Individual donors help, too, by leveraging their gifts to help match significant government grants.

### Thinking big

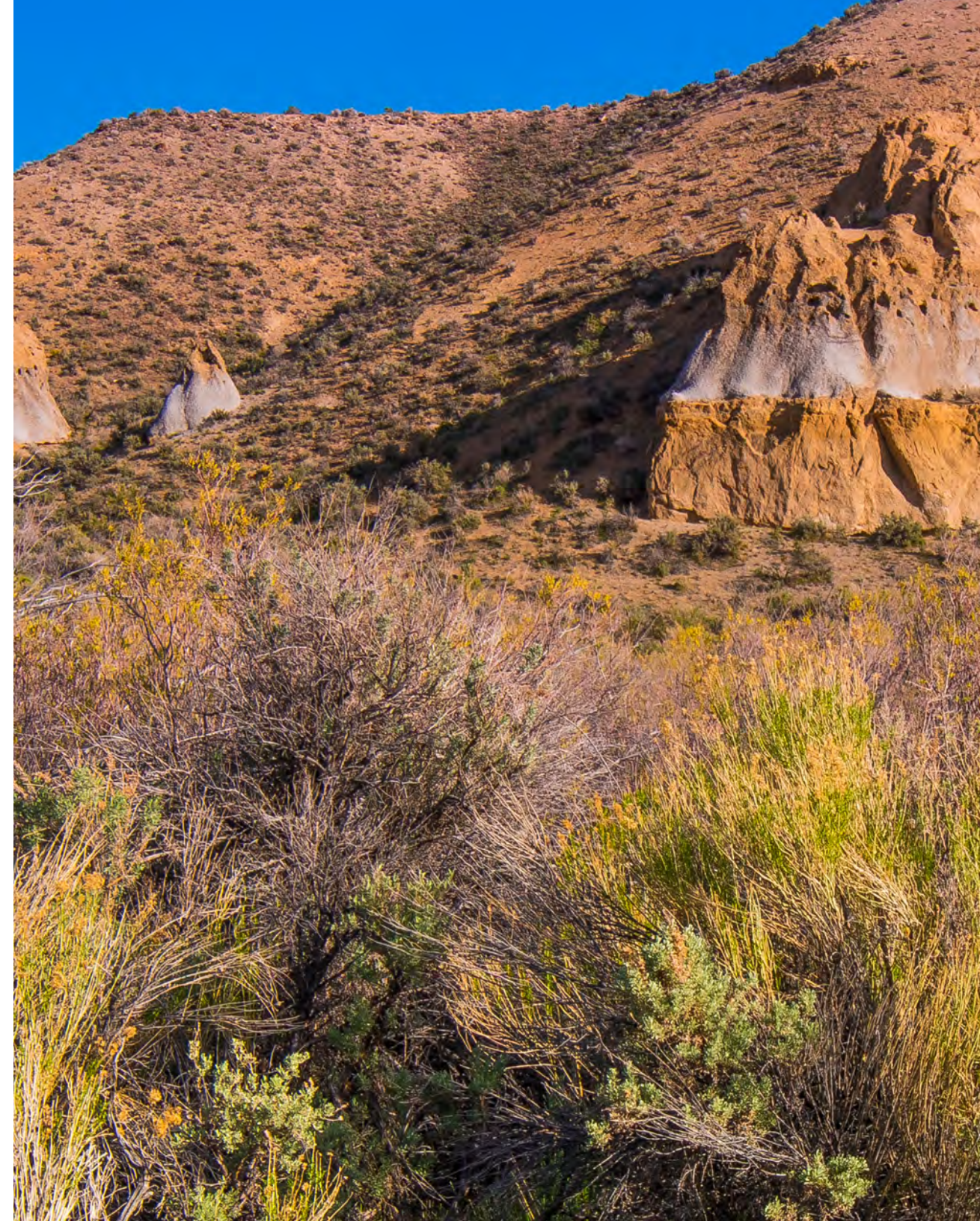
19 years later, the team is working on bigger projects than ever, including: studying the carbon sequestration potential of 120 million acres, mapping climate passages to help determine priority lands to protect in the future, and gearing up for sociopolitical modeling to help land managers navigate the barriers between fuels management planning and actions. The team is often consulted for their expertise, and now their science is going international: In November, Provencher traveled to Australia to consult with the Australian government's research arm to help achieve better ecological and social conditions in the country.

The chapter's investment in the science team is what has allowed them to continue to do this increasingly complex and transformative work, Provencher says.

"We had a clear vision and a long-term plan and were thinking big and have taken it one step at a time. Our leadership took a risk and supported us, and it paid off," he says. "Now every year we have new projects to do, we continue to innovate, and we keep growing and growing."

After almost two decades with the chapter, it's Nevada nature that inspires Provencher to keep working.

"When I'm in the mountain sagebrush, swamp cedars, ponderosa pines, I'm in awe," he says. "I want to save more of these special natural landscapes and restore more of them. I'm always driven to protect the species that live there."



## STUDY

### Carbon Sequestration in Degraded Sagebrush Rangelands

Science shows that nature-based solutions can provide more than 30 percent of the emissions reductions we need by 2030. We often think of forests as the best way to store carbon. But what if there is a less-obvious way to sequester carbon across Nevada, right beneath our feet?

This year, our science team set out to examine: Could our rangelands, which are known to store carbon in their soils, be restored to help reduce the amount of carbon emitted into the atmosphere? They guessed 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, with the additional benefit of storing more carbon from the atmosphere. In partnership with the Nevada Division of Natural Heritage and with funding from the U.S. Climate Alliance, they mapped the cover of nonnative annual species over 120 million acres across the West and simulated how much it would cost to seed these areas with native species and how much carbon could be stored.

They found that 19 million acres of sagebrush shrublands are available for feasible seeding, and more than 8,300 metric tons of carbon per year could be stored in Nevada alone, meaning that 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. Further funding of studies like this can help support a future carbon market.



**ONLINE |** Learn more about our research on carbon sequestration in rangelands at [nature.org/nvclimate](https://www.nature.org/nvclimate)

THIS PAGE TNC in Nevada science team © Sara Cobble/TNC; Swamp cedars © Chip Carroon/TNC OPPOSITE PAGE Sagebrush in the Black Rock Desert © Chip Carroon/TNC



# 2022

## YEAR IN PICTURES

2022 was a busy year of reopening. We are so grateful that we were able to get out back into the field, meet with partners and host volunteer and educational events at our preserves. Thank you to all who supported 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

**Native grass recovery** In October, native knot grass was found on the 7J Ranch Preserve following a fencing project to prevent burro grazing. This grass hasn't been seen elsewhere in Oasis Valley and further supports the conservation value of the preserve. © Courtesy Laura Cunningham



**Volunteers at River Fork Ranch Preserve** In May, Harley Davidson Financial Services volunteered at the preserve, helping to protect more than 300 cottonwood trees by installing vole guards at the base of the trees. © Lori Leonard/TNC

**Southern Nevada bird walk** In April, Len Warren led a bird walk at Corn Creek, where we were treated to views of some amazing migratory birds, including a flock of white pelicans. © Sara Cobble/TNC



**Mine lands tour with the University of Pennsylvania** In April we explored opportunities for renewable energy and carbon capture at Nevada mines, a cement plant and a geothermal facility with our grant partners from the University of Pennsylvania. The trip was a continuation of research into carbon abatement pathways for Nevada and how the state can reach net zero by 2050. © Chip Carroon/TNC

**LWCF anniversary celebration** In August, our staff and Trustees Andrew Strain and Bill Douglass joined the LWCF Coalition, Nevada State Parks, Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation, Patagonia and Sen. Jacky Rosen at Sand Harbor State Park in Lake Tahoe, Nevada to celebrate the two-year anniversary of the permanent funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund in the Great American Outdoors Act. © Alexa Graham/TNC



**Earth Day at the ballpark** Trustee Mark Maffey throws out the first pitch at the Las Vegas Aviators vs. El Paso Chihuahuas game on Earth Day, which featured TNC. © Sara Cobble/TNC



**Next Gen Council event** Trustee Jess Molasky (right) hosted an event for young philanthropists in Las Vegas in September. In October, they traveled to the Oasis Valley to help Amargosa River Project Manager Matt Rader (left) plant native trees. © Sara Cobble/TNC

**Invasive species treatments** Volunteer Kevin Cobble removed more than 100 invasive trees from around 7J Ranch Preserve last winter. © Chip Carroon/TNC



**Board of Trustees field trip to Southern Nevada** In September, as part of their quarterly meeting, our Board of Trustees visited the MGM Mega Solar Array and Lake Mead National Recreation Area. © Alexa Graham/TNC

**Snow at River Fork Ranch Preserve** Volunteer photographer Chip Carroon, whose photography you see throughout this report, captured this stunning photo of a snowfall along the Carson River. © Chip Carroon/TNC



**Volunteers at McCarran Ranch** Our collaborative partners FARMily Organic Farms, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows brought kids out to McCarran Ranch Preserve in April to learn about Indigenous culture and the Truckee River and do some cleaning up. © Martin Swinehart



## LEADERSHIP

After a competitive search, Mickey Hazelwood came on board as our new conservation director in May. In his new role, Hazelwood is leading The Nature Conservancy's strategic efforts to ensure resilient lands, resilient waters, and climate action for Nevada, and contribute toward the global organization's ambitious 2030 goals for a sustainable world for people and nature.

"Our chapter has needed a dedicated conservation director, and filling this role has been one of my top priorities," says Mauricia Baca, TNC in Nevada State Director. "I am so excited that Mickey Hazelwood will be in this important position to support our conservation team as they advance our critical initiatives. I look forward to us working together as we move into the next phase of our work on behalf of people and nature in Nevada."

Hazelwood's experience and depth and breadth of conservation achievements made him a standout choice for the role. He has been with TNC in Nevada for 16 years and most recently served as the chapter's strategy director for protection and stewardship. He also directed TNC's work in the Truckee, Carson, and Walker River watersheds and led the Truckee River Project, which has been focused on restoring ecosystem function along the highly degraded reach of the river between Reno and Wadsworth. This \$30-million restoration program has been supported through a partnership with numerous local, state, and federal agencies and organizations, and to date TNC has restored approximately 11 miles of the lower Truckee River and more than 800 acres of adjacent floodplain and upland habitats. His successes also include joining an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service and other partners to implement more forest treatments in high-risk areas of the watershed to reduce the frequency and impacts of large wildfires.

THIS PAGE Aerial view of McCarran Ranch Preserve © Chip Carroon/TNC; Mickey Hazelwood © Simon Williams/TNC; OPPOSITE PAGE Anne Thompson © Lori Leonard/TNC; Rick Delehanty © Courtesy Rick Delehanty

# Mickey Hazelwood

## Conservation Director



Hazelwood's previous work experience includes conservation easement development, conservation design for the protection of large tracts of ranchland, project management and land surveying. He holds a B.S. in applied geography from Appalachian State University and an M.S. in applied geography from New Mexico State University.

The conservation director role has been an interim position since 2019. The permanent position was made possible

thanks to generous and transformative gifts from two TNC in Nevada trustees: Jennifer Satre and her husband Phil Satre, and John McDonough.

"These transformative investments truly put the Nevada chapter on the road to success," Baca says. "I am very grateful to Jennifer and Phil Satre and to John McDonough for their trust and confidence in our team, and for these generous gifts that will help us

grow our capacity and ensure that people and nature thrive in Nevada."

**"These transformative investments [that enabled Hazelwood's hire] truly put the Nevada chapter on the road to success."**  
— **Mauricia Baca, Nevada State Director**

## INTERN

### Anne Thompson, High School Intern

Anne spent the last month of her senior year at Sage Ridge School, a preparatory school in Reno, as a Nature Conservancy intern at River Fork Ranch Preserve and with our marketing team. We were so grateful to have had Anne's help in the field with volunteer events, planting native shrubs, weeding and setting up irrigation, and in the office with our digital asset management and social media.

Anne says she was inspired to take an internship with TNC because she has a strong interest in environmental science and conservation and that her time with us broadened her understanding of conservation work.

This fall, she is taking a gap semester off from school and attending an ARCC gap year program that travels through the northwestern United States. During the program, she will visit and camp in the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone, the San Juan Islands and Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, and she will receive her wilderness first responder and scuba diving certifications. She will start school at Middlebury College in Vermont in 2023 and will likely major in environmental studies.

Outside of work and school, Anne enjoys spending time outdoors, hiking, skiing, running, mountain biking, playing with her two Labrador retrievers, reading and baking. She grew up camping and hiking all over Nevada, and some of her favorite places to explore in the Silver State are Great Basin National Park, Desert National Wildlife Refuge and Lamoille Canyon.



## STAFF

### Rick Delehanty, Independence Lake Assistant Preserve Manager

Rick joined the team at TNC Nevada in summer 2022 and was at Independence Lake through the fall helping with recreation, forestry, fisheries, wildlife, and all other aspects of managing the preserve. Before coming to TNC, Rick spent a few months traveling the country visiting national forests and parks, broadening his knowledge and experience. Though Rick's time at Independence Lake is finished, we are lucky he will be staying on with TNC! He recently started working with the California chapter as a development coordinator.

Originally from New Jersey, Rick worked two summers as a trail crew and program coordinator for Palisades Interstate Park Commission, and he has a degree in Recreation, Parks and Tourism from Radford University.

Among his achievements, Rick has created and facilitated education-oriented outdoor programs, including guided hikes, cleanups, and environmental awareness events.

Rick developed an interest in conservation from a young age. "My experiences playing in the woods as a child ignited a curiosity to understand more about the world around me. As an adult, I feel a responsibility to protect our natural resources and I am eager to contribute to the amazing work TNC does," Rick says.







VOLUNTEER

# Jim Woods

Jim Woods has always been at home in the wilderness, whether in the Sonoran Desert of southern Arizona where he grew up, or the valley of the Carson River in Nevada where he now calls home.

“All the living things brought peace and curiosity into my life,” he says.

Jim was drawn to River Fork Ranch Preserve because of the many birds that live and migrate there, as well as all the wildlife, from fish, to bears, to frogs to butterflies. “It is just a zoo with a native forest of plants and trees,” he says. “As I see it, River Fork is the TNC motel for migrating birds in their travels. It’s a place to stop and rest, find some food with a drink of water and be sheltered, all in a wild place.”

Jim has been volunteering at River Fork Ranch Preserve for the past eight years and has spent countless hours helping us with a variety of conservation projects, from planting seeds to repairing fences to giving educational talks. Jim says he is most proud of helping to expand the flora at the preserve by experimenting with how and when we plant seeds to determine how we can give them the best chance to root in and start their own re-seeding process.

As a Boy Scout, Jim developed a love of camping, wildlife, and especially birds. Now he is an expert birder who has owned his own company, *Birding Under Nevada Skies*, for more than 15 years. We are lucky to have Jim’s expertise on our fall and spring bird walks at the preserve, as well as for our webinars and educational events for the community in the Carson Valley. Jim says he enjoys being able to support TNC staff at River Fork Ranch and be part of a team that is making a difference in conservation.

“There was a surprise awaiting me: the professional TNC staff who are involved in the River Fork Ranch operation,” Jim says. “Their dedication to integrity and empathy goes a long way to making the ranch a success for us and the wildlife.”

 VISIT | River Fork Ranch and our other preserves [nature.org/preserves](https://nature.org/preserves)

TRUSTEE

# Joel Laub

## A legacy of leadership

On December 31, Joel Laub will step down as chair of The Nature Conservancy in Nevada’s Board of Trustees. Having joined the board in 2003, Joel has served as chair since 2015, making him one of our longest-serving board members.

“When I was asked to assume the role of the chair, I was told it wouldn’t take much time at all,” Joel says. “And then the state director stepped down, and the next two retired—working with them and the two interim directors turned mine into quite a busy term.”

A native Nevadan, Joel has a great personal passion for the desert and especially for Red Rock and Mt. Charleston. In his youth, Joel’s family camped across Nevada and California. While he doesn’t stay in tents anymore, being in nature is still where he finds peace.

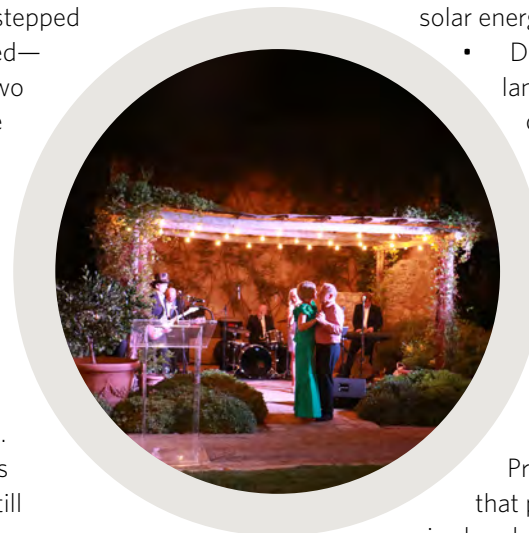
As chair, Joel traveled to Washington D.C. several times to represent TNC with the Nevada delegation, as well as to represent Nevada at the gathering of TNC chapters from around the world. He has also helped accomplish some incredible conservation wins for the state, including:

- Supporting creation of a partnership between

The Nature Conservancy, the Bureau of Land Management, and Howard Hughes Corporation to protect Red Rock Canyon National Recreation Area

- With partners, creating the Virgin River Coalition to help restore and improve management along the Virgin River, an important tributary of the Colorado River

- Passing regulatory changes to make it easier to develop solar energy installations on old mining sites
  - Developing important resources to help land managers in Nevada protect the critical groundwater



Under his guidance, the chapter has more than doubled its fundraising, moving from raising \$750,000 in 2015 to raising \$1.9M in 2022.

“I am most proud of two achievements,” Joel says. “First, the establishment of the Nevada Water Program at TNC. Dr. Laurel Saito directs that program, and the work she has done is already helping policymakers protect our limited water resources. Second, the acquisition of 7J Ranch Preserve, the headwaters of the Amargosa River. Nevada is the driest state in the nation, and both efforts will benefit Nevadans for decades to come.”

“Joel’s leadership has been nothing short of remarkable,” says state director Mauricia Baca. “We look forward to welcoming a new chair, but we are thrilled that Joel will be continuing his service to TNC Nevada as a Trustee.”

LEFT TO RIGHT Joel and Kim Laub © Sara Cobble/TNC; Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area © Simon Williams/TNC



# Thank you, Joel!

Under Laub’s leadership, the chapter achieved:

**LANDS**

- Acquiring the 7J Ranch Preserve, headwaters of the Amargosa River

**WATER**

- Creating the Virgin River Coalition with key partners and community members
- Establishing the Nevada Water program and developing important resources to help land managers in Nevada protect groundwater

**CLIMATE**

- Passing regulatory changes to make it easier to develop solar energy on minelands

**FUNDRAISING**

- Doubling fundraising from \$750,000 in 2015 to raising \$1.9M in 2022



# THANKS

Our accomplishments are only made possible by the many individuals, organizations, businesses and foundations that made gifts to our vital conservation programs in 2022. Each donation to The Nature Conservancy in Nevada supports projects that deliver long-lasting benefits to our state, and every gift, regardless of size, plays a crucial role in our work—for people and nature. We thank you for your commitment to our mission.

We are proud to recognize these businesses for supporting our important conservation work.

## Platinum

Bretzlaff Foundation



TRUCKEERIVERFUND  
Enhancing and protecting our water resources

## Silver







## Bronze







Lake Tahoe © Craig Bill/TNC Photo Contest 2019

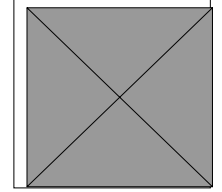
TO MAKE A GIFT TO THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, PLEASE CONTACT Kristen McInnis | [kristen.mcinnis@tnc.org](mailto:kristen.mcinnis@tnc.org) | 702-737-8744 x 3141.





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CLOCKWISE River Fork Ranch Preserve; Lake Lahontan © Chip Carroon/TNC; Mule deer © Glenn Fuller; Barn owl © Chip Carroon/TNC; Amargosa toadlet © Matt Rader/TNC; Steptoe Valley © 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.