

nevada update

SPRING 2023

YOUR
NEVADA
NEWS

Creating a World Where People and Nature Thrive

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The Nature
Conservancy








Mauricia M.M. Baca
NEVADA STATE DIRECTOR



Nevada Update is the biannual newsletter for friends of The Nature Conservancy in Nevada. If you have questions or feedback, please contact Sara Burlison at sara.burlison@tnc.org.

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ON THE COVER Joshua trees at Avi Kwa Ame National Monument © Chip Carroon/TNC; **THIS PAGE** Mauricia M.M. Baca © Courtesy Mauricia Baca; Sunflower © Lynne Goldsmith/TNC Photo Contest 2022; **OPPOSITE PAGE** Adult chinook salmon © Jeffrey Rich; Hawksbill sea turtle on a coral reef in Barbados © Shane Gross; Bristol Bay © Jason Ching; The Truckee River at McCarran Ranch Preserve © Chip Carroon/TNC

DEAR FRIENDS,

This year's wet winter offered an abundance of opportunities for Nevadans to experience the snowier side of nature, plus some much-needed relief from drought. Though there were many challenges, I hope you were able to take advantage of the beauty that Nevada nature has to offer.

This spring, I am getting out to speak with supporters and partners. We have launched a strategic planning process to help us to be even more effective over the next three years, and interviews with our board members and our partners will be incorporated into that plan. I am also getting some small group time with donors and partners through state director roundtable lunches. By meeting a half dozen or so donors and partners at a time, we hope to have robust conversations that build deeper relationships.

Our first roundtable was held in Reno at the end of February with six donors and partners. I shared some of TNC Nevada's priorities for spring, including our current strategic planning process, and the way that Nevada's goals link to TNC's larger 2030 goals of planet-sized solutions for planet-sized problems. We are making a real contribution to those solutions. For example, around the world, TNC aims to protect and improve land management across 650 million hectares; an area twice the size of India. In Nevada, we are focused on protecting and restoring the Sagebrush Sea, which stretches 150 million acres across 13 Western states. We are working with partners to improve management of this vast landscape, even beyond our state borders.

When we opened the conversation to questions, the first was about the future of the Colorado River. It was clear that while northern Nevadans aren't directly affected by the river, these donors recognized that this critical multi-state ecosystem impacts all of us. We also talked about the dynamics of a wet winter that brought increased rainfall and a heavy snowpack. This precipitation was a boost for our groundwater, rivers and forests, but Nevada's precious water supply needs at least five more winters like this to see a positive effect for the long term. So the important work we are doing with water, climate and land resources continues to be important statewide. I am excited to share updates in each of those priorities with you in this newsletter.

As 2023 progresses, I look forward to meeting with more donors and partners, and to hearing your concerns and questions firsthand. Future generations of Nevadans are counting on us to protect our vast natural resources, and with our new strategic plan to provide the direction, we are excited about what we will accomplish. And, thanks to your choice to invest in our work, we are confident that **together, we will find a way.**

P.S. You may notice I have quite a different look! Through 2022, I've been on a health journey through breast cancer. I'm glad to be on the other side of treatment, and I've so deeply appreciated the support from our wonderful team and from TNC. Nature lifted me up during this journey, and the need to protect nature for future generations resonates even more deeply. I'm honored to be part of an organization working to care for our world and I'm grateful to you—our incredible supporters and partners.



SUPPORT OUR WORK
at nature.org/nevada



TNC success stories *from around the world*



UN Biodiversity Conference COP15 scores historic goal for nature

In December, representatives from nearly 200 countries came together and did something remarkable: they agreed on a 10-year plan to reverse nature's rapid decline. The agreement, known as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, provides a roadmap for protecting nature through this critical decade, including a landmark agreement to protect 30 percent of the world's land, ocean and inland waters.



A win-win opportunity for oceans

To protect its natural resources and adapt to climate change, Barbados worked with TNC to refinance its sovereign debt at a lower interest rate, using the savings for conservation activities. This strategy, known as a Blue Bond for Conservation, has unlocked \$50 million that will be used to protect up to 30 percent of Barbados' marine territory. Barbados is now the third country that has used this financial innovation, following the Republic of Seychelles and Belize.



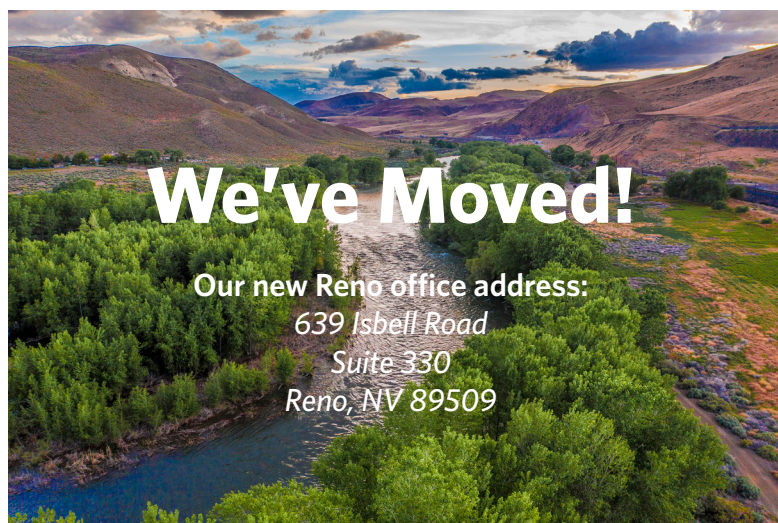
U.S. EPA makes Bristol Bay protections final

The future of the world's largest wild salmon fishery and the lifeblood of Alaska's Bristol Bay shines brighter after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a determination that effectively ends the threat of the proposed Pebble Mine. In February, the agency finalized its recommendation, first released in December, to prohibit and restrict the use of certain waters in the watershed near the Pebble deposit. If it had been developed, Pebble would have been one of the largest open pit mines in the world. More than 31,000 TNC supporters stepped up and spoke out to protect Bristol Bay—thank you!



Partner shout-out

Thank you to the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation for choosing TNC Nevada for a \$10,000 grant! This great partner is an enthusiastic supporter of our efforts to improve forest management and protect the Truckee River area from devastating wildfire.



We've Moved!

Our new Reno office address:

639 Isbell Road
Suite 330
Reno, NV 89509

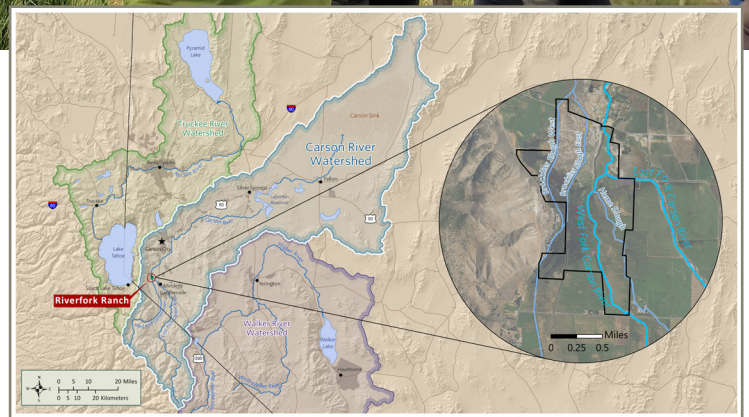
New Docent Program Kicks Off *at River Fork Ranch Preserve*



For the first time, we will have volunteer docents at River Fork Ranch Preserve! The docents will help greet visitors on Saturdays and organize community education events at the Whit Hall Interpretive Center at the preserve. To be accepted into the program, volunteers submitted applications and went through a training program. We are welcoming 20 docents to the program for this first year.

Located where the east and west forks of the Carson River meet near Genoa, River Fork Ranch is both a nature preserve and a working cattle operation. The ranch's riparian corridor and patchwork of pastures, meadows and wetlands support a robust and diverse wildlife population. The Whit Hall Interpretive Center is the hub of The Nature Conservancy's community outreach and education efforts along the Carson River and is open for school visits and other scheduled events and activities throughout the year. Preserve trails are open from dawn-dusk seven days a week.

We are grateful for generous donations from our partners, Carson Tahoe Health and E.L. Cord Foundation, which made this program possible. Next time you're at the preserve, make sure to say hi to our generous volunteers!



“

The River Fork Ranch Preserve and Whit Hall Interpretive Center are beautiful locations for the community and visitors to **connect to nature** in the Carson Valley. We are **excited** to be launching the new volunteer docent program at RFR this spring and appreciate the **enthusiasm, talent, and knowledge** these new volunteers will bring to the preserve.

LORI LEONARD, RIVER FORK RANCH PRESERVE MANAGER



VOLUNTEER Learn more about the docent program at nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/volunteer/volunteer-docents-river-fork-ranch/

Celebrating our new boardwalk

The boardwalk at Torrance Ranch Preserve is now complete! We are thrilled to be able to provide a full loop where visitors and community members can walk and enjoy the beauty of the preserve. We are so grateful for our generous donors Gary and Lajetta Atwood who supported this project through its completion.

“Torrance Ranch Preserve is a special place to connect with the incredible biodiversity that is unique to the Amargosa River and learn how TNC is helping to restore at-risk wetlands,” says Matt Rader, Amargosa River project manager. “The boardwalk provides a great way to connect our members and the community with our conservation values for generations to come.”

Fulfilling the original vision for the boardwalk has been a 13-year labor of love from our partners who installed it, Terra Contracting, and the designer, Ed McSwain. In 2009, McSwain designed and Terra Contracting installed a single 200-foot walkway leading into the wetlands. Together, we added another piece in 2018, and then the final 350-foot section late last year that connects the first two sections and creates a seamless walking experience.

Designing and engineering a foundation for a wetland is a daunting task, and we are grateful for the thoughtful design and construction of a safe and long-lasting boardwalk that protects the preserve’s ecosystems. The team avoided disturbing the soils during construction by using helical piers (which look like giant corkscrews) for the foundation, and they used minimal machinery to limit noise and fire hazards.

“You must use a non-conventional foundation [for a wetland],” McSwain says. “You cannot use concrete as it is toxic to the ecosystem, and you need something that holds up to the environment which includes the freeze/thaw conditions of the marsh...Helical piers were the solution. They enabled us to get down to solid soil below the water level and allow nature to take its course without compromising the integrity [of the structure].”



TORRANCE RANCH PRESERVE

*is open from dusk until dawn daily.
We hope you'll come visit soon!*

Thanks to Kerry Grant Geysler and Laura McSwain for their contributions to this article.



Meet Heather Giger

Strategy Director, Nevada Land and Stewardship

Please join us in welcoming Heather Giger, who joined TNC Nevada in October. In her new role, she is focused on protecting lands through conservation easements and acquisitions that have high conservation values and align with our chapter’s overall land protection strategy. She also assists with the stewardship of our preserves by coordinating with preserve managers on funding and long-term management.

“I feel incredibly lucky to be working for TNC and look forward to settling into my new position,” Giger says. “Working for TNC is a natural fit, as I’ve spent much of my career working for either nonprofits or government organizations dedicated to the protection and management of natural resources.”

Giger has been interested in conservation since she was young. Appreciating the natural world was important to her family and she spent a lot of her free time hiking, camping and horseback riding in the forests and mountains near Prescott, Arizona. She earned a biology degree from Fort Lewis College and then spent several summers on forestry research crews gathering data throughout the western United States. She has been working with state and federal grants and acquisitions for more than 10 years.

Giger says she is looking forward to playing a role in preserving special places in Nevada for future generations to enjoy. One of the projects she is excited about is working with the Middle Truckee River Watershed Forest Partnership, which is committed to reducing fuel and restoring forest health on at least 50,000 acres over the next five years to reduce wildfire risks and maintain a healthy watershed for all those dependent on the Truckee River.

In her free time, Heather enjoys hiking, gardening, travel, watching trashy TV like *Below Deck*, cross country skiing off Mt. Rose near her home, and enjoying Nevada’s incredible variety of outdoor settings. Fun fact: Heather and her husband used to raise puppies for Guide Dogs for the Blind. It’s how they ended up with their yellow lab, Perry (pictured). Though he didn’t end up becoming a service animal, he became a great companion!



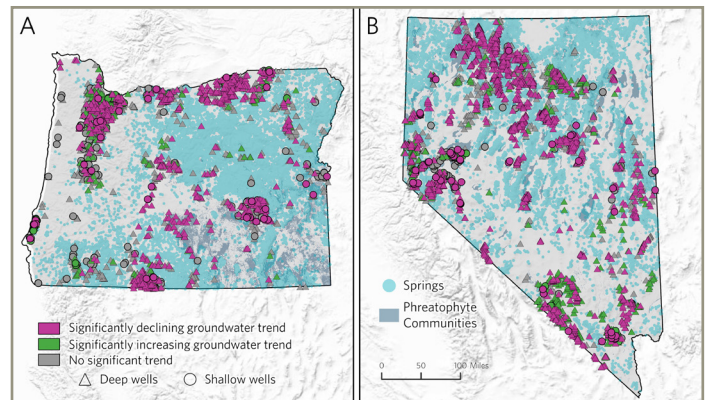
Updates from our

Resilient Waters

Initiative

Our water team recently published a study on springs and phreatophytes (plants that tap into groundwater with their roots) in Nevada and Oregon and their vulnerability to groundwater level declines. They found that groundwater levels in many areas of both states declined in the past couple of decades and that springs and phreatophytes could be affected by these declines. They also discovered that there is not a lot of water monitoring going on near springs and phreatophyte communities; less than one percent of 50,000 springs in Nevada and Oregon were near wells with enough monitoring to see data.

Their conclusion: Long-term continuous monitoring of spring discharge and the conditions of phreatophyte communities are needed to understand the impacts on groundwater-dependent ecosystems. Meanwhile, state agencies and resource managers must manage groundwater sustainably in a changing climate by reducing the long-term overextraction of groundwater.



GROUNDWATER LEVELS Map of significant 2002-2021 groundwater trends among A) 3,796 state and federal monitoring wells in Oregon and B) 1,879 state and federal monitoring wells in Nevada. © Sarah Byer and Michael Schindel/TNC

BY THE NUMBERS

33%

of wells analyzed in Nevada had significantly falling trends in groundwater levels

48%

of phreatophytes in Nevada and 57% in Oregon are near wells with declining groundwater trends

READ the study at tinyurl.com/ORNvgroundwater

TRUSTEE INSIGHTS

FOR A RESILIENT water future, “Nature needs to be included in the decisions that are made,” our Trustees Bill Douglass and Jennifer Satre recently wrote in an op-ed for the *Reno Gazette-Journal*. “Across Nevada, we need to implement long-term drought mitigation solutions to ensure resiliency for our water resources and the people and nature that depend on them. It is only by working together cooperatively—all communities, local water jurisdictions, tribes, states and water users—that we will mitigate the water crisis of the American southwest.”

READ their op-ed: tinyurl.com/NVdroughtresiliency





ASK A TNC SCIENTIST

Dr. Laurel Saito
Nevada Water Strategy Director



LEARN MORE about our work on groundwater: tinyurl.com/nvgroundwater

Let it snow! The winter of 2023 broke records statewide for rain and snow. While weather-related challenges impacted Nevadans north and south and the precipitation was good news for our state, we still need to be thoughtful about water management for the long term. Although the abundance of water has multiple benefits, many Nevadans wondered about the impact on the drought, water usage and the future for the driest state in the nation. We asked Laurel Saito, our Nevada water strategy director, what this record precipitation means for the long-term drought.

With all this water, should we still be worried about the drought?

On the face of things, it might seem logical that when all the snow melts, the water shortage on the Colorado and other rivers will be resolved, and water levels at Lakes Mead and Powell would rise to normal levels. However, our water-limited state is dependent on groundwater for long-term water security, and it will take years to get to a more sustainable place. Our recent assessment of threats to Nevada's groundwater-dependent ecosystems found that the state is projected to have more drought occurrences in the future, so we can expect more rounds of long dry periods ahead.

Groundwater accounts for 30 percent of the world's freshwater, whereas surface water in lakes and rivers only account for less than 1 percent of the world's freshwater. Groundwater is an important resource for Nevada: half of Nevada's counties got more than 80 percent of the water they used from groundwater in 2015, and Esmeralda, Eureka, Lincoln, Mineral and Nye Counties got more than 95 percent of their water from groundwater. In addition, groundwater is the "backup" when surface water supplies are not available. And groundwater supports our groundwater-dependent ecosystems that harbor many of the more than 300 endemic species found only in Nevada. Although snowmelt replenishes both river flows and groundwater, river flows respond to snowmelt within days or months. In contrast, groundwater recharge from snowmelt can take years, decades, or even thousands of years to reach aquifers and groundwater-dependent ecosystems like springs, wetlands, rivers and lakes.

What can we do to ensure that there is enough water available for future generations?

We can take steps that balance demand for water with realistic estimates of water supply. On the Colorado River, this means considering that much less than the 17.5 million acre-feet in the Colorado River Compact has been available for use over the past several decades and we expect that supplies will continue to be even more limited as we face a hotter and drier future. We are working with partners across the basin to reduce demand and plan for sustainable water supplies in the future to enable both people and nature to thrive. In Nevada, we need to think about how to reduce overuse of groundwater and overcommitment of groundwater rights for the long term. To achieve sustainable groundwater supplies, we need more tools beyond curtailment by priority. We are working to develop a better understanding of how much water nature needs while ensuring there are adequate supplies for people. We have mapped groundwater-dependent ecosystems throughout the state and are working with partners to improve understanding of the needs for groundwater-dependent wetlands and upland plant communities.

Reversing the course of using more water than available requires long-term commitment, persistence, and patience. We know that Nevadans can come together to ensure that people with different needs and perspectives can work toward a shared vision of enough water for Nevada's people, plants, and wildlife for future generations.

2023 Nevada Legislative Priorities



The 82nd session of the Nevada legislature began in February, and we are working with lawmakers on efforts to shape policy addressing climate, water, energy, and other conservation-related issues.

Water

Our top water priority is Senate Bill (SB) 176, which would create a water rights retirement fund. In about 20 percent of Nevada's hydrographic areas, more groundwater is being withdrawn than the estimated available supply. SB 176 would enable another tool besides curtailment to help bring groundwater basins back into balance. We have been working with legislators, stakeholders, and the Nevada Division of Water Resources to improve this bill.

We also support Assembly Bill (AB) 220, which would allow the Southern Nevada Water Authority to implement additional water conservation efforts. Despite having the smallest allocation from the Colorado River of any of the Basin States, Nevada is a critical player in the management of the Colorado River. We are committed to balancing supply and demand in the Colorado River and applaud SNWA's efforts to do that in the system.

We also support AB 19, which expands the ability of Tribal governments to partic-

ipate in the state's channel clearance program and have employees or officers serve as a state water right surveyor. These changes will help native Tribes in Nevada in the face of climate change.

Energy

Our main priority for energy legislation this session is to advance opportunities to create a statewide energy transmission and infrastructure plan for Nevada. 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. A statewide smart-from-the-start plan would increase economic certainty and would help preserve our cultural and conservation values while also alleviating the dual crises of biodiversity loss and climate change.

Conservation Funding

TNC is advocating that the Capital Improvement Program budget includes funding for Conserve Nevada grants, the Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program and state historic preservation grants. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources recently assessed that \$389 million is needed for conservation over the next two years.

We also support AB 112, which would

create a fund for building wildlife crossings. These provide safe passage for mule deer, elk, pronghorn, carnivores, reptiles, and small mammals and prevent accidents that kill both people and animals.

Climate and Environmental Justice

There are several bills that address the issue of environmental justice before the legislative session. AB 71 would establish an interim study on environmental justice in Nevada. The study would develop methods and strategies to prevent increasing environmental burden in disadvantaged communities. AB 312 would establish a Commission on Environmental Justice and a process for the Commission to review environmental justice impact statements.

Two bills could help alleviate the burden of urban heat for underserved communities in Nevada. AB 131 would codify Nevada's urban and community forest program, which would increase urban tree canopies for disadvantaged communities. We are working with experts to help plan expansion of the urban tree canopy, which will decrease temperatures in areas most vulnerable to extreme heat. SB 169 would require heat mitigation plans in county master plans. Research conducted by Climate Central shows that Las Vegas and Reno are two of the fastest warming

cities in Nevada. Planning for heat and finding ways to reduce and mitigate adverse effects are essential to maintain quality of life in rapidly warming cities.

Wildlife

We support AB 221 which would require the Nevada Department of Wildlife to include the management of invertebrate species in its Statewide Wildlife Action Plan. Invertebrates are a critical part of ecosystems and integral to food webs, and their diversity is threatened by climate change and loss of habitat.



Our priority: Partnering with Indigenous peoples and local communities

Around the globe, Indigenous peoples and local communities have long protected their lands and waters in reciprocity with nature, often guided by deep connections to place, culture and ways of knowing. These communities collectively manage at least one-quarter of the world's lands, 17 percent of all forest carbon, and vast stretches of freshwater and marine habitats. Their stewardship and management often achieve greater conservation results and sustain more biodiversity than government-protected areas.

The Nature Conservancy aims to help transform the way land and waters decisions are made by strengthening the voice, choice and action of Indigenous peoples and local communities to shape and manage natural territory in ways that improve lives and drive conservation. Partnering with Indigenous peoples has been an important part of TNC's approach for many years, and we are working with Indigenous peoples in 20 countries and many U.S. states.

Here in Nevada, we are committed to working with Tribes and community partners, and we look forward to sharing their stories in upcoming newsletters. Like all conservation organizations, our history is imperfect. We've made missteps, and we are committed to continually learning and growing in how we show up as an authentic, ethical, and effective conservation partner. The success of our mission depends on it.



Avi Kwa Ame officially designated Nevada's newest national monument

In March, President Biden officially designated Avi Kwa Ame a national monument, protecting a national historical and scientific treasure. In addition to honoring a traditional lifeway and sacred place for the Mojave, Chemehuevi, and some Southern Paiute people, the Avi Kwa Ame area was 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 a transition zone between the Sonoran and Mojave deserts.

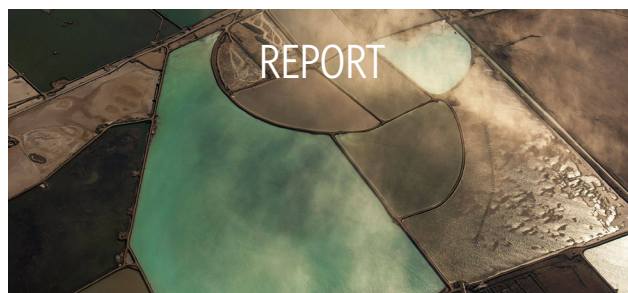
"TNC has worked for 30 years to protect habitat in the area of Avi Kwa Ame National Monument," says Nevada State Director Mauricia Baca. "It is an incredibly unique and special ecosystem. Despite the heat and aridity, there is an abundance of unique life and species that are found nowhere else. Iconic wildlife like the threatened Mojave desert tortoise, bighorn sheep, kit fox, various migratory birds, lizards and snakes, numerous species of cacti and yuccas—they all work together in this hot, dry, impossible place to form an amazing network of life."

We appreciate the tireless work of the Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples to conserve Avi Kwa Ame for future generations.

LAST SUMMER, in partnership with our California colleagues, we released research that finds that while the United States has great potential for lithium extraction, careful consideration must be taken to avoid and limit negative impacts on water sources and biodiversity and to support local communities.



LEARN MORE and read the lithium report at <https://www.scienceforconservation.org/products/lithium>





Q
&
A



with **Andrew Strain**

Chair, The Nature Conservancy in Nevada Board of Trustees

We are excited to welcome the new Chair of our Board of Trustees, Andrew Strain! Andrew has supported The Nature Conservancy for more than 30 years and has served on the board since 2018. He began his new role in January.

Andrew is the Vice President for Development at Beach Club Development, LLC, developers of the Tahoe Beach Club residential project located on the shore of Lake Tahoe in Stateline, Nevada. Previously he worked in the winter sports and recreation industry as the Vice President of Planning and Governmental Affairs for Heavenly Mountain Resort and its parent company, Vail Resorts. While at Heavenly, he served as a co-chair for the Lake Tahoe Transportation and Water Quality Coalition, which advocated for state and federal legislation and funding to protect and conserve Lake Tahoe. He holds degrees from the University of Utah and the University of Washington and is a Registered Landscape Architect in Nevada.

What brought you to TNC? What does it mean to you to be a trustee?

When I arrived in Tahoe years ago, I began working for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, and they were focused on conserving and restoring the lake. While working there, I became passionate about the environment and what we can do to leave a place better than we found it while accommodating the people who live here. I wanted to do more, and that's when I found The Nature Conservancy. In 2018, the state director asked me to join the board.

The opportunity to help lead the trustees is such an honor and I'm humbled by it. I realized after working with another land conservancy that a conservation organization was a great fit for me because there's more room for compromise. I appreciate how TNC doesn't get in the fray of individual land use decisions, but instead evaluates environmental consequences, finds out where they can best help with their resources, and then helps to be a part of the solution.

How did you become interested in nature and conservation?

I caught the tail end of the environmental movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s when the Clean Water Act, the Clean

Air Act, and the EPA all came into existence. As a teenager growing up outside Chicago, none of that yet meant a lot to me at that point in my life. But it was so much more in the news and young people especially were shining a light on the need to stop pollution. My father and I used to recycle newspapers, glass and aluminum in the town I lived in and it was something I enjoyed doing with him. Later in life, I realized *why* we were doing it.

I pursued my education at the University of Utah as an undergraduate and took several physical science and land use planning courses including geomorphology, hydrology and land planning. Those piqued my interest and led me to the environmental planning curriculum that was just getting started there. Afterward, I got my graduate degree in landscape architecture.

That's a profession where you learn to balance the needs of the natural and manmade environments. You end up serving as an advocate for nature on project: You represent the environment and show people from an enlightened perspective that you don't have to choose development or nature—you can have both. Later in life, I became the environmental advocate for my company in the private sector. I was able to use my passions and interests to bring them to bear on a large company that had the potential to create adverse environmental impacts if we weren't careful. The people I worked with got it—they just needed help to learn how to do it. I loved being able to teach the more than 1,500 employees we had every winter and see them get excited about protecting the environment too.

What do you want to focus on as board chair? What would you like to see accomplished while you are in this role?

I began my professional career as a cartographer, and I still have a soft spot in my heart for maps. I am fascinated by the work our science team is doing on mapping and remote sensing throughout Nevada and how they apply it to large landscapes. This is thoughtful work that they are doing and it's incredibly useful.

I appreciate and respect what our team is doing to lead the effort on groundwater-dependent ecosystems. We have to be careful with our water resources as the driest state in the nation. One of the things I was responsible for when I was in the ski industry was keeping an eye on and being an advocate for the water supplies that are necessary to make snow. I learned a lot about how water is planned for, regulated and allocated in the state of Nevada. I respect [Nevada Water Strategy Director] Dr. Saito's knowledge and the work she is doing on behalf of people and nature that need groundwater to survive and thrive.

I also think of the work [Nevada Public Lands Strategy Director] Liz Munn does. It's so important to build relationships when we are just one small organization in such a large landscape. The challenges we face on rangelands were

decades in the making, and there aren't a lot of short-term solutions. We have to stay with these systems and work with our partners and the community on projects for the long-term to really see the kinds of results that we want to see.

My goals for my time as board chair: Continue to support the amazing work of the staff, both financially and as advocates for them externally, and as cheerleaders for them internally. They are highly skilled and professional and are passionate about the amazing work they do.

Three other goals I'd like to accomplish, together with our staff and trustees:

- Work on the board's objective to grow and diversify itself so that we represent more constituents in Nevada.
- Make sure we take every opportunity to grow our brand and increase our visibility as an organization all over the state, because there's a lot of untapped potential.
- Engage and excite a younger generation of conservationists and to support the next generation of conservation leaders in Nevada. I think we have an obligation to do that.

Much of this work has begun; I'm simply the next one to hold the torch as the board chair.

What's your favorite outdoor place in Nevada?

Some of my favorite places to be in the world are on the east shore (the Nevada side) of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The public lands here, the developed recreational sites as well as the undeveloped forest and shoreline, are some of the most spectacular places in the world. I have to remind myself regularly how fortunate I am to be here because most of the rest of the world has to spend time and money to visit, and I get to wake up here every day (despite my occasional grumblings about shoveling snow this season). Something I learned in design school: There's energy on the edge of ecosystems and it's an exciting place to be. Lake Tahoe is an example of that, located on the edge of the Sierra Nevada and the Great Basin.

I'm excited to get to know the Ruby Mountains better. I'm looking forward to beginning by backpacking there.

What do you love about the Silver State?




One of the things I love about Nevada is how immense and vast it is physically; yet how small it is in terms of people. What's exciting about that is it gives you the opportunity to make connections with other Nevadans, develop relationships with them over time and work together to make a difference. It's possible to get things done in Nevada because of its size and the people you meet and make connections with. I love how people here come together to figure out solutions to the issues we face.



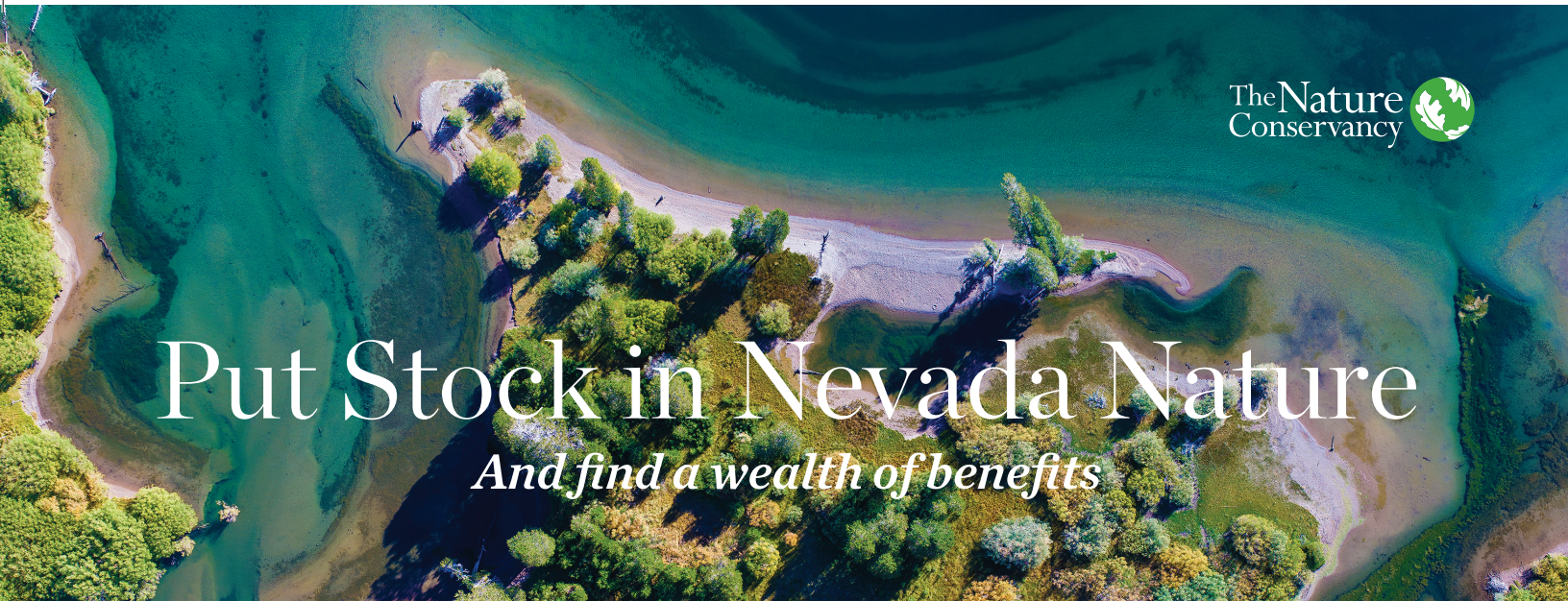
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PAGE 4 Boardwalk at Torrance Ranch Preserve © Chip Carroon/TNC; Heather Giger © Courtesy Heather Giger; **PAGE 5** Volunteers planting trees and shrubs at River Fork Ranch Preserve © Martin Swinehart; **PAGE 8** The Amargosa River near Tecopa © Chip Carroon/TNC; Aerial view of solar array © Jassen Todorov/TNC Photo Contest 2022; Water flowing in the Truckee River © Chip Carroon/TNC; **PAGE 9** Tribal gathering at River Fork Ranch Preserve in October 2019 © Lori Leonard/TNC; Joshua trees at Avi Kwa Ame National Monument © Chip Carroon/TNC; Aerial view of lithium ponds © Jassen Todorov/TNC Photo Contest 2022; **PAGE 10** Lake Tahoe © Sarah Scheur/TNC Photo Contest 2019; Andrew Strain speaking at River Fork Ranch Preserve © Chip Carroon/TNC.



Independence Lake, NV © Chip Carroon/TNC

Protecting nature in Nevada is easier than you think through a gift of stock, bonds or mutual funds. Your gift can be put to work immediately, and may provide a charitable income tax deduction and help you avoid paying tax on capital gains.

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