2024 NEVADA
ANNUAL REPORT

Together, We Find a Way

Creating a lasting legacy and investing in the future

LISTEN

Hear more from Mauricia on Mountain & Prairie podcast: mountainandprairie.com/mauricia-baca

FROM THE STATE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

I am so grateful for an incredible year—The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) fortieth year of working together in Nevada.
It has been wonderful to celebrate across the state and look back on what we have accomplished together while also continuing to invest in our future.

I've been thinking about how conservation helps people and nature in both the short and long term, and how important it is to acknowledge how working with nature can take time. Some of the results will come in our lifetimes, and some will come in the lives of future generations, just as we have benefited from the hard work of those who came before us.

Our success in Nevada has been driven by visionaries who looked at the long-term view, from the group of conservationists who fought to protect Ash Meadows in 1984, to our partners who helped us return 11 miles of the Truckee River to its natural curves, to our leadership who worked with corporate partners to protect the gorgeous view of Red Rock Canyon for all to enjoy today.

To meet our ambitious 2030 goals, we're going to have to step up and work even more closely together to meet the challenge. I know we can meet these challenges, but we can't do it alone.

We will have to work across landscapes and watersheds and on a bigger scale than we ever have before, because climate change and biodiversity loss don't stop at state borders or property boundaries. And we have to recognize that we aren't just planning for our own future, but for the generations of people and nature after us.

I am excited to share some inspiring examples of projects like this in our annual report. What was a burn scar in central Nevada a decade ago is now a thriving wet meadow. The restoration happened thanks to an innovative conservation agreement with Nevada Gold Mines made in 2014. It's helping to restore some of the most important areas in an 880,000-acre landscape. Already, greater sage-grouse and pronghorn have returned to these areas. Over the past five years, we have mapped Nevada's groundwater-dependent ecosystems, identified the stressors and threats they face, and come up with 10 strategies to protect them in the future. Our science team has mapped where species will move as the climate becomes hotter and drier so that we can better protect their future habitats. On the policy side, we're advocating for conservation funding and for smart-from-the-start policies and responsible lithium mining so that we can help Nevada have a clean energy future while also protecting our state's incredible biodiversity. And we can't do any of it without our staff—we're growing our team to keep meeting these landscape-scale challenges into the future.

Thank you for all of your support—you are helping people and nature thrive in Nevada now and into the future.

Mauricia M.M. Baca, Nevada State Director

The Nature Conservancy Nevada

The Nature Conservancy in Nevada

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

PROTECT

Thanks to $250,000 in funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Burned Area Rehabilitation, TNC Nevada will hire a restoration tribal liaison. This is a new effort with the Nevada Native Seed Partnership and could greatly increase our collaborations with the many tribes of the Great Basin, benefiting our efforts to restore and maintain intact landscapes and support Indigenous-led conservation.

TRANSFORM

This year we held the first-ever Colorado River Multi-State Trustee Gathering in Steamboat Springs to learn more about the Colorado River Program and meet trustees from throughout the Basin states. The gathering was an energizing and inspiring weekend of learning how effective TNC can be when we work across business unit boundaries, and how we are uniquely positioned to have impact at multiple scales in the Colorado River Basin.

INSPIRE

Dr. Anna Richards from Australia's Commonwealth for Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and TNC Nevada's Director of Science, Louis Provencher, participated in an international scientific exchange to help CSIRO scientists learn how to use Landscape Conservation Forecasting in their projects. Last December, the Australian Parliament passed the Nature Repair Bill, perhaps the first biodiversity market legislation in the world, and TNC's science was used to help pre-calculate biodiversity credits.

WHERE WE WORK

BY THE NUMBERS

11,000

acre-feet of groundwater rights are being retired in Diamond Valley as a result of a statewide pilot program to help ranchers and farmers in groundwater basins that are running dry. Together with the Diamond Valley community, TNC is exploring if combining solar energy production with dryland agriculture will help ranchers and farmers stay on their lands and keep them productive while also using less groundwater.

410,195

acres of the south Snake Range and Spring Valley's unique Bahsahwahbee (swamp cedars) ecosystem were mapped with high-resolution satellite imagery for ecological integrity, bighorn sheep habitat improvement, fire management, and fire effects on riparian health by the TNC's Nevada science team. These maps were shared with partners who are working toward preserving Bahsahwahbee as a national monument.

100

events were held at River Ranch Preserve, including tours, volunteer days, youth education, and community conservation programs. The events drew more than 2,300 people, supported by more than 250 volunteers.

INITIATIVES

2030 GOALS:
Conserve 1.6 Billion Acres of Land

RESILIENT LANDS

Scientists play the long game—and score wins for sagebrush

THIS PAGE Greater sage-grouse © Public domain; OPPOSITE PAGE Virginia Peak © Chip Carroon/TNC; Before and after restoration in central Nevada © Louis Provencher/TNC

A lot can change in 10 years. Just ask Louis Provencher, TNC Nevada's director of science, who's watching a flock of greater sage-grouse scatter from the edge of a thriving wet meadow in central Nevada. "It's heartwarming," he whispers with a tinge of awe, watching the hens vanish into the perennial grasses. "A decade ago, there was nothing here but a burn scar and cheatgrass. Our models showed how this area could be restored—and it worked."

Provencher and his team are visiting the 880,000-acre site of a ground-breaking conservation agreement inked back in 2014. At the time, TNC worked with Nevada Gold Mines (NGM), then known as Barrick Gold Corp., and the Department of the Interior to estimate how much greater sage-grouse habitat would be lost to NGM's planned mine development. TNC used Landscape Conservation Forecasting (LCF) models to complete this task and to analyze what location, size, and type of restoration treatments NGM could pursue on nearby private and public lands to offset this loss and restore sage-grouse habitat. Over the past 10 years, NGM has followed those restoration recommendations, and the results, as Provencher recorded, are powerful.

For example, at another expansive restoration site, on the northwestern foothills of the Roberts Mountains and the eastern slopes of the Simpson Park Range, TNC's science showed that re-establishing native perennial bunch grasses and sagebrush where it was being lost to encroaching pinyon and juniper trees would benefit sage-grouse nesting habitat. Over the last three years, NGM implemented the prescribed actions, and now grass and sagebrush seedlings are emerging, setting the scene for sagebrush habitat to flourish one day. For Provencher, it's more ecologically impressive evidence that LCF models and partner buy-in yield lasting change.

> "TNC-led landscape-scale science is being used to implement actions at a scale that matters on public lands."
> – Liz Munn, Resilient Public Lands Strategy Director, TNC Nevada

"In states dominated by public lands, we want to promote the conservation of biodiversity in these areas we do not own," explains Provencher, who spearheaded the creation of LCF in 2007. It's a TNC-developed methodology that uses satellite imagery, software models and human expertise to predict the outcomes of land management actions based on sound science. To date, TNC has worked with partners to apply LCF to more than 9 million acres in Nevada and Utah.

"This is one of the most powerful examples of how TNC-led landscape-scale science is being used to implement restoration actions at a scale that matters on public lands," says Liz Munn, TNC Nevada's director of the resilient public lands strategy. She's been working with NGM and other partners for years to track restoration progress and ensure that it meets conservation goals.

"It's satisfying to work on a project for so long and to take such great science and bring it to action on the ground," exclaims Munn. "With this approach, we have an opportunity to influence the conservation of entire watersheds by working with just a few partners."

Provencher pauses to point out a herd of grazing pronghorn before he shares a final thought. "In arid lands, we can see that it pays to play the long game and set a more deliberate pace for conservation success. We're now gearing up to replicate this kind of work in some of the most important and intact landscapes within the sagebrush sea."

(For more about this special ecosystem, see p. 12).

ONLINE

Learn more about our work in Nevada's rangelands at **nature.org/sagebrushsea.**

INITIATIVES

2030 GOALS:

Conserve 620,000 Miles of River Systems and 74 Milion Acres of Wetlands

RESILIENT WATERS

Developing strategies to protect Nevada's precious groundwater

THIS PAGE Beaver at McCarran Ranch Preserve © Simon Williams/TNC; OPPOSITE PAGE Ruby Valley; Ely © Chip Carroon/TNC

The Nature Conservancy in Nevada recently developed a set of strategies that can help protect the hundreds of species— including bighorn sheep, the Devil's Hole pupfish and the Amargosa toad—that rely on groundwater-dependent ecosystems (GDEs) in the Silver State. These ecological communities can be found in many places, from desert springs and caves to streams and meadows and forests. These natural areas are rich with biodiversity and are under increasing threat from groundwater pumping, climate change, development and pollution.

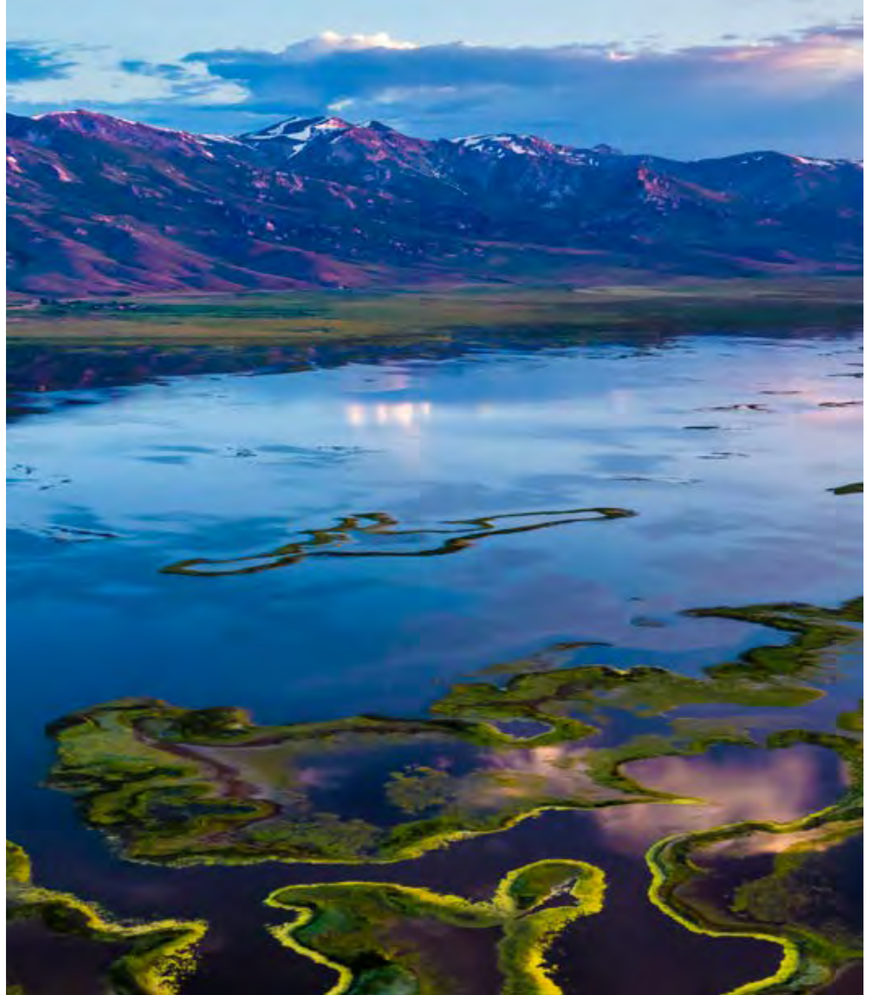
"The challenge with groundwater is that many people are not aware of its existence and how it affects their lives and the ecosystems they care about, because groundwater is underground and out of sight," says Laurel Saito, TNC Nevada's water strategy director.

With TNC Nevada's science team and others, Saito spent several years studying the state's groundwater-dependent ecosystems. The first step was to map where GDEs are located, which required available data across the state about springs, wetlands, upland plant communities, rivers and streams, and lakes and playas. During that process, we learned that over 10% of our state's land area is made up of groundwater-dependent systems and that Nevada has over 25,000 documented springs.

After the mapping was completed, we identified stressors and threats to groundwater-dependent ecosystems. It was no surprise that groundwater pumping was a major stressor, with nearly 40% of the over 6,500 wells analyzed having significantly falling groundwater level trends over the past several decades. These trends already are impacting surface water flows in some of Nevada's rivers and streams, which can be emphasized during prolonged droughts. Other stressors include urban development, surface diversions, ungulates, and non-native plants. Climate change and potential groundwater development are two of the biggest threats facing these ecological communities.

But, all hope is not lost! We developed 10 strategies to help manage and sustain the ecological communities that rely on groundwater. The strategies fall into four categories: science, policy, management, and education. They range from increasing monitoring and reporting to enacting protective policies and amplifying people's understanding of GDEs and the need to protect them.

"Implementing these strategies is crucial to safeguarding our GDEs and the benefits they provide," Saito adds. "By leveraging our science, long-standing partnerships and ability to develop tangible solutions, we can create a sustainable future together for people and nature."



REPORT

Global Groundwater Map

For the first time ever—thanks to advances in technology—we now have a global map of groundwater ecosystems in drylands across the globe. The study, developed by scientists from TNC and the Desert Research Institute, along with researchers from universities, nonprofit organizations, and institutions from seven countries, provides information on where GDEs are likely located, and which ones are most at risk of groundwater depletion. This insight will help advance the protection of these biologically diverse natural areas and the people who depend on them. The study was published in Nature in July.

ONLINE

Learn more about the study and our work on groundwater at groundwaterresourcehub.org.

INITIATIVES

2030 GOALS:

Reduce or Store 3 Gigatons of CO_2 Emissions Yearly

CLIMATE ACTION

Predicting how species will move in a changing climate

THIS PAGE Desert tortoise © Dana Wilson/BLM; OPPOSITE PAGE Avi Kwa Ame National Monument © Chip Carroon/TNC INSET Crissal thrasher © Kerry Taylor; Screwbean mesquite © Michael Clifford; Ringtail cat © Marty Cordano

Imagine you are a threatened Mojave Desert tortoise. With shovel-like legs and a hard, tall and domed shell, you are well suited to life in the desert. But you are also sensitive to the temperature and moisture in your habitat. Changes to these variables can affect where you are able to live—and might eventually drive your species to relocate. For TNC scientists seeking to protect the most vulnerable plants and animals, it's important to get ahead of why, how and where certain species could move as climate change plays out.

For more than two years, the Bureau of Land Management has provided funding for TNC's Nevada science team to model how 13 plant and animal species—including the desert tortoise—might be forced to disperse due to climate warming. "We looked at the potential dispersal of species based on key behavioral traits and habitat requirements," explains Louis Provencher, TNC Nevada's director of science. "And we modeled how those species would respond to different climatic and vegetation variables over a 100-year period and across a 120-million-acre area."

Provencher and the science team's models show that one of the most important climatic variables is vapor pressure deficit (VPD), which is a measure of how dry the air is at any given location. The higher the VPD, the drier and warmer the location. "Basically the desert tortoise can handle extremely hot and dry conditions," explains Michael Clifford, a TNC Nevada conservation scientist involved in the study, "but the species is restricted by cold temperatures at its northern range."

The TNC team found that a VPD measurement of 1.8 kilopascals, representing a relatively cool and moist habitat, is the lowest that a desert tortoise can tolerate. They mapped the current northern boundaries of this VPD level near Sarcobatus Flat and Tikaboo Valley in Nevada and St. George in Utah, and then modeled future scenarios. "Our working hypothesis is that desert tortoise will slowly move north," says Provencher, "as the VPD boundary of 1.8 also moves north during 100 years of climate warming."

This prediction ties in with TNC Nevada's broader efforts, through the Resilient and Connected Lands Network, to identify and proactively protect different passages in the West that provide desert tortoises and other species with escape routes from growing climate impacts. The passages include mountain ranges, which will have warmer climates in the future, wet plant communities that resist climate warming, and habitat structures that some species need, such as narrow canyons, riparian corridors and rocky outcrops.

Provencher puts it this way: "by understanding how and where species like the desert tortoise might move, we can take action. There are no guarantees that all passages will provide escape routes if we don't ensure that those lands are viable and protect them from development." If you're a desert tortoise, that safe passage could eventually mean the difference between survival and extinction.

POLICY

Working together to secure conservation funding

Preparing for the 83rd Legislative Session

We're advocating for $20 million for conservation across the state

ONLINE | Learn more about our work on policy at **nature.org/policy**

THIS PAGE Gemini solar project in southern Nevada © Bridget Bennett; OPPOSITE PAGE Lake Tahoe © Chip Carroon/TNC INSET The Truckee River at Mustang Ranch; Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge © Chip Carroon/TNC; Hiker on the Truckee River © Simon Williams/TNC

In 2024, we set our sights long and got to work on realizing our goals of protecting groundwater-dependent ecosystems and securing more conservation funding for Nevada. We knew that it would not be until 2025 that we would begin to achieve our goals and that we needed a long runway to build relationships and advocate for conservation.

Conservation funding is a critical component of a state budget because it ensures the preservation and protection of natural resources, which are essential for environmental sustainability, public health, and community and economic stability. With the Conserve Nevada grants program, organizations and communities can be empowered to invest in the state's natural and recreational infrastructure to realize direct tangible benefits that improve quality of life for Nevadans, visitors, and the state's rich biodiversity. The Nature Conservancy is advocating for a $20 million allocation to the program in the Nevada FY26-27 budget. We have shared our request for Conserve Nevada in the state budget in a letter with 28 other signatories.

In 2024, the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources met to discuss bill recommendations for the 83rd Legislative Session, which begins February 3, 2025. We advocated for three issues to the legislative committee: 1) to codify a groundwater rights buy-back and retirement program for hydrographic basins that are over appropriated and over pumped, 2) to provide $1 million in funding for the Nevada Water Initiative and 3) to pass a legislative resolution to support a mineral withdrawal to protect the area surrounding Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. The Interim Committee agreed to submit bill draft requests (BDRs) for the first two priorities, and they recommended sending a letter to the Department of Interior expressing the Committee's support for a mineral withdrawal. The Interim Committee also advanced a BDR for a legislative resolution expressing support for a smart-from-the-start policy for solar development in Nevada. TNC has long advocated for a smart-from-the-start policy for energy development.

As we close out 2024, we maintain our watch on the horizon to 2025, when we will advocate for conservation funding, water resiliency, and smart-from-the-start energy development.

ACROSS THE WEST

Protecting an iconic Western landscape

How six states are working together on solutions for sagebrush

Technology and innovative thinking are transforming how livestock graze on public lands

ONLINE | Learn more about our work on sagebrush habitat at **nature.org/sagebrushsea**

THIS PAGE Pygmy rabbit © Morgan Heim; OPPOSITE PAGE Sagebrush near Carlin © Chip Carroon/TNC; Restoration in Nevada © Andrew Church; Greater sage-grouse/ public domain; Pronghorn © Janet Haas

The vast, open spaces of the high desert stretch across more than a dozen states, creating a "sagebrush sea" from the Dakotas to California, a landscape that defines the American West. Healthy sagebrush habitat is a complex network of vegetation—a rich, diverse mix that also includes bunchgrasses and wildflowers. Together these native plants sustain thousands of animal species, from burrowing owls and pygmy rabbits to mule deer, pronghorn and mountain lions. Many, like the greater sage-grouse, can survive nowhere else.

Despite the rugged reputation of the range, it is imperiled. Every year we lose another one million acres to invasive species, catastrophic wildfire, development, improper grazing and climate change.

To address these challenges, TNC staff from Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming have come together to create the Sagebrush Sea program. By connecting partners, leveraging projects and sharing solutions across borders, we can achieve shared goals for this critical landscape.

This year, our shared approach helped to secure a $9.9 million grant to restore streams and springs in six critical locations across the West. This award also helped to hire six new project managers, who work together to share learnings and best practices from their efforts to use low-technology interventions that mimic the actions of beaver and other natural processes.

The Sagebrush Sea program is also working at ranches managed by TNC and our partners to showcase how technology and innovative thinking can transform the way livestock graze on public lands. Pairing high-tech virtual fencing with established practices of range-riding cowboys, TNC and partners are striving for solutions that protect important habitat while keeping working lands working.

$9.9M

Funding received by TNC to hire six new project managers and restore streams and springs in six critical locations across the West.

In addition, TNC is forging a new upland restoration strategy to break the cycle of invasive annual grasses and uncharacteristically severe wildfire by leveraging the work of TNC colleagues and partners across the West in a multifaceted approach. Our efforts include building evidence for the most effective tools, enhancing planning to prevent and reduce the spread of invasive annuals, ensuring the availability of appropriate seeds for post-wildfire reseeding, and utilizing seed technologies to give native plants an advantage over invasives.

In Nevada, where 85% of the land is public, TNC is stepping in to bridge the gap between the seed we have and the seed we need for increased and improved restoration. Starting in 2019, TNC piloted an approach to forecasting seed needs. With new funding from the Forest Service and in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management and the Nevada Department of Wildlife, among others, TNC is embarking on a project to forecast the need for regional restoration materials over the next 10 years. This will allow the market to better meet these needs by improving long-term buying trends and signaling to growers what demand is likely to be. TNC will also work with restoration practitioners to develop tools to help them quickly evaluate trade-offs in designing seed mixes for particular projects. This is yet another way the Nevada team is leveraging our landscape-scale planning strengths to assist our agency partners to achieve improved conservation outcomes.

PLACES WE PROTECT

Saving biodiversity in southern Nevada

How we're working with partners to keep protecting Ash Meadows

Ash Meadows is home to the highest density of endemic species in the country

A unique ecological treasure and a recognized global biodiversity hotspot, this oasis is home to the highest density of endemic species (found only at Ash Meadows and no place else) in the United States. The springs and groundwater resources are a critical part of the Amargosa River, an underground river that flows from its headwaters at TNC's Atwood Preserve in Nevada's Oasis Valley to Badwater Basin in Death Valley National Park in California. Along the way, the Amargosa River appears on the surface as springs and pools that support an incredibly rich web of life in one of the hottest, driest places on Earth.

TNC is deeply invested in the conservation and protection of this place. Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge was established on June 18, 1984 through a collaboration between The Nature Conservancy, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect and restore the many rare plants and animals found there. There are 12 species listed under the Endangered Species Act as threatened or endangered living at the refuge, and the property includes a parcel managed by the National Park Service to preserve the endangered Devil's Hole pupfish.

Although TNC typically does not publicly oppose specific projects, last summer we issued a statement in opposition to a proposed lithium exploration activity bordering the refuge. We took this action because of the potential catastrophic consequences that could result from exploratory drilling occurring so close to the springs and pools in the refuge. These serious concerns were informed by a review of wells that had been drilled in the area and a case study of an artesian flow that resulted in an area of similar hydrology within the Amargosa Basin.

TNC supports efforts to better buffer Ash Meadows NWR from threats to its groundwater resources and associated species. The local communities, tribes, and conservation groups have proposed a mineral withdrawal for the area around Ash Meadows. To better understand the need for and the resources that would be affected by a mineral withdrawal, TNC commissioned two additional studies. One study modeled the potential groundwater withdrawals and hydrologic impacts from a proposed lithium extraction project, and the second study assessed the potential mineral commodities that would be affected by such a mineral withdrawal.

The hydrologic modeling indicates that mining activities near Ash Meadows could significantly and dramatically impact the groundwater flows that feed the springs in the refuge. The study results provided scientific data to support the protection of the springs and the species that depend on them at Ash Meadows.

TNC is not alone in its concern for the threats to water resources and species at Ash Meadows from mineral exploration and development. Ash Meadows is an important environmental, cultural, and economic resource for the local communities and Tribes. The Timbisha Shoshone Tribe, Nye County Commission, Amargosa Valley Town Board, Beatty Town Board, Amargosa Conservancy and other conservation organizations have all sent letters or resolutions to the Department of theInterior expressing support for a mineral withdrawal surrounding the refuge. We appreciate our Nevada Senators, several House Representatives and the Nevada Interim Committee on Natural Resources, who sent letters to the Department of the Interior asking for a mineral withdrawal around the refuge.

ONLINE | Learn more about the 40th anniversary at Ash Meadows at **tinyurl.com/ashmeadows40**

OPPOSITE PAGE Crystal Spring at Ash Meadows © Chip Carroon/TNC; INSET Roadrunner; Flowers; Pupfish © Chip Carroon/TNC; Ash Meadows 40th anniversary celebration © Pahrump Photography

ANNIVERSARY

40 Years of Ash Meadows

Just 90 miles from Las Vegas, Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge is one of the most biodiverse places in North America. The refuge is home to 26 endemic species, including the vibrant yellow Ash Meadows sunray and the playful bright blue pupfish. For four decades, this remarkable desert oasis has offered people a sanctuary among oases of sapphire springs.

On April 20, TNC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service celebrated 40 years at Ash Meadows. Supporters gathered to celebrate the life that thrives here and the people who have helped protect it throughout its history.

The Indigenous peoples of Ash Meadows, including the Southern Paiute and Timbisha Shoshone, have deep connections to the area and in continue to work in partnership here with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The fight for its survival continues as the refuge faces threats from development, groundwater diversions, and invasive species. We'll continue to work with our partners to protect this special place.

2024

YEAR IN PHOTOS

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in 2024 and throughout our 40 years as a chapter! Whether you attended an event, donated, or volunteered with us, it's all making a difference.

See the latest Nevada photos! Follow us at @nature_nevada

WATCH

See a new video on our work at tinyurl.com/tncnv40

Mountain Lion at River Fork Ranch Preserve John Axtell captured this stunning photo using a camera trap on the preserve. © John Axtell

40th Anniversary Dinner TNC Nevada Trustee and CEO of Blue Heron, Tyler Jones, hosted an exclusive evening at a Blue Heron show home to celebrate to celebrate 40 years of our chapter's work and especially our conservation on the Colorado River.

Betting on Nature In October, trustee Joel Laub and his wife Kim Laub hosted a 40th anniversary event at their home in Las Vegas. © Credit

EcoFlight over the Amargosa Valley In May, TNC CEO Jen Morris and Chief Marketing and Communications Officer Meg Goldthwaite joined TNC Nevada staff on an Ecoflight over the Amargosa Valley to discuss current threats and opportunities. EcoFlight is a nonprofit that provides aerial views of landscapes to aid in their conservation. © Ecoflight

Governor Tours McCarran Ranch Preserve In May, Governor Lombardo joined TNC Nevada trustees and staff for a tour of McCarran Ranch Preserve. © TNC

Bill Douglass Trail Celebration In August, we celebrated the naming of a trail at McCarran Ranch Preserve in honor of TNC trustee and longtime supporter Bill Douglass. © Simon Williams/TNC

40th Anniversary of Ash Meadows TNC staff, trustees, partners and friends celebrated the refuge and the team of conservationists who helped to protect it in 1984. © Pahrump Photography

McCarran Ranch Celebration Conservation Director Mickey Hazelwood speaks to the crowd at a 40th anniversary celebration at McCarran Ranch Preserve. © Chip Carroon

DOI Burned Area Response Team Visit The Nevada Native Seed Partnership led a tour in Reno to show how funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is helping to increase the supply of locally adapted native seed for restoration across the Great Basin. © Robyn Carlo

Legacy Club Visit to Ash Meadows In April, TNC Legacy Club members visited Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in honor of its 40th anniversary. © Kristen McInnis

Eagles & Ag TNC supporters birdwatch at River Fork Ranch Preserve as part of Eagles and Agriculture, an annual event hosted by the Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce. © Lori Leonard

STAFF

Resilient Public Lands Team

How we're increasing our capacity to meet landscape-scale challenges

Meet our Resilient Public Lands team! We have been growing our capacity over the past year to meet challenges on a larger scale so we can achieve our ambitious 2030 goals. What was once a one-person team is now a team of four, scattered across Nevada to effectively mirror the public land agencies we work with. We're stepping up to meet the big conservation challenges we face and are working with partners across the state and the West to achieve work that we can't do alone.

Our science-based, collaborative approach to improving the condition of public rangelands requires that we deeply understand the ecological context in which we are working, account for agency processes and priorities, develop solutions that are practical for people and communities whose livelihoods depend on natural resources, and push ourselves to work with partners at a scale that matters. "We have assembled a team with diverse experiences and knowledge that is perfectly suited bring TNC's assets and values to bear on Nevada's unique conservation challenges," says Liz Munn, TNC Nevada's strategy director for resilient public lands. "Tanya's deep experience working with partners in southern Nevada, particularly on the Virgin River, is now being applied to our efforts to build the supply of native seeds for restoration. Susi joined the TNC team in May and is working out of the BLM office in Winnemucca, overseeing priority restoration projects all the way to the Oregon border and lending her ecological expertise to agency review processes. Based in Elko, Andrew is applying his knowledge of the land and ranching practices to find win-win solutions for ranchers and conservationists, and getting his hands dirty repairing creeks and streams around the West."

The team is also regularly coordinating with colleagues across TNC, sharing ideas and learning from others' experiences working in support of public land agencies and private landowners. "I am inspired every day to work with this innovative, passionate, and thoughtful group, and I'm excited for the year ahead," says Munn.

STAFF

Liz Munn

Strategy Director, Resilient Public Lands

In nine years with TNC, Liz has managed several complex projects at the intersection of mining, agriculture, and conservation. These include TNC's engagement with Nevada Gold Mines for sage-grouse mitigation, and an innovative public lands grazing project on the Winecup Gamble Ranch. She is an active member of the Nevada Native Seed Partnership, working to increase the supply of seeds for restoration. Liz is passionate about finding science-based solutions that work for both people and nature and is an aspiring "NEPA nerd." She received a B.A. from Whitman College and a M.S. from the University of Michigan, where she studied collaborative resource management planning. Liz is an avid cook; loves gardening, hiking, and music; and is a proud (if occasionally exasperated) parent of twin 3-year-old boys.

STAFF

Tanya Anderson

Southern Nevada Projects Manager

Tanya Anderson began working for TNC in 2008 and is based in Las Vegas. Tanya graduated from New Mexico State University with a M.Sc. in wildlife management. She began her TNC tenure working on tamarisk and knapweed removal in the Mojave Desert's upper Muddy River and began spatial analysis support in 2009. In 2018, she transitioned into project management for the chapter and coordinates the work on the Virgin River to increase in-stream flows for native fish. She has been splitting her time supporting renewable energy and infrastructure siting analysis, understanding biodiversity conflict with renewable energy, supporting collaborative initiatives to support brownfield development opportunities throughout Nevada, and boosting climate resilience through increased tree canopy in the Las Vegas Valley.

STAFF

Andrew Church

Eastern Nevada Restoration Project Manager

Andrew Church is a fifth-generation rancher hailing from Elko, Nevada. He was raised on the banks of the North Fork of the Humboldt in the shadow of Double Mountain, where he and his brother were immersed in the range and riparians of the Great Basin from a young age. His education in range ecology was an incidental one, his mentors being an old guard of agency sages who talked about how the land once was and could be again, cowboys whose heuristics came from seeing nature's patterns play out over the many years of their lives, weary gummer cows, a land with old wounds and beautiful scars. Like most prodigal youth, Andrew tried his best to run away from home, trading the high desert for the high seas, but the gravity of basin and range always drew him back. Andrew joins TNC after a tenure in mining.

STAFF

Susi Algrim

Ecologist

Susi Algrim hails from southwest Kansas, where she was born and raised on a fourth-generation family farm and ranch. She earned her bachelor's degree in biology from Wichita State University in 2014 and her master's degree in horticulture and natural resources from Kansas State University in 2017. Susi served in the Peace Corps as an agricultural extension agent in Senegal, and that experience deepened her understanding of sustainable practices in diverse agricultural contexts. Susi recently served as the ecologist and later the executive director for a small environmental conservation nonprofit in eastern Nevada for two and a half years. In her current role, she works closely with the Winnemucca District BLM across many natural resource disciplines, and her goal is to contribute to the resilience and health of our ecosystems through collaborative and sustainable practices.

THIS PAGE Andrew Church and Liz Munn in eastern Nevada © OrangeTree Productions

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ON THE COVER Ruby Valley © Chip Carroon/TNC; PAGE 2 Mauricia M.M. Baca © TNC; PAGE 3 Places We Protect © Sarah Byer/TNC; Showy penstemon © Sarah Kulpa/USFWS; Multi-State gathering © Kelli Harrington; Dr. Anna Richards © Louis Provencher; THIS PAGE CLOCKWISE Crystal Spring at Ash Meadows; Steptoe Valley; Ducks in Ruby Valley; Urban trees in Reno; Gary and Lajetta Atwood Preserve; Birdwatchers at Independence Lake © 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.