



# COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

*Bringing the University to You*

## RREA Report

The Renewable Resources Extension Act funds an important part of a rangeland management education program focused on critically important ecological and economic opportunities. The University of Nevada funds their faculty at about twelve times the level of RREA support, with the RREA funds providing important operating money that brings in as much extra support from other federal, State, NGO, and private sources.



Focus groups capture the wisdom from decades of rangeland vegetation observations.



Great Basin rangelands motivate strategic vegetation management.

### Success stories:

- By facilitating communication and collaborative planning, diverse groups of landowners, land users, State and Federal agency resource managers, environmentalists and others share ideas of their vision for productive and healthy rangelands, wildlife habitats, and active rangeland management.
- Nevada Youth Range Camp continues to invite high school youth to camp out in Central Nevada where they learn about rangeland ecology and management, soils, plants, sagebrush and pinyon/juniper plant communities, fish and wildlife, streams, ranches, and collaborative planning. Learning thrives with volunteer counselors from state and federal land management agencies, and with volunteer cooks who are simply dedicated to the program.
- To monitor rangeland management, Extension led in rewriting the Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook. It emphasizes short and long-term monitoring to measure progress toward meeting objectives such as specific vegetation changes in riparian or upland key areas. Landowners, consultants, agency natural resource conservationists, and public land users will apply the Handbook.
- Creeks and Communities function properly when riparian management focuses on the multiple benefits of keeping water on the land longer. In this most arid state, riparian management based on soils, hydrology, biology and plant ecology helps landowners, land managers, and interested publics help watersheds work better, with fewer, smaller floods and shorter periods of low flow.
- In the Nevada Range Management School led by Cooperative Extension, the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Nevada Department of Agriculture all teach how range plants grow and how the season, duration, and intensity of grazing affects livestock and vegetation.

### Quotes from program participants:

“The alternatives in this (Ely BLM District) RMP/EIS are to: ... Facilitate the Great Basin Restoration Initiative through implementation of the Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project. This is a vision that Cooperative Extension has advanced with a diversity of educational programs leading to a broadly shared vision for landscape restoration principles.”

**Nevada RREA contact:** Sherman Swanson, Nevada State Range Extension Specialist, 1000 Valley Rd. Reno, NV 89512, 775-784-4057, sswanson@cabnr.unr.edu