

# Elko Stewardship LAWG

## Objectives:

The Elko Stewardship Group Local Area Working Group facilitates the conservation of healthy ecosystems. The LAWG provides all stakeholders with collaborative opportunities to actively manage and restore greater sage-grouse habitat across ownership boundaries in Elko County.

## Goals:

- Develop and implement site-specific plans to accomplish enhancement and restoration projects that are identified by the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program as important areas for sage-grouse conservation.
- Identify potential habitat enhancement and restoration projects.
- Provide local, site-specific expertise on a variety of issues.

## Upcoming Events:

- Meetings the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.
- Field work.

## Contact:

Gerry Miller  
911 Falcon Lane  
775- 461-6569

## Service Area



# Significant Achievements

Sagebrush Demonstration Plots  
Established in 2001

Data collected in 2006, 2011, 2016 and  
2021 the studies are on-going.

Elko County Sagebrush Ecosystem  
Conservation Strategy  
Finished in 2005,  
Approved by the County in 2007  
Beneficial because of ecosystem approach

Tuscarora Population Management Unit  
Assessment completed in 2009.

North Fork Population Management Unit  
Assessment completed in 2011.

Categorize sage grouse habitat based on  
ecological site descriptions using  
landowner questionnaires for future  
projects

Sage Grouse Experience is in it's 7th year  
and ongoing.

Recent Ibapah Indian Reservation fire restoration of about 200 acres in PHMA

# 2021 Activities

Final evaluation of sagebrush carcass cache experimental plots.

Second year monitoring of caches at South Fork SRA.

Assisted US Fish & Wildlife Service - Partners Program and Nevada Division of Forestry in establishing 1000+ sagebrush carcass caches on Maggie Creek Ranch owned property burned in the 2019 Hunter Fire.

Continued Conservation Credit System assistance.

Sagebrush seed collection for the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

Financial support for educational activities associated with Nevada Wild 2020 exhibit at the California Trail Interpretative Center.



## *Sagebrush Seed Collection Volunteers Wanted!*

*Seed will be collected for wildland fire and overuse rehabilitation*

*2020's seed collection will not be an organized group event.  
We've altered it to allow individuals or families  
To participate on your own when it is convenient for you.*

- *Call or email for registration between Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> & Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>*
- *Pick up collection kit with list of approved sites and instructions*
- *Collect as much seed as you can*
- *Call to arrange a drop off time for kit and seed – No later than Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>*
- *Collect your volunteer swag!*

*For more information or to register contact:*

*Julie Gabrielson  
775-777-2391*

*jgabrielson@ndow.org*



Lamoille Women's Club

# Sagebrush Carcass Caching: 2019 Hunter Fire



- Funding from USF&WS - Partners Program
- Inmates from Carlin and Wells Conservation Camps installed over 1000 caches
- NNSG assisted USF&WS/NDF with planning/design and field logistics
- Designed to hasten sagebrush re-establishment on former sagebrush-steppe habitat on Maggie Creek Ranch property, burned during the Hunter Fire in Oct. 2019.

# South Fork State Recreation Area: Second Year Sagebrush Carcass Cache Monitoring



- Thirteen of twenty caches had surviving seedlings after 2 years (65% success rate).
- The hybrid Wyoming x basin big sagebrush reproduced in one cache (as shown), which is the **first** example of cached sagebrush establishing itself.
- Some of the seedlings arose in the second growing season.
- The seven caches with failed establishment were reseeded (on Dec. 5, 2020) using sagebrush seed collected in 2019.
- Four caches were newly established near the parking lot kiosk to test if there was viable seed in a Dec. 5, 2020 seed collection by NNSG volunteers. In order to guarantee that seed is present on the cached branches, guidelines need to be developed on how late caching can be implemented.
- Rocky Mountain bee plant seed (from Ruby Valley) was added to the four new kiosk caches.

# Future Goals and Resource Needs

## Goals and objectives for Future Actions:

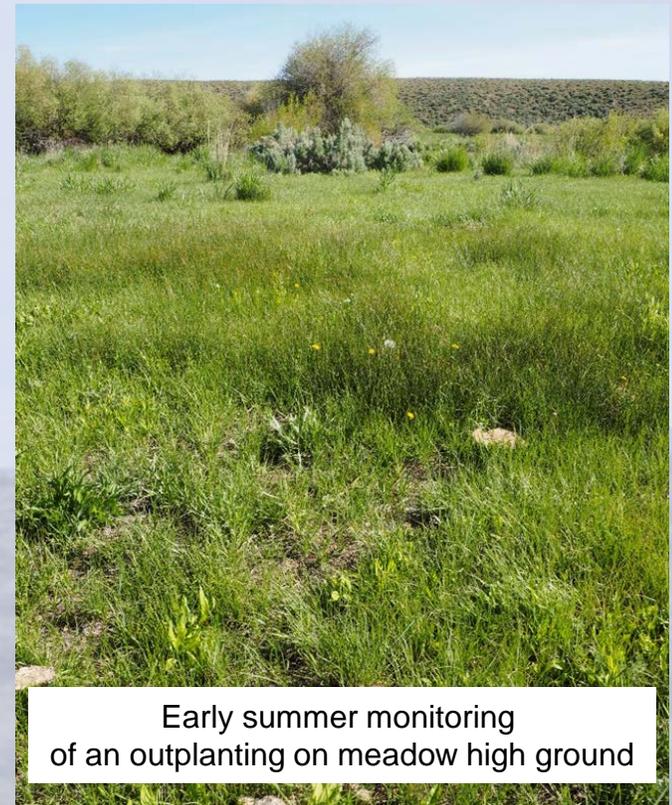
Future goals include:

- Focus on conservation and education
- Rangeland health and uplift
- Clean streams
- Common goals
- Solidarity
- Team work
- GSG Flight diverters
- Curb invasive species encroachment
- Planting vegetation adapted to the soils and precipitation that is also beneficial to GSG

**Small projects  
can make  
a big impact!**

## Resource Needs:

- Native seeds from our region in a quantity that can be used for restoration purposes.



Early summer monitoring of an outplanting on meadow high ground



A fall outplanting on a gravel outwash

A landscape photograph showing a field of tall grasses in the foreground, with a line of trees and a bright sun low on the horizon in the background. The sky is filled with soft, golden light, and there are some dark, silhouetted branches in the foreground. The text "Questions or Comments" is overlaid in the center of the image.

**Questions or Comments**