

NVCCN: Nevada Collaborative Conservation Network



What is NVCCN?

NVCCN is a statewide effort to build a network that serves to promote, coordinate, and support locally-led conservation efforts. The primary objective of NVCCN is to promote effective conservation of Nevada's ecosystems and economic viability of Nevada's communities through grassroots conservation. NVCCN provides structure to support local, diverse stakeholder groups working to achieve conservation by incorporating best science and local knowledge through a collaborative planning and implementation approach. NVCCN serves as a bridge between various groups that are already operating at the local, state and federal levels to enhance and expand locally-led conservation efforts.

Contact Information

Website: www.nvccn.org **Email:** nevadaccn@gmail.com

NVCCN Coordinator: Laura Van Riper lvanripe@blm.gov

Vision

A state where people with different individual, organizational and institutional perspectives work together to complete locally-led conservation projects across working landscapes thereby providing a wealth and diversity of thriving and sustainable ecosystems for various species, recreation, business/industry and families/communities that depend on them.

Purpose

To help facilitate a proactive, inclusive, and responsible solution-based approach to resource issues. Partnerships will be fostered by demonstrating the benefits of collaboration and community-based conservation to achieve working landscapes and sustainable communities. Recognizing local stakeholder participation and leadership as critical contributions to conservation and resource management, we will work to increase the connectedness of communities to land and wildlife management agencies, and each other.



Organizing Structure



Local Community-Based Planning includes:

- Greater Sage Grouse Local Area Working Groups
- CD/NRCS Local Work Groups
- Other interest or place-based collaborative groups

Technical & Science Support includes:

- Universities
- Federal and State Specialists
- Non-Government Organizations
- Private Consultants
- The NVCCN Facilitator Roster

Decision Makers include:

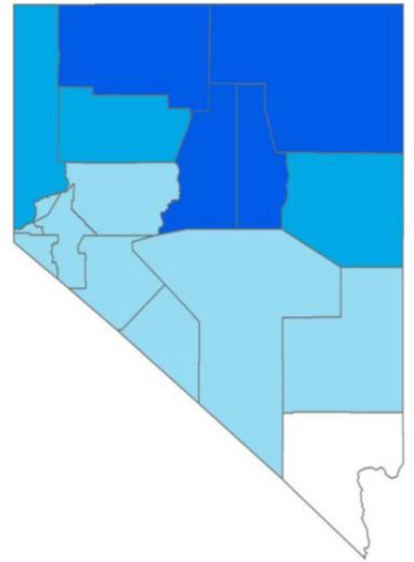
- Private landowners/industry
- State and Federal Agencies
- State and Local Government - i.e., the NV Sagebrush Ecosystem Program, State Legislature, Counties and Conservation Districts

Upcoming Events

- The NVCCN Coordinating Group meets face-to-face for a day 2x/year. Our next meeting is Dec 2nd and will occur via Zoom due to COVID restrictions. Subsequent meetings will be June 9th and Dec 8th, 2021.
- We also have two-hour Zoom check-ins 2x/year. These will occur on March 10th and Sept 8th, 2021.
- Please contact Laura if interested in participating in Coordinating Group

Service Area

Sagebrush ecosystems within Nevada (blue), with intent to expand over time.



Partners

Representatives from local community-based conservation groups, plus:



Background

The NVCCN originated in 2016. Following a state-wide kick-off meeting with more than 80 diverse participants, a series of organizational development meetings occurred culminating with the formation of the NVCCN Coordinating Group and the development of a Strategic Plan in March 2018. Each strategic element has a work committee.



Focus Areas

1. Establish NVCCN Coordinating Group to provide vision, momentum and capacity
2. Support locally-led conservation efforts and bridge state-wide gaps
3. Establish sustainable political and financial support for locally-led conservation in Nevada

Significant Achievements

Establish NVCCN Coordinating Group (CG)

- The CG is made up of 60+ individuals representing 20+ local, state, federal and non-profit agencies and organizations who provide guidance and spearhead larger initiatives to support community-based conservation efforts across the state. Participation is open to anyone.



Support locally-led conservation efforts and bridge state-wide gaps

- Assist groups currently operating across the state and support Conservation Districts focused on completing Resource Needs Assessments as a foundation for collaborative conservation planning and project prioritization/implementation.
- Identify facilitators to assist groups with organizing meetings, developing strategic action plans, and formulating goals and objectives.

Significant Achievements

Support locally-led conservation efforts and bridge state-wide gaps

- Develop a database of funding sources for project implementation and administration
- Identify & share decision support tools to help link local, state and federal conservation projects and priorities.
- Provide information sharing, networking and educational opportunities
 - Developed communication and outreach plan and products, including the launch of a NVCCN website to serve as an information repository.
 - Hosted 2 workshops to bring together representatives from NV community-based groups, encourage peer-to-peer learning and networking, and connect with similar efforts in other states. May 2020 workshop was canceled due to COVID, and the June 2021 workshop will be virtual.



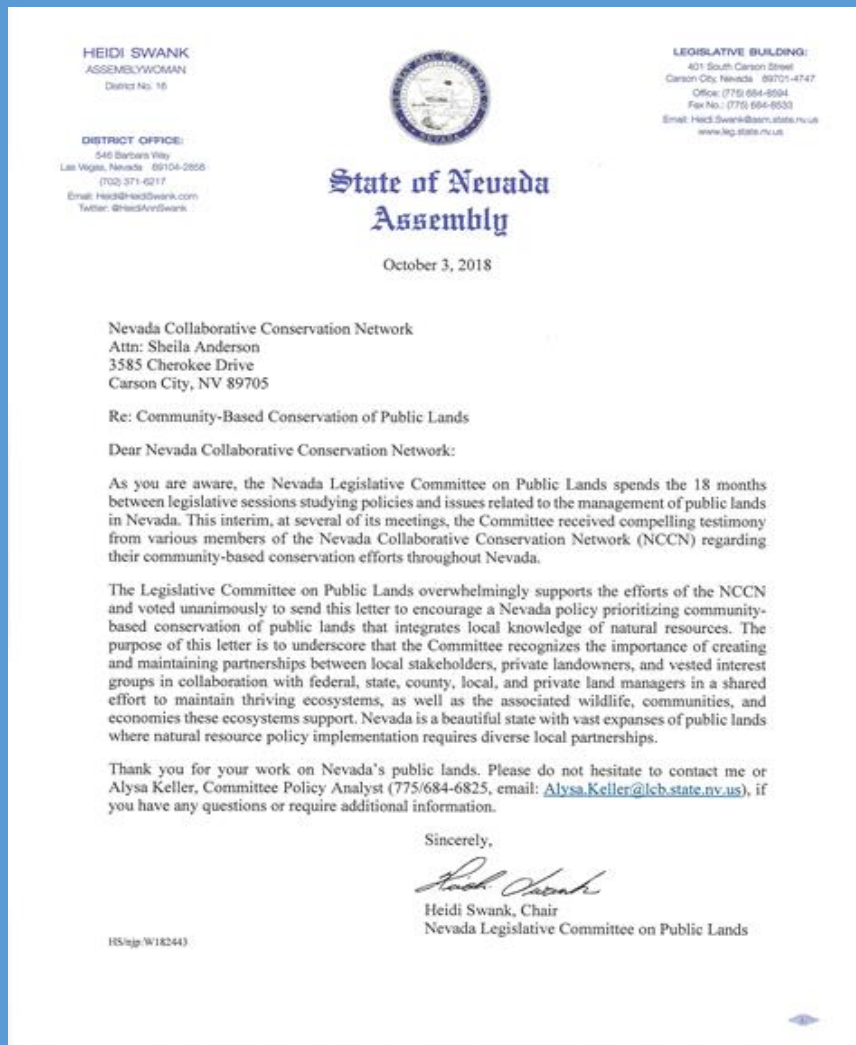
Photo 1 - Workshop Closing Circle



Significant Achievements

Establish sustainable political and financial support for locally-led conservation efforts in Nevada

- Secure commitments of support from partners and Legislature
- Various NVCCN partners gave presentations to the NV Legislative Committee on Public Lands regarding the importance of locally-led conservation efforts
- Committee provided NVCCN support letter for their efforts to prioritize community-based conservation of public lands and integrate local knowledge of natural resources



Significant Achievements

Establish sustainable political and financial support for locally-led conservation efforts in Nevada

- Identify opportunities to secure state-wide funding for implementation and administration of locally-led conservation projects. Various NVCCN partners provided testimony for the following 2019 Bills:
 - SB96 – provide \$500k in state funding for federal match for conservation efforts. This Bill did not pass; however, SB 489 (State Grant Program to establish matching funds) did move forward. Although not specific to conservation activities, could still meet need if funded.
 - AB84 – reauthorization of QI funds.
- Work with Nevada System of Higher Education and Board of Regents to bring additional capacity to local groups
 - NVCCN provided letter regarding importance of understanding, prioritizing and assisting community-based conservation in hiring of Extension Agents
 - NVCCN is working with UNR staff to develop curriculum to support facilitation and implementation of community-based conservation efforts

Future Goals

Maintain & Expand Group

- By 2021, plan to hire NVCCN coordinator to help manage the group and associated work groups, expand participation, assist with logistics, broadly share information and lessons learned, and build local capacity to move NVCCN and NV collaborative community-based conservation efforts forward.

Continued Progress on Three Focus Area



Resource Needs

Continued support, participation and commitment from all parties and continued political and financial support for CDs.