

# NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE



## 2008 Landowner Incentive Program Quarterly Update



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### History of the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)

Nevada Department of Wildlife's (NDOW) Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) got its start in 2004 with \$544,500 awarded to the State through a competitive funding process. LIP grants are funded through Congressional appropriations and are administered through the USFWS. The focus of the Landowner Incentive Program is to provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners who wish to voluntarily manage their land to benefit State sensitive and Federally threatened and endangered species.



### 2008 Funding Eliminated for the Landowner Incentive Program

Funding for the nationwide Landowner Incentive Program failed to garner enough support with Washington D.C. and thus was not allocated for 2008. While this was devastating news for Nevada Department of Wildlife, the agency is committed to the program mission and hopes to find additional sources of revenue to continue the private lands conservation program into the future. Currently, the program has one full time staff person devoted to working with landowners across Nevada, and through collaborative efforts with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Fish and Wildlife Services' Partners Program, and other partners, the Landowner Incentive Program will continue its work to provide Nevada's landowners a consistent source of technical and financial support to preserve, protect and enhance wildlife habitat on privately owned property.

#### Current LIP Projects

**Virgin River**—Three fish passage barriers are being installed to prevent non-native species expansion.

**Northwest Nevada**—Conservation easement for important sage-grouse habitat

**Beatty**—Habitat enhancement and protection for Amargosa Toad

**Elko County**—Restoration/revegetation of spring habitat, collaborative project with NRCS

**Elko County**—Aerial reseeding of burned habitat on private property

**Central Nevada**—Bioengineering restoration of a Lahontan cutthroat trout stream

**Ongoing**—Throughout the year, many site visits and project development with other landowners is occurring.

#### How does the Landowner Program Work?



LIP is a cost-share program where the landowner must provide 36% of the cost of a project, either with a cash contribution or through in-kind contributions such as time, labor, or materials. Other sources of match may be available. Project ideas are usually brought to LIP through personal contacts by the landowner, through NDOW biologists or partners such as NRCS or local Conservation

Districts. The landowner and LIP staff will develop restoration plans, and the project is then reviewed by the LIP Coordinator and NDOW biologists to ensure it meets the minimum criteria for the program. The minimum criteria include: ownership, the ability to improve wildlife habitat for sensitive species, and the potential success of the project, to name just a few. Proposals are then ranked based on the

criteria by a Ranking Team made up of NDOW biologists and representatives from other agencies and organizations, as well as a private landowner. The ranking criteria include, but are not limited to the number of species protected, whether the project is part of an existing conservation planning effort, and potential for success and monitoring of the project. You can view the ranking criteria on the LIP website.



Restoration and Preservation of important wildlife habitat in Nevada is also important to the natural heritage and working landscapes of the state. Work with us to preserve this heritage and everyone benefits. For more information, contact the Nevada Department of Wildlife.



# Private Lands and Wildlife.....



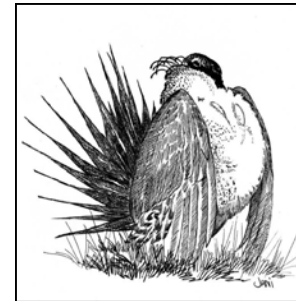
## NDOW & Private Lands What do they have in common?

NDOW knows that private lands often contain some of the most valuable wildlife habitat in the state, and through the voluntary cooperation of landowners, we can help re-establish, improve and maintain that habitat without economic impact to the landowner. Understanding the needs of wildlife and the property owner enable the LIP program staff to give technical assistance, provide funding, and arrange for labor to restore and protect vital wildlife habitats on private property.

## How Aldo Leopold saw private lands

In 1949, Aldo Leopold envisioned a farm landscape 50 years into the future in which the production of crops and livestock mattered, as well as the provision of healthy soil, clean water, wildlife, biodiversity, and an aesthetically beautiful countryside. It was a future in which a nation of farmers felt as much pride in the health of the biotic community as they did in their per acre production totals. To Leopold, an agriculture was possible in which the farmer saw the land in its ecological context and managed it not just for economic production, but for the full range of essential services including habitat

for wild pollinators, birds, bats and insects that fed on crop pests; wildlife for meat, pelts and enjoyment; and woodlots for timber and shelter, as well as functions such as nutrient cycling, groundwater capture and recharge, and flood control. Leopold recognized that for both practical and moral reasons, government could provide no substitute for stewardship ethic on the part of the private landowner.



## Private Lands Spotlight—Livestock Watering Tanks

**The Issue:** Over the last century, thousands of water sources have been developed or enhanced for livestock on western rangelands. As both natural and human-caused factors have reduced the availability of water sources, livestock water developments have become a critical resource for bats and other wildlife. However, livestock troughs and

**Wildlife mortality in stock watering tanks**

- More than 70 percent of western natural water systems have been degraded or lost
- Hundreds of thousands of stock tanks are scattered across the West and wildlife often depend on these tanks as a reliable water source

**Unfortunately, wildlife die in stock tanks on a regular basis...**

storage tanks were not designed with wildlife in mind, and are often difficult or impossible for bats and other wildlife to access. They can even trap and drown wildlife that falls in while attempting to drink or bathe when no escape structure is installed, degrading water quality for livestock. It is estimated that < 10% of livestock troughs and tanks have adequate wildlife escape structures installed.

## Livestock Watering Tanks and Wildlife

A collaborative effort between Bat Conservation International, Nevada Department of Wildlife Landowner Incentive Program, US Forest Service-Mountain City/Jarbidge Districts; Bureau of Land Management, Elko, Battle Mountain, and Ely Districts, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Program have paid for the construction of 1000 ramps for Northern Nevada.



## The Solution

One thousand ramps have been constructed in a cooperative effort between several Federal agencies and NDOW's Landowner Incentive Program. If you need an escape ramp for livestock tanks on your private or public allotment, call NDOW.

**Elko escape ramp build day-July 1st 2008-contact NDOW for information**