

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE



2007 Landowner Incentive Program Quarterly Update



Number 3

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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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 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.

2007 Funding for the Nevada Department of Wildlife

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced fiscal year 2007 awards on July 19, 2007. The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) was awarded \$849,510 in the competitive process where only 17 out of 42 states received funding. The focus of the 2007 grant is the restoration of riparian and aquatic habitats and restoration of upland habitat destroyed in recent fires. The LIP grant money is specifically allocated for habitat restoration targeting state Species of Conservation Concern on private ground only.

A variety of restoration projects are eligible for funding, include fencing riparian areas, reseeding or replanting of native plant species, off site water developments, installation of water gaps and agricultural or conservation easements. Ideal projects are those that have connectivity to important habitat on federal lands. Landowners must maintain the practice or improvement for a minimum of 5 years, however projects where landowner commitment exceeds that base requirement are viewed more favorably for funding.

Current LIP Projects

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

Northwest Nevada— Establishment of a 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— Restoration of a Lahontan Cutthroat trout stream using harvested cuttings, plugs and willow fascines.

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 25% toward 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 criterion include: ownership, the ability to improve wildlife habitat for sensitive species, and the potential success of the project, to

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 at:

www.ndow.org/wild/conservation/lip/

[index.shtm](#)



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.....



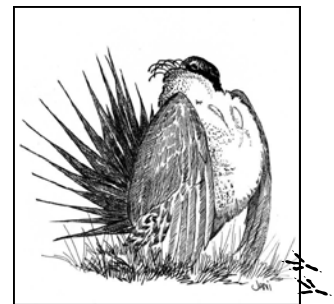
NDOW & Private Lands What do they have in common?

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 provisioning 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 ser-

vices 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 Habitat Spotlight ~~~~~ Springs

Nevada has more springs than any state, with over 4,000 springs mapped. Many of these important water sources occur on private property. These springs are extremely important to the wildlife in Nevada, especially since Nevada is one of the driest states in the nation. Development or diversions of these springs, as well as overuse of

these springs by livestock, wild horses and in some cases wildlife, and the increase in non-native species (both plant and animal), plus recreational impacts by humans, has compromised the health and functionality of these springs.

The Landowner Incentive Program, along with other funding programs offered through the

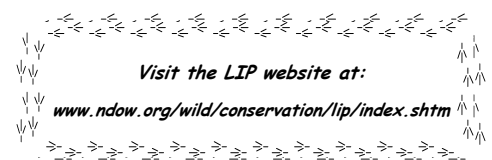
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) wildlife programs or the Fish and Wildlife Service, Private Stewardship Grants program may be available to help private landowners restore springs and provide offsite watering locations for livestock habitats.

Conservation Actions for Springs on Private Property

- Request information from NDOW regarding the unique nature of your spring and to see if restoration of your spring is a high priority. If so, you may be eligible for increased funding!
- Reduce livestock, wild horse, and other ungulate pressure by providing off-site watering opportunities.
- If necessary, fence the spring to prevent overuse and allow the spring time to recover.
- Eliminate non-native aquatic and terrestrial species.
- Restore degraded springs with the technical and financial assistance of NDOW, NRCS, or U.S.FWS.
- Monitor the health of your spring after restoration through the use of photo-points or other qualitative tools provided in the

Ranchers Guide to Monitoring. Copies are available through the LIP office.

- Discuss the possibility of a conservation easement to protect the spring in perpetuity.



Visit the LIP website at:

www.ndow.org/wild/conservation/lip/index.shtm