



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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# News Release

## **FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ANNOUNCES PRIVATE STEWARDSHIP GRANTS TO NEVADA LANDOWNERS FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION**

Nevada will receive two Private Stewardship Grants totaling \$135,500 to undertake conservation projects on private land for endangered, threatened and other at-risk species. Nevada is one of 38 states to receive more than \$5.7 million awarded to private landowners and other groups. Administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, each of the grants awarded today require at least a 10 percent match in non-federal dollars or in-kind contributions.

Now in its third year, the Private Stewardship Grants Program provides federal grants on a competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in voluntary conservation efforts on private lands that benefit federally listed endangered or threatened species, candidate species or other at-risk species. Under this program, private landowners as well as groups working with private landowners submit proposals directly to the Service for funding to support these efforts.

“Private Stewardship grants provide support and incentives to private landowners who have made voluntary commitments to conserve Nevada’s imperiled species on their land,” said Bob Williams, Nevada Fish & Wildlife Office, Field Supervisor. “We have two exceptional projects that will receive funding this year in Nevada.”

The Sampson Creek Ecological Restoration Project application was submitted by Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition, White Pine County, Nevada, totaling \$55,000. The project is a partnership between the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition, Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program. The project will result in the restoration of approximately 800 acres of private land in Sampson Creek watershed. The landowner, one of three remaining sheep ranchers in Eastern Nevada, will use selective mechanical and hand-crew thinning of pinyon and juniper trees, treat weeds as necessary, and protect the treated area with six miles of fencing. This habitat management will benefit sage grouse and pygmy rabbit.

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The Springfish and Spring Snail Reserve Project application was submitted by Unity in Love, Nye County, Nevada, totaling \$80,500. The landowner will be working with the NDOW, NDF, and the Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program to restore and protect habitat for the Pyrgulopsis spring snail and the Moorman White River springfish. The project will enhance habitat by reconstructing a meandering channel, erecting a fence around Moorman Spring and Hardy Springs, and constructing an irrigation diversion pipeline for cattle use. The landowner is in the process of obtaining a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances with NDOW and USFWS.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices, and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American Tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to State fish and wildlife agencies.

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