



# News Release



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## **Partners Honored For Conservation**

LAS VEGAS...Seven groups and three individuals will be honored today by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) for their unique partnership which brought together private individuals and landowners, mining, off road racers local business, local government, conservation groups and the federal government to conserve one of Nevada's endemic toad species, the Amargosa toad.

Not a typical story of environmental action, the toad owes its comeback to this unlikely coalition of partners which kept it off the endangered species list. "The Fish and Wildlife Service greatly appreciates the conservation actions that the private landowners are taking to conserve the Amargosa toad. The Service much prefers to work with the public and Nevada Department of Wildlife to conserve species before they need the protections of the Endangered Species Act and prevent the need to add species to the list of federally protected species. We also greatly appreciate the relationship of trust that has been a result of working together to protect the toad and its habitat. We hope this will be an example of cooperation that will be used to protect other species and their habitat and prevent the need for federal action," said Ren Lohofener, the Service's Pacific Southwest Regional Director.

Lohofener, and Ken Mayer, NDOW Director, will present a Service Citizen's Award to David Spicer, a private landowner in Nye County, Nevada, for his contribution to the habitat restoration and leadership of conservation of the toad. This national level award recognizes private citizens and organizations for their voluntary contributions to the mission and goals of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"It is always an honor to recognize those who are willing to give so much of themselves to make the world a better place," said Mayer. "By working together, David Spicer and the many other partners in the Beatty community involved with conservation of the Amargosa toad have taken significant steps toward ensuring the species' future and its place in Nevada. We are grateful for their hard work"

Other partners to be recognized by the Service, NDOW, U. S. Senator Harry Reid, U. S. Senator Dean Heller, and Congressman Joe Heck, at a ceremony to be held at 5:30 p.m., at the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, September 5, 2012, for their contribution to the species conservation include: Ed Ringle; Shirley Harlan; Beatty Habitat Committee; Town of Beatty; The Nature Conservancy, Southern Nevada Office; Nevada Natural Heritage Program; Bureau of Land Management, Tonopah Field Office; Natural Resources Conservation Service, Las Vegas

Service Center; Nye County; Amargosa Conservancy; and STORM-OV (Saving Toads through Off-Road Racing, Ranching and Mining in the Oasis Valley).

The Service was able to reach not warranted determination for the Amargosa toad in 2010 because of the coordinated conservation work by the local community and partners. Their conservation efforts demonstrate that partners working together can make a difference and conserve a species precluding the need for listing. Wildlife managers are hoping this same type of partnership can be implemented to conserve a broad range of species throughout Nevada, including the greater sage-grouse.