



Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Nevada

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Working Together to Conserve and Protect Tribal Lands in Nevada

Partnerships Help Conserve a Rare Fish and a Way of Life

The Duckwater Shoshone Tribe, with assistance from NRCS and in cooperation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, has completed a number of projects to protect wildlife, improve environmental conditions, and increase social and economic values.

Home to 150 residents, the 3,850-acre Duckwater Shoshone Reservation is an isolated rural reservation that contains the largest thermal spring in Nevada. Big Warm Spring is a unique hydro-geologic system that is not typical of most arid climates. And, with a water temperature of 94°F (34°C), Big Warm Spring is considered the most important habitat for a threatened species, the Railroad Valley springfish (*Crenichthys nevadae*).

In 2002, the Tribe began working with the FWS to begin recovery actions for the springfish. In 2003, the Tribe, FWS, and NRCS joined forces to restore Big Warm Spring.

NRCS has provided technical and cost-share assistance for almost 44,000 feet of fencing, 24 acres of trees and shelterbelts, pest management, 2600 feet of pipeline, watering facilities and structures for water control, over 300 acres of range plantings, wetland enhancement of 26 acres, and wetland wildlife management on over 400 acres.

Other partners helping with this collaborative process include individual Tribal business owners, the Nevada Department of Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, US Geological Survey, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and State Water Engineer's Office.

— *Tim Stack, Ely*



Helping People Help the Land

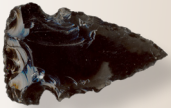
DUCK VALLEY COOPERATORS COMPLETE EQIP CONTRACTS

NRCS was able to provide additional financial assistance and technical assistance to two Duck Valley Indian Reservation cooperators to complete existing EQIP contracts that had fallen behind schedule due to extended drought conditions.

NRCS was able to work with the producers to get the planned conservation practices on schedule which allowed the producers to successfully complete all planned practices in their EQIP contracts.

The completed practices will help the producers improve management through improved irrigation systems; livestock water pipeline, well and watering facility; and reducing brush to improve forage quality.

— Kory Kulinsky, Elko



SUCCESSFUL OUTREACH MEETINGS HELD FOR TRIBES

A number of outreach and informational meetings were held with Tribal members to assess their interest in NRCS programs and improving environmental conditions on Tribal lands. The four meetings held in Duckwater, South Fork, and Duck Valley were very successful and included more than 50 participants.

Participants were provided information about conservation technical and financial assistance to help improve environmental conditions on their lands. They also received handouts explaining Farm Bill program application process and requirements.

— Chuck Peterson, Elko

Soil and Range Inventories Conducted for Bureau of Indian Affairs and Tribes

In cooperation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Western Regional Office, NRCS conducted two soil and range inventories and related work on 397,500 acres of Tribal land with the Walker River Paiute Tribe (WRPT) and Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California.

The purpose for the inventories was to determine the current condition of the existing vegetation. The information collected will be provided to the BIA as a natural resources database that will include baseline data on natural resources. This information will support and update their existing conservation plans for range management. The Pine Nut allotments (60,000 acres) were inventoried in 2006 and 2007. The final report was completed and forwarded to BIA at the end of 2007. The inventory for the Walker River Paiute Tribe (337,500 acres) started in 2006 and was completed in 2008. The final report will be completed and forwarded to BIA in January 2009.

Current information on vegetation production and utilization are necessary tools for the Tribes to make sound decisions about the use of their natural resources to help them achieve their management goals. A healthy rangeland resource will help to sustain grazing enterprises and improve wildlife habitat. The rangeland resource inventory reports provide the foundation for the development of an updated rangeland management plan on Tribal range lands. Information in the rangeland inventories included forage production, rangeland health, similarity index, utilization, noxious weed locations, range facility locations, and tree encroachment/mortality. In conjunction with the rangeland resource inventory, a general assessment of wildlife habitat on Tribal lands was performed. Key grazing areas and management recommendations were included in the reports for both Tribes.

Using the current range inventory, NRCS can help the Tribes update and revise their conservation plans to meet their short- and long-term management goals.

— Angela Mushrush, Yerington



Pine Nut Allotment



Walker River Paiute Tribal Land