

nevada update

SPRING 2022

YOUR
NEVADA
NEWS

Together, We Find a Way

IN THIS ISSUE:

Visiting the Oasis Valley
Groundwater: Nevada's
Hidden Resource
Smart Choices Now for
a Bright Future in Nevada
Trustee Spotlight

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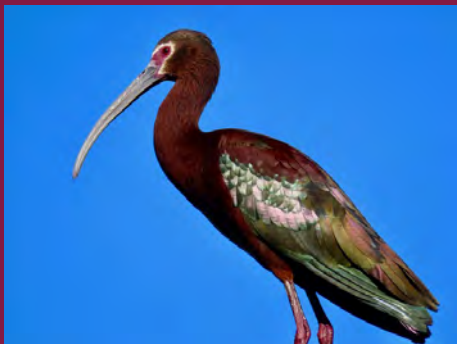
Mauricia M.M. Baca
NEVADA STATE DIRECTOR



Nevada Update is the biannual newsletter for friends of The Nature Conservancy in Nevada. If you have questions or feedback, please contact Sara Cobble at sara.cobble@tnc.org.

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ON THE COVER 7J Ranch Preserve © Simon Williams/TNC; THIS PAGE Mauricio M.M. Baca © James Lavish; White-faced Ibis and Pygmy blue butterfly © Len Warren; Wildflowers at Harrison Pass © Chip Carroon/TNC; OPPOSITE PAGE Mojave Desert flowers © Len Warren; Incandescent Rocks ACEC © Chip Carroon/TNC.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Spring always fills me with hope and a renewed sense of purpose. As we emerge from winter and Nevada begins to bloom, I am reminded of all the plants, animals and people that are depending on us to work toward a more resilient future for all of us.

Today, we're facing complex challenges: the need to address the interconnected climate and biodiversity crises is urgent. But I am hopeful — when we work together, we find innovative ways to overcome barriers to progress. When all of us work together, we can achieve our biggest, most ambitious goals and protect our planet for future generations.

The Nature Conservancy has been partnering with communities to create a world where people and nature thrive since 1951. Here in Nevada, we've worked closely with diverse stakeholders across the state to achieve ambitious goals since 1984.

- We worked with developers to save 5,000 acres of Red Rock Canyon from development and to protect one of the most biodiverse places in the United States, Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge.
- We worked with members across the community to renew 11 miles of the Truckee River.
- And now, we're working toward our bold global 2030 goals — ensuring Nevada's lands and waters are resilient and healthy for our future generations.

Today, with your support, we're continuing to create change across Nevada and overcome tremendous challenges.

- We're working with ranchers on sustainable grazing to help restore our rangelands and support local communities and economies.
- We're working with stakeholders across the state to protect our groundwater-dependent ecosystems and providing the science to support sustainable water policies.
- We're working with the mining industry and policymakers on smart from the start renewable energy strategies so we can power our clean energy future while protecting Nevada's special places and wildlife.

Thank you for all you do to protect our state for people and nature — we need you and couldn't do this work without you. Together we will find our way to a brighter future for Nevada and the planet.



Table of Contents

Letter from the State Director.....	2
Resilient Lands: Visiting the Oasis Valley.....	4
Resilient Waters: Nevada's Hidden Resource.....	6
Climate Action: Smart Choices Now for A Bright Future in Nevada.....	8
Trustee Spotlight: John McDonough and Jennifer Satre.....	10



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Thanks to the generosity of our donors, The Nature Conservancy in Nevada can preserve, protect, and restore Nevada Nature. Donors have a variety of ways to make a gift to protect the environment with The Nature Conservancy. Many donors make outright gifts of cash through the mail or online. Did you know you can also make a gift that could provide you with financial benefits? Current or future gifts of the following assets may create some added benefits to you and your heirs.

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- Life insurance policies
- Stocks and mutual funds
- Donor advised funds
- Real estate
- Distributions through your will

You can use highly appreciated assets to set up gifts that create an annuity for your lifetime, allow you to retain control of your assets during your lifetime, reduce tax burdens for heirs, avoid capital gains taxes and support the future work for The Nature Conservancy in Nevada.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can maximize your giving to The Nature Conservancy and create financial benefits for yourself, contact us. We offer a full range of giving specialists who can work with you at no charge.



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Visiting *the* Oasis Valley

For many Nevadans, being able to visit some of the most spectacular terrain in the country is one of the best reasons to live here. This is certainly true for Elizabeth Raymond and Jim Pagliarini, longtime supporters of The Nature Conservancy, who visited several TNC preserves in the Oasis Valley in March.

“We started our trip in Rhyolite and headed south from there,” Raymond notes. “As a historian, I find the old gold towns across central Nevada to be of great interest. And the variety of topographies offer tremendous beauty that is truly humbling to see.”

Pagliarini and Raymond arrived in Beatty after a visit to the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, a former TNC project that is now managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These lands were once badly damaged but have been restored and now are home to nearly 30 plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. It has the highest concentration of endemic species in the United States and the second highest in North America.

In Beatty, they met up with Matt Rader, TNC’s Amargosa River project manager, at the Stagecoach Inn. Together, they visited 40 acres behind the hotel that are being managed by TNC and the Nevada Department of Wildlife. The area has been restored to correct an earlier human design that moved water quickly through the channel. Returned to its more natural state, it is now a beautiful riparian habitat.

“One of the things I like to do is show people what an area used to look like, so they can more fully appreciate the transformation,” Rader says. “In the Oasis Valley, TNC has moved the community mindset from seeing conservation as a threat to realizing it’s an asset. People care about the work we are doing and the biking, hiking and wildlife viewing has made Beatty an attractive destination for outdoor enthusiasts.”

The trio moved on to TNC’s Torrance Ranch Preserve, one of the few homes of the Amargosa toad, a rare species found only in the Oasis Valley section of the Amargosa River. These toads inhabit the distinctive habitat as the Mojave Desert transitions to the Great Basin, and are dependent on the water provided

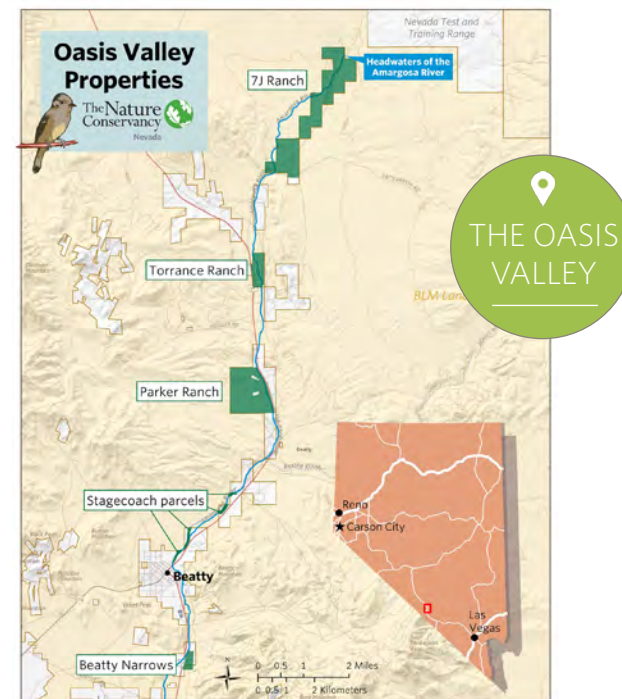


THIS PAGE Headwaters of the Amargosa River at 7J Ranch Preserve © Chip Carroon/TNC; Jim Pagliarini, Elizabeth Raymond and Matt Rader © Courtesy Jim Pagliarini and Elizabeth Raymond; **OPPOSITE PAGE** Oasis Valley map © Sarah Byer/TNC; Torrance Ranch Preserve © Chip Carroon/TNC; Trees at 7J Ranch Preserve © Simon Williams/TNC; Amargosa toad © Laurel Saito/TNC.

by the river and associated springs. In the evenings, toads can be spotted staring intently up tree trunks, snatching insects as they travel up and down the bark. During the winter, toads nestle into the matted fibrous roots of willows and cottonwoods to wait for spring.

“While I believe every species is inherently important in their own way,” Rader adds, “the Amargosa toad’s narrow range and specialized habitat needs make them a canary in the coal mine for changes in our special desert oasis.”

The highlight of any visit to the Oasis Valley is TNC’s 7J Ranch Preserve, acquired in 2018, which contains the headwaters



of the 189-mile Amargosa River. This acquisition was particularly important to TNC because the entire Amargosa system is groundwater dependent; the river runs underground for much of its course. When the 7J Ranch was purchased and protected, it set in motion a strong commitment to preserving and developing resiliency. As threats to habitat develop throughout the Amargosa River system, TNC is working to ensure that the variety of habitats at the headwaters remain intact for species to utilize. In addition, this higher elevation water source is an ideal refuge for wildlife migrating to cooler areas as climate change increases temperatures throughout the region.

“We always heard that headwaters were important, but until this visit we didn’t really understand why,” Pagliarini says. “After viewing the landscape with Matt, we left with a true respect for the diversity of habitat that Nevada offers.”

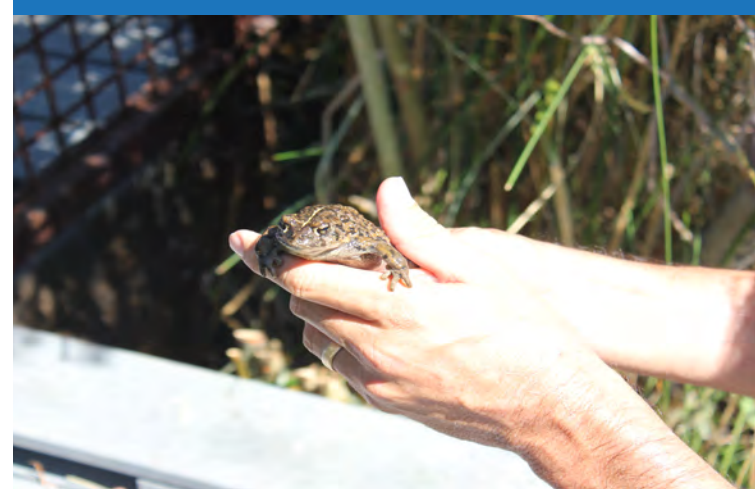
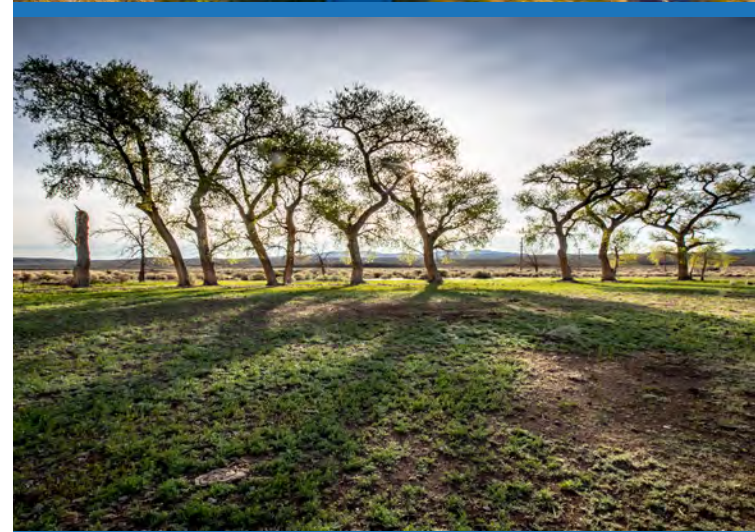
TNC is committed to demonstrating tangible science-directed restoration practices and facilitating prescriptive grazing practices on its preserves. Our preserves are living laboratories; we try novel techniques on the properties and share the results with other property owners, both when these efforts succeed and when they fail. This helps other landowners to understand and deploy techniques that improve habitat for endemic species and livestock.

“Working with TNC here in the Oasis Valley, I am adding branches to a tree with solid roots and a thick trunk,” Rader says. “The people who worked in the valley before me built a foundation of trust and legitimacy across the community, and I look forward to fostering new connections along the Amargosa River.”

As the visit concluded at the 7J Ranch, Rader shared his vision for the future with Pagliarini and Raymond: “To help more Nevadans understand that each of us can be stewards of the important habitat right here.”



VISIT To learn more about our preserves, visit [nature.org/nevada](https://www.nature.org/nevada). To schedule a visit to one of the preserves not open to the public, email us at nevada@tnc.org.



I can see how these areas offer physical proof to the next generation of leaders that dedication to the environment is paramount to conservation success, now and into the future.

ELIZABETH RAYMOND



Groundwater: Nevada’s *Hidden Resource*

With an average of less than 10 inches of rainfall each year, Nevada is the driest state in the nation. However, underground water supplements rainfall to enable incredible biodiversity here. The Silver State has the 11th highest biodiversity in the U.S., with more than 300 species found nowhere else in the world. More than 40 percent of those rare, unique species rely on groundwater for all or most of their lives.

When you think of freshwater, you may envision rivers, lakes and other bodies of water seen on the Earth’s surface. But did you know they only make up 1 percent of the Earth’s freshwater? Two-thirds of the Earth’s freshwater is frozen in ice caps and glaciers, and the other third is underground. Though groundwater is out of sight and may be out of mind, here in Nevada and around the world, it is a precious resource, as it supports our both our ecosystems and communities.

Groundwater provides our clean drinking water and supports farming, ecosystems, industries and more. It supplies nearly

half the world’s drinking water, and it drives our data centers and industries like energy, mining and manufacturing. It is also essential for helping us adapt to climate change.

However, this precious resource is at risk: many underground water resources in The Silver State are being tapped, with more water rights committed than the estimated available groundwater in about half of Nevada’s 256 administrative groundwater basins. Increasing withdrawals of groundwater are a threat to this important resource, and are likely to grow as population increases and more frequent droughts due to climate change add even more pressure.

Because surface water is scarce in Nevada, many native species depend on groundwater-dependent ecosystems (GDEs), which are natural communities that rely on groundwater for all or part of their water needs. GDEs provide important resources for plants and animals and are also critical sources of drinking water, recreation and economic benefit for Nevada’s people.

As part of our Resilient Waters initiative, TNC scientists have focused on studying where groundwater-dependent ecosystems are in Nevada, as well as their current stressors and future threats, so we can develop strategies for how to protect them. As the first step, we worked with partners to create a visual story map where you can learn what GDEs are, where they are in Nevada, and why they are important. Adding onto that research, we recently completed an assessment of stressors and threats to Nevada’s GDEs to help inform decision-makers and inspire action on sustainable water management and policy. Stay tuned: the report will be available this summer.

“Though it’s not always visible, groundwater is essential for people and nature in Nevada,” says Laurel Saito, Nevada Water Strategy Director. “We must work together to protect and sustainably manage this precious hidden resource.”

THIS PAGE The Virgin River © Chip Carroon/TNC; Holly Richter © Dave Showalter.



Meet Holly Richter, Ph.D.

Freshwater Coda Fellow

Dr. Holly Richter from The Nature Conservancy in Arizona was selected as a Freshwater Community of Practice Mobility Fellow for 2022. This fellowship provides funding for Richter to work with the Nevada chapter through a Coda Fellowship on providing groundwater guidance for freshwater ecosystems to TNC. The Coda Program, named in honor of former TNC leader Mike Coda, provides flexible staffing capacity and expertise through short-term assignments to meet TNC’s global needs while providing staff with professional development opportunities and the chance to contribute and learn beyond their program borders.

Richter is the Upper San Pedro Program Director for the Arizona chapter and has 30 years of experience with TNC working to conserve freshwater ecosystems across the Colorado River Basin, with an emphasis on groundwater-dependent ecosystems. Her work focuses on collaboration with diverse conservation partners to meet regional water demands in the west, with emphasis on groundwater replenishment protects to enhance river flows and water security for rural communities in Arizona.

“We are really fortunate to have Holly working with us over the next year to help us move our work forward on conserving GDEs in Nevada and beyond,” says Laurel Saito, Nevada Water Strategy Director.

“In Arizona and around the world, water is life,” Richter says. “Groundwater sustains many of our rivers and wetlands—conserving and protecting our limited groundwater is a topic that fascinates me since it’s largely unseeable, yet essential for healthy freshwater ecosystems, especially in the arid west.”



LEARN MORE About TNC’s work in groundwater around the world (and in Nevada!) at tinyurl.com/tncgroundwater.

smart choices now for a bright future in nevada



At The Nature Conservancy, we know Nevada can have a bright future. We also know that the choices we make now determine the future of conservation, the intensity of climate change, and the equity of our state’s environmental legacy for generations to come. Nevada is facing tough decisions about how and where to build new clean energy projects, how to sustain the state’s growing urban population, and how to conduct mining.

Our Energy and Land Use Strategy team is guiding the conversation to ensure that we make smart decisions for our state. These choices will have lasting value for Nevada’s conservation future.

- Three goals guide our energy and land use strategy work:
- 1. **Position** Nevada as part of the climate change solution by siting clean energy projects on lands that have the lowest conservation value.
 - 2. **Shape** cities so they need less land, are more inclusive and just, are more resilient, and are part of the solution to climate change rather than the problem.
 - 3. **Inform** the conservation dialogue around mining, transforming old mines into new renewable energy sites and ensuring that current and future mining operations advance climate and conservation solutions.

To achieve these goals, we are focusing on three key areas: energy, cities, and mining.

Energy
Transitioning to 100% clean energy, like geothermal, solar,

and wind, is a critical solution to climate change. Nevada’s plentiful sunshine and geothermal heat places the state in the global spotlight for renewable energy development. Government agencies are receiving an overwhelming number of new development applications. They need support from TNC to inform creative solutions for siting new solar plants and power lines where they will have the least impact on Nevada’s distinctive ecosystems. TNC-led initiatives like Mining the Sun offer a roadmap for using previously disturbed lands, like mines and landfills, for new renewable energy projects. We are encouraging proactive planning and evaluation of new renewable energy projects to better understand the cumulative and lasting implications of their presence on the landscape and people. This requires continuous collaboration, data development, and presenting creative solutions to those with the ability to enact change.

Cities
Cities matter because Nevada’s urban population is rapidly growing and is interested in new land to develop. The decisions we make now about land use are critical for addressing climate change. Continued outward expansion not only consumes natural areas, it threatens to overextend limited municipal budgets. Many Nevadans already have few opportunities to experience nature outside of urban areas. We want to create cities where people have equitable access to nature and all its benefits. Through effective partnerships, we can shape strategies like urban tree planting, which provides cooler streets and healthier air. Leading with a conservation perspective and sound science encourages long-term positive

and equitable outcomes for people, places, and the climate.

Mining
Mining is part of Nevada’s past, present, and future. At TNC, through our Mining the Sun program, we are working with partners to repurpose old mines for new renewable energy projects. The result is a win-win for energy and conservation. With a global transition to electric vehicles and battery energy storage, we recognize that Nevada’s abundant lithium and other rare minerals will be a coveted resource now and into the future. Like renewable energy, battery technology is an important climate change solution. We must influence decisions about lithium and other types of mining to achieve balanced outcomes for the climate, conservation, and Nevadans.

The Future
At TNC Nevada, we envision a future in which people celebrate humanity’s success in tackling climate change while accomplishing considerable conservation objectives throughout the state. Our Energy and Land Use Strategy team shapes conversations and provides solutions to guide the way forward. Your support will provide the critical aid that TNC Nevada needs to bring about a bright future for Nevada.



OPPOSITE PAGE TNC staff and partners overlooking lands that could be used for renewable energy development; THIS PAGE Peter Gower © Courtesy Peter Gower; Lake Mead © Simon Williams/TNC; Hiker on the Truckee River © Simon Williams/TNC.



Peter Gower

*Strategy Director, Energy,
Infrastructure and Land Use*

Peter Gower joined The Nature Conservancy in Nevada in January 2022. Gower is a native Nevadan who has nearly two decades of experience working in the state and expertise in renewable energy and infrastructure. He has worked with diverse stakeholders on energy, land use and infrastructure issues nationally and all around Nevada.

Gower’s previous work to address natural resource conservation and climate change includes preparing environmental impact analyses, sustainability studies and resource management plans. He is an active community leader and advocate who serves on the Reno Planning Commission and Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Commission, and he also previously served as the president and a board member for Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful.

Read on to learn more about his vision for Nevada’s clean energy future.



READ MORE about TNC’s climate action initiative and how you can help at nature.org/nvclimate.

Jennifer Satre



grew up in Madera, California, and spent much of her childhood outside; hiking and swimming in Sierra Nevada lakes and Santa Cruz beaches. She found her passion for protecting nature in college, when she became concerned about the limits of our natural resources and fossil fuel pollution. She moved to Nevada in 1975 with her husband Phil and they have called it their home since.

Satre graduated from Stanford University, received her teaching credential from the University of California, Berkeley, and her M.Ed. at the University of Nevada, Reno. Satre, a former elementary school teacher, has served on several community boards as a trustee and chair, including the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada, the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation and Nevada Humanities. She was also a founding board member and past chair of the Nevada Women's Fund and in 2008 was inducted into the Women's Fund Hall of Fame. She is the recipient of many awards for her service and philanthropy, including the University of Nevada, Reno Alumna of the Year award in 2006 and the Association of Fundraising Professionals Outstanding Philanthropist in 2012. Satre leads TNC in Nevada's leadership development efforts as chair of the governance and nominating committee. In addition to her active life with Phil, she enjoys spending time with her grandchildren.

“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make.”
—Jane Goodall

Investing in the Future of Conservation in Nevada

John McDonough and Jennifer Satre decided to make a difference to the conservation of Nevada when they became trustees of The Nature Conservancy. Their recent philanthropic investments to support the chapter in hiring a director of conservation have helped us to fast track our conservation work.

“The Nevada chapter has organized their team to ensure that TNC is best supporting conservation in Nevada through three key initiatives: resilient lands, resilient water, and climate action,” says Interim Conservation Director Scott Morrison. “Nevada trustees understand the need for a permanent conservation director to work alongside the state director to focus on these initiatives in this critical decade.”

Satre has been a TNC Nevada trustee for six years and chairs the board's governance and nominating committee. She and her husband Phil Satre made a commitment of \$500,000 over three years to support the conservation director position. McDonough, a trustee for seven years who currently chairs the finance committee, has committed \$250,000 over three years. The three-year timeline for these gifts will give the chapter time to increase fundraising from private and government sources to ensure the long-term growth of TNC Nevada's work that this position signals.

“These transformative investments truly put the Nevada chapter on the road to success,” says Mauricia Baca, Nevada state director. “We are excited by the opportunity to fill this important role and support our conservation team as they advance our critical initiatives.”

She adds, “I am very grateful to Jennifer and Phil Satre and to John McDonough for their trust and confidence in our team, and for these generous gifts that will help us grow our capacity and ensure that people and nature thrive in Nevada.”

When Satre was considering her philanthropy goals in 2021, it was McDonough who inspired her to support the future of TNC in Nevada by investing in staff.

“A few years ago, when the chapter needed to hire a water strategy director for Nevada, John reached out to the trustees and asked them to help fund that position for the first year,” Satre explains. “I was really impressed that he had done that.”

“John inspired me, and I think he inspired a lot of the board,” she says. “John has reminded us continually that the time we give to TNC is really important, but that the financial commitment is just as important.”

Satre in turn inspired McDonough to add his support to her gift, and in December 2021, they both finalized these significant commitments.

“I want to support the chapter, and I also want to support Jennifer,” McDonough says. “We need this conservation director right now, and I thought, there is no better place to give in 2021 than to the Nevada chapter to help support this very important position.”

“I’m fortunate to be in the position to make this gift,” McDonough adds. “I hope we inspire others to give generously to the chapter in ways that will help us meet the conservation needs of our incredible state.”

In April, Mickey Hazelwood, who has been with TNC in Nevada for 16 years and most recently served as Strategy Director for Protection and Stewardship, was named as the new conservation director after a competitive search.

In his new role, Hazelwood will support the Nevada chapter's strategic efforts to ensure resilient lands, resilient waters and climate action for the state, and will contribute toward TNC's 2030 goals for a sustainable world.

“We are so pleased with the role Mauricia plays in leading our chapter to future success, and we are happy to be able to help strengthen the chapter with this new role,” Satre says.

Filling the position has been one of Baca's top priorities. She says, “I look forward to sharing our progress as Mickey begins his new role and we continue to build a team focused on what we can accomplish together for nature in Nevada.”

Thank you, Jennifer and John, for all that you do for Nevada nature.

John McDonough

was born in New Jersey and then moved to California as a teen. His love for nature grew as he explored it in both places: in the hardwood forests of the East Coast, and camping, hiking, and participating in Boy Scouts in Southern California's deserts, mountains, and beaches. McDonough always knew that he wanted to be a scientist or engineer and to work in the outdoors, not in an office. He received a professional engineering degree in geological engineering from the Colorado School of Mines and entered a career in the mining industry that took him all over the world. McDonough's career led him to Barrick Gold Corporation, where he served for 25 years in a diversity of senior positions, which included becoming the company's first Vice President, Environment. McDonough was instrumental in developing and overseeing Barrick's industry-leading environmental and safety policies and procedures. His work with Barrick brought him to Nevada as the General Manager of the Goldstrike Mine. McDonough has served as a board member for a number of Nevada-based organizations, including the Nevada State Mineral Commission, Nevada Mining Association, UNR Mackay School of Mines, Great Basin College Foundation, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management Elko District Regional Advisory Committee. McDonough divides his time between Leadville, Colorado, where he is restoring a Victorian home, and Tucson, Arizona, where his girlfriend, Julia Benham, lives.



LEARN MORE about how you can support Nevada nature at tinyurl.com/givenv.




OPPOSITE PAGE The Truckee River © Chip Carroon/TNC; **THIS PAGE** Jennifer and Phil Satre © Courtesy Jennifer Satre; John McDonough © Courtesy John McDonough.

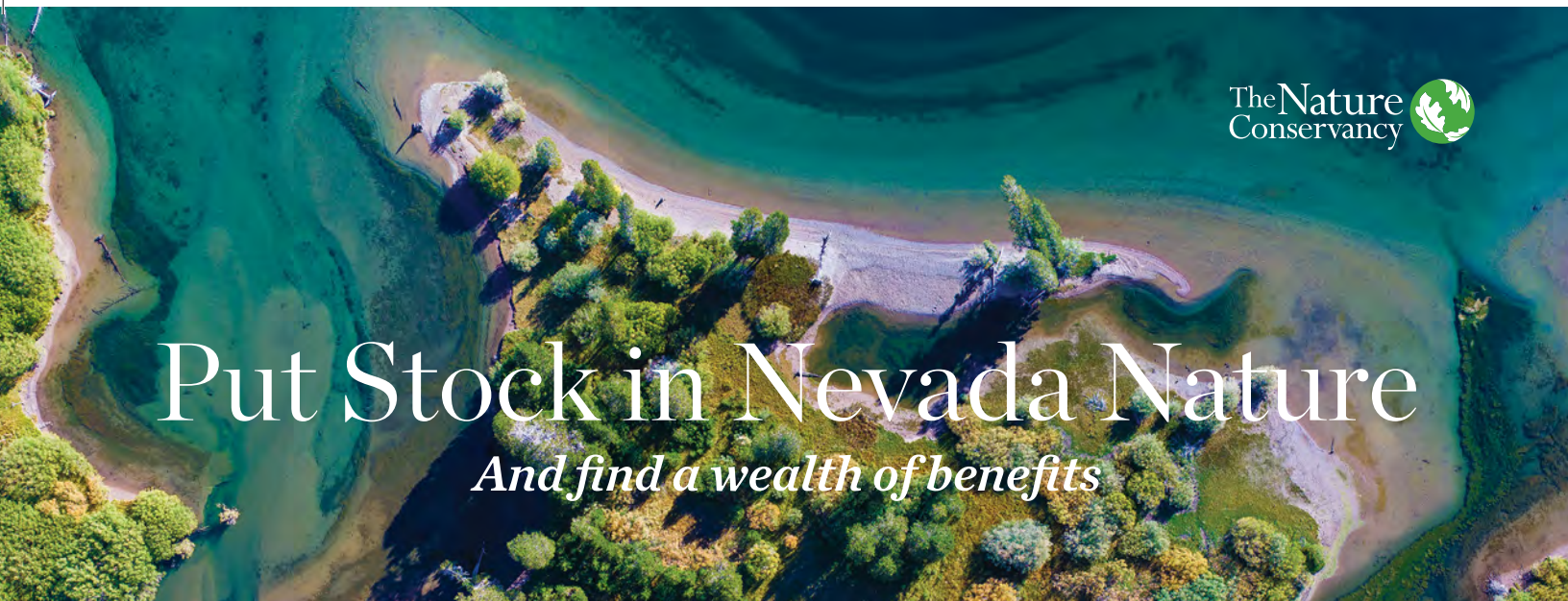


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