

Agency Leader's Intent Letter, Nevada Shared Stewardship

- **Background of Shared Stewardship**

Nevada has a long history of partnerships and many examples of working together at the landscape level to address wildland fires, landscape restoration and the wildland urban interface. In 2019, interagency partners signed the Nevada Shared Stewardship Agreement (<https://tinyurl.com/255br5fa>), committing state and federal agencies to expand our working relationships, jointly set priorities and implement projects at the appropriate scale, co-manage risk, and share resources. Shared Stewardship has three core elements:

1. *Collaboratively determine management needs and priorities at a statewide level.*
2. *Do the right work in the right places at the right scale.*
3. *Use all available tools for active management.*

Shared Stewardship Agreement Call to Action

Agencies shall:

- Foster interagency relationships/collaboration and increase project work that is centered on resilient landscapes.
- Leverage partnerships and funding for development and implementation of projects necessary to achieve Shared Stewardship goals.
- Include the affected stakeholders needed for support, funding, project implementation, and the long-term success of Shared Stewardship.
- Work across agencies and including local partners to develop collaborative, comprehensive programs of work and project plans that address the threat, protection, and restoration of priority areas, implement projects, maintain and monitor project areas, expand partnerships and diversify funding opportunities.
- Increase the number of acres treated annually with a goal of a 50 percent increase above the baseline by 2025.
- The baseline for the Nevada Shared Stewardship Agreement is: the average of statewide acres for projects that reduced fire risk, restored or enhanced wildlife habitat, increased fire adaptation for communities, or improved rangeland, watershed, or forest health and resiliency that were completed between 2015-2020.

Expected Outcomes:

- The Nevada agreement established a Shared Stewardship Executive Committee, comprised of leadership from: the Nevada Department of Agriculture; Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; the Nevada Department of Wildlife; the BLM; U.S. Forest Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The executive committee has been meeting since January 2020 and established a staff-level technical advisory committee to assist with implementation of the agreement
- In 2020, the Shared Stewardship Executive Committee identified 13 priority landscapes in which to focus treatments to protect our shared values from catastrophic wildfire (<https://tinyurl.com/255br5fa>)

- Two of these landscapes, Spring Mountains-Pahrump and Elko-Spring Creek-Lamoille, were selected for projects to be implemented by the end of 2021, meeting a key deliverable in the Nevada Shared Stewardship Agreement. These projects will be enhanced by implementing Shared Stewardship principles, and the executive committee's expectation is that out-year planning for wildfire risk reduction and restoration in these and other priority landscapes move toward a fully integrated, interagency approach. Another four landscapes will now be launched including the Paradise, Basin and Range, Sierra Front/Carson/Walker and South Rubies (combined with Elko/Spring Creek/Lamoille group) landscape priority areas to plan and implement fuels and restoration project priorities.
- The agreement calls for the executive committee agencies to commit staff to work together at the local level to implement projects in the priority landscapes using a Shared Stewardship model. The local agency staff groups are encouraged to report their accomplishments and communicate their planned priorities through a 5-year program of work to the executive committee, at least twice per year, working through the technical advisory committee. Annually, the technical advisory committee will issue a data call for acres treated to quantify progress toward the increase in the baseline as described above.
- The technical advisory committee is available to assist local agency staff in standing up Shared Stewardship working groups. The initial focus will be the first two priority landscapes described above, moving into the remaining landscapes in a phased approach. However, local staff are encouraged to begin implementing the Shared Stewardship model now, requesting assistance as needed, with a particular focus on the priority landscapes.
- In addition to the quantitative measurements, it is the goal of Shared Stewardship to increase partnerships, funding sources, and collaboration across Nevada that continue to meet natural resource and community needs, again with a particular focus on the priority landscapes.

Communication and Reporting:

- Communication is a vital part of the success of Shared Stewardship and when effectively used, it ensures that on the ground projects are prioritized and that agency resources are maximized to meet shared goals for supporting and improving resource health. In advance of the upcoming priority landscape rollout meeting, you will be provided planning process recommendations, performance measures, and tracking mechanisms to use within your priority landscape groups. Reporting on these measures annually is required to communicate statewide accomplishments that show the effectiveness and productivity of the Shared Stewardship approach and actions, and to provide continuity of operations over time.

Accomplishments:

The most recent Nevada Shared Stewardship accomplishments can be found on the website (<https://forestry.nv.gov/natural-resource-management/shared-stewardship>)