



NEVADA PINYON-JUNIPER PARTNERSHIP



UPDATE – MARCH 2011

More than 170 people attended the **Pinyon-Juniper Restoration and Utilization Summit** (Summit) Dec. 8-9, 2010, in North Las Vegas, where they engaged in creating a proposal for a Demonstration Project for Pinyon-Juniper Treatment in eastern Nevada. USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development Dallas Tonsager, USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and the Environment Harris Sherman, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) National Director Bob Abbey attended the conference and commended participants for innovative thinking in regards to land stewardship and energy independence. **The proceedings and background information on the Summit and the Partnership is archived at www.nvpjpartnership.org.**

The Summit was organized by the Nevada Pinyon Juniper Partnership (Partnership), a volunteer group of over 200 participants, directed by a 30+member steering committee. Representatives include tribal, county, state, federal and NGO resource and economic development staff, as well as biologists and range conservationists. This group of committed individuals has met since May 2010 with a focused interest in pinyon and juniper treatment to enhance forest health, wildlife biodiversity, and watersheds. Utilizing the resulting biomass as an alternative energy source is a secondary goal of the Partnership, but one that remains essential to offset the costly restoration necessary and to aid in the economic development and diversification of rural Nevada.

In early 2011, in order to move into the implementation phase, the Partnership contacted its entire list of interested parties and invited them to self-select onto one or more of three program tracks: Resource Restoration, Science & Monitoring, and Utilization. As a result, the Resource Restoration track has 47 members, 30 are working in Science & Monitoring, and 37 have self-selected for the Utilization track. The attached schematic displays the functions of each program track and the way they inter-relate as “three legs of a stool”. Each of the groups has met via video-conference, and dialogue has continued among the range of viewpoints and ideas represented. In addition, smaller Legislation and Fundraising subcommittees have also formed to take leadership in these two areas. The Steering Committee, representing the three tracks, as well as key organizations and disciplines, remains active, meeting bi-monthly.

One of the significant post-Summit actions has been the Partnership's collaboration with the Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest on a landscape-scale restoration project within the Ely District in eastern Nevada. The proposal has been submitted to the national Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program competition. In addition, Partnership representatives have provided updates to the White Pine and Lincoln County Commissioners and have met with Chairman Marques of the Ely Shoshone Tribe regarding his desire for information about juniper encroachment on tribal lands. Analysis of biomass district heating, biomass power, and biofuels potential is being undertaken as well.

The Steering Committee's immediate goal is to secure funds for a professional project manager and house that individual within an appropriate management structure (likely a resource oriented NGO). Funding opportunities are present along each of the three program tracks. However, it takes full-time effort and expertise to integrate the skills and resources of the Partnership's willing collaborators in order to compete for these funds. Only by doing so will the Partnership maximize results for the multiple resources that are currently threatened by pinyon-juniper expansion and densification across the Great Basin. For more information, please contact Doug Martin, Partnership co-chair, at dmartin@ntcd.org or 775.586.1610.