



Sagebrush Ecosystem Conservation Program Fact Sheet



On August 30, 2016, Newmont entered into a historic agreement to help guide management of more than 1.5 million acres of habitat in Nevada. The Conservation Framework Agreement of Newmont’s Sagebrush Ecosystem Conservation Program – a first of its kind in the United States for its scope and scale – established a mutually agreed-upon framework with

the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (NDCNR), the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to facilitate conservation management of sagebrush habitat owned by Newmont or under Newmont’s stewardship.

Working to Conserve the Sagebrush Ecosystem

In addition to mining properties, Newmont has four major ranches across Nevada – the TS, Horseshoe, Big Springs and IL Ranches. These ranches and their rangelands are in the heart of the sagebrush ecosystem and Greater Sage-grouse habitat, making Newmont uniquely suited to provide for the conservation management of this vital landscape.

The sagebrush ecosystem is one of North America’s most expansive ecosystems. More than 350 wildlife species call the “sagebrush sea” home, and its vast landscape supports a variety of land uses including livestock grazing, recreation (including big game hunting), mining, watershed, and wildlife habitat – all major contributors to local economies throughout the Western United States. This important ecosystem is at risk of decline from invasive annual grasses and wildfire.

The Greater Sage-grouse depends on healthy sagebrush habitat for survival – using grass and shrubs for nesting, meadows for rearing chicks, and sagebrush itself for winter forage. Ecosystem integrity and habitat quality decline when invasive annual grasses such as cheatgrass encroach on sagebrush vegetation. Not only

do these invasive annual grasses displace native grasses and wildflowers, they also contribute to an increase in frequency and extent of wildfire. Private landowners – such as Newmont – are working with resource management agencies and organizations to help recover, maintain and enhance the health of the sagebrush ecosystem. Success in restoring the health of the sagebrush ecosystem and protecting the species it supports requires that Newmont continue to be an active partner to the collaborative conservation efforts of private landowners, industry groups, state and federal agencies, and natural resource organizations.

Under the Sagebrush Ecosystem Conservation Program, Newmont will continue development and implementation of conservation plans and practices. Some of these actions include water resource developments, prescribed livestock grazing to promote native sagebrush ecosystem health by increasing the density of deep-rooted perennial grasses, testing of invasive species management techniques, rangeland seeding, evaluation of strategic fuels management, and implementation of practices to reduce human-induced advantages for predators of the Greater Sage-grouse.



IL Ranch – Bull Run Basin

Long-term Commitment to Conservation

Newmont has long had a commitment to environmental stewardship, and for decades we have worked with public and private partners on conservation programs, including:

- Maggie Creek Watershed Restoration Project (1993–present)
- Mined-land reclamation for wildlife habitat (1990–present)
- Governor Guinn’s Sage-grouse Conservation Team (2000–2006)
- Local-area working groups (2002–present)
- Nevada Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan (2004)
- Range-wide sage-grouse conservation forum (2006)
- Nevada sagebrush ecosystem council (science working group and monitoring group) (2012–present)
- Newmont/The Nature Conservancy partnership (2012–present)
- Columbian sharp-tailed grouse reintroduction (2013–present)
- Cheatgrass management and native plant fuel break research (2014–present)
- Kelly Creek rangeland restoration (2007–present)

Newmont is committed to partnerships to achieve conservation success. Some of our partners, participants and contributors are:

- The Nature Conservancy
- Trout Unlimited
- Great Basin Ecology
- Mori Ranches
- Nevada Land Trust
- Synergy Resource Solutions
- Stantec
- WEST
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program
- Nevada Department of Wildlife
- University of Nevada – Reno
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA Agricultural Research Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Through the Sagebrush Ecosystem Conservation Program, Newmont continues to work with land managers, scientists and stakeholders to find and implement systematic solutions to conserve the sagebrush ecosystem and its wildlife habitats on those lands under our stewardship.