



Education Working Group Notes

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

CRC Education Working Group Vision:

A Carson River Watershed community that believes their behavior impacts watershed wellness and applies their knowledge to act in ways that benefit the entire watershed.

Contact: [Brenda Hunt](#), (775) 877-9005

Attendees:

Attendee Name	Title	Acronym	Organization
Julie Bless	State Wildlife Education/Volunteer Coordinator	NDOW	Nevada Dept. of Wildlife
Kristina Burnette	Environmental Scientist	WEPD	Washoe Env. Protection Dept.
Andrea Criscione	Senior Research Associate	RM	Responsive Management
Nara Douglas	Environmental Specialist	FPST	Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe
Rebecca Feldermann	Executive Director	RW	River Wranglers
Sarah Fichtner	State Floodplain Manager/NFIP Coordinator	NDWR	Nevada Div. of Water Resources
Jessica Gardner	Horticulture Outreach Coordinator	UNCE	UNR Extension, Douglas Co.
Katie Hay	Stormwater Engineering Technician	DC	Douglas County Public Works
Lauren Healey	Ecological Services, Nat'l Wetlands Inventory	FWS	US Fish & Wildlife, Region 8
Brenda Hunt	Watershed Program Manager	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy Dist.
Donna Inversin	President	V&T	Historic V&T Trail
Margaret Lord	Western Region Wildlife Education Coordinator	NDOW	Nevada Dept. of Wildlife
Lindsay Marsh	Water Resource Specialist 1	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy Dist.
Debbie Neddenriep	Water Resource Specialist 2, CFM	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy Dist.
Kelly Nicholas	Senior Watershed Clerk	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy Dist.
Karin Peternel	Stormwater Program Manager	CCPW	Carson City Public Works
Misty Reyes	Water Resources Branch	USACE	Army Corps of Engineers
Courtney Walker	Stormwater Program Manager	DC	Douglas County Public Works
Sydney Wirkus	Education & Outreach Coordinator	RW	River Wranglers

Watershed Resurvey Overview: Andrea Criscione, Responsive Management (RM): Andrea Criscione, Senior Research Associate for Responsive Management, presented the proposed script/questions for a follow-up survey of watershed residents. The questions were based on the first survey RM administered in 2015 to gauge residents' understanding of watersheds, watershed issues, and their role in watershed health. The goal is 800 completed surveys by phone; this round will also be able to reach out by text. The unincorporated areas of Gold Hill and Silver City are added to the survey area, as is Naval Air Station Fallon; these additions aren't significant enough to skew results when comparing with the original survey. It was asked if offering a prize would incentivize respondents, but this strategy is more appropriate for closed survey populations. Also, opening up the survey would lead to self-selection and veer from the randomization of the last one.

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Review of wetland mapping consortium webinar, 50th anniversary of U.S. Fish and Wildlife's National Wetlands Inventory (NWI), upcoming [Wetland Mapping Consortium Webinars](#): Lauren Healey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife:

Although Nevada is the driest state, at least five percent of it is wetlands; as a result the water in these areas is extremely important. Natural wetlands provide habitat for threatened wildlife species, wildfire resiliency, and improved water quality. The department's expanded, biological definition of what constitutes a wetland has ramifications for their classification system and hence mapping. They have worked with several external entities on data updates. Details about Nevada wetlands can be used to enhance floodplain model presentations. A wetland layer also can be added to the CRASP webviewer. The map can also be used to help determine areas that aren't jurisdictional but may need additional protections. [Link to her presentation](#).

Programs and Grants:

a. FEMA Outreach:

- i. **2025 Floodplain Management Plan Update (Debbie Neddenriep)** – As of last week, all CRW counties adopted the plan. Talks in Douglas Co. were encouraging, and Debbie emphasized the stormwater plan Courtney (Walker) has developed is the action that leads to reduced flood risk. She is working through the Community Rating System crosswalk for Douglas, Carson City and Storey Counties, going through the activities and adding what we did, when, and the documentation. She will discuss further with Courtney at the upcoming FMA conference.
 - ii. **Flood Awareness; status of FAW events, shift to FACT (Sarah Fichtner)** – DWR is working on new social media graphics discussed in monthly Flood Awareness Communications Team (FACT) meetings. They also will put out a couple short reels; one will be on the new Nevada-specific After the Flood guide, to direct people to the Nevada Floods website, and another will cover assembling an emergency prep kit. Those will be re-released around Flood Awareness Week. In relation to the recent flooding on Hwy 50 and the eastern watershed, Kathy Canfield of Storey Co. is working with NDOT on a drainage plan for USA Parkway.
 - iii. **Flood Management Association Northern NV Luncheons – Oct 8, 2025, 11:30 am – 1 pm (Debbie Neddenriep)** – Luncheons have been held quarterly on a variety of flood-related topics. The next will be at the Washoe County Emergency Operation Center featuring planners and emergency managers. Cost is \$25 for FMA members and \$30 for nonmembers.
 - iv. **Army Corps of Engineers flood awareness outreach, lesson plans, storymap (Misty Reyes, Sarah Fichtner)** – Misty is new; Sarah reported the story map format is outdated and discussions about transferring them to new software and updating content is on the horizon, with collaborators' help. DWR has lesson plans based on the story maps. Sarah is in discussion with Carson City about a HWM tour with accompanying swag, potentially by bike in May or June to coincide somewhat with Bike Month. Work has also begun on Watershed University for 2026. USACE is also working on an alluvial fan flood map for the Walker Paiute Tribe in Yerington.
- b. **Watershed-Based Planning Update (Brenda)** – Brenda has been working with Karin Peternel and NDEP on a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). CWSD has changed its approach: CWSD will conduct water quality sampling at several sites across the watershed to help determine sources of polluted runoff to supplement NDEP testing for constituents of concern, some of which need more frequent data collection in order to be delisted, and for a CRASP update. The QAPP must be approved by USEPA before supplemental sampling can begin. "Sources of nonpoint source pollution" seems like an oxymoron, but it is a requirement for a watershed plan as part of the nine elements to try to determine sources for some of the constituents of concern and hence best management practices.

c. **River Wranglers/CWSD**

- i. **Physical map status update (Kelly)** – Design still being worked on, there are enough of the old English-language ones left to last through 2025.
 - ii. **Snapshot Day planning/brainstorming discussion and ID of subcommittee (Rebecca)** – Snapshot Day is an annual October event where a simultaneous “snapshot” of the river is taken at multiple points. Ideally students are at each site simultaneously for a couple hours participating in water-quality testing, a stream-walk assessment and other interactive educational stations at each site depending on the number of volunteers and their expertise. The goal is to have one-two sites in Lyon Co. this year. Last year several things fell through with schools. This year with Amy (Riddle, EVMS science teacher) really enthused about Snapshot Day, that will at least get some more Carson school participation. Lyon Co. schools don’t start until 9/2, so even with a new contact, Talia, contacting teachers now is a nonstarter. Oct. 10 will be the SSD tentative date. If interested please come and volunteer so there can be plenty of partner volunteers for staffing sites with different students, ideally 50 to 60 students. This number allows for 10-12 students at 5-6 stations for 20-25 minutes, which is a good engagement ratio and not overwhelming. Age range is usually grades 4-5 but in the past has gone up to high school. This event doesn’t require adherence to science standards, so there is leeway in station topics; environmentally related is fine. Collecting samples for NDEP at these sites is a future possibility.
 - iii. **2025 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree ornaments update** – 250 ornaments, which were turned into NDOR, were created over the course of a couple of events with different forms and materials. She brought some into CWSD to ensure ornament completion. Initially RW had planned to go into classrooms but ordering supplies took too long for this, so big outreach events were used instead. There was really good turnout at River Fork Ranch; the weather for Nevada Outdoor Experience was cold and windy, which deterred attendance. Even so, quite a few young people created some ornaments. An RW board member made Nevada-shaped cut outs out of repurposed wood, so there were some pretty neat ornaments. Not sure about next steps but turning them into the state office was the final step for RW.
- d. **Watershed Forum 2026** – Brenda informed attendees the annual Forum would be in February or March 2026 and to let her know about suggested topics and speakers.

Upcoming Events/Programs/Round Robin

River Wranglers (Rebecca, Sydney, Amy Riddle) – Schools aren’t in full session yet so few fall events are yet scheduled, but there is a Silver Springs Fall Festival in September and Boonanza in October. Cantaloupe Festival this year was a huge success: she and Sydney were there all three days and numbers well exceeded past years: In 2022 on the Friday the district would bus in all the fifth graders before the actual festival started for a two-hour ag intensive. They changed that in 2023 and made the fifth-grade day in the spring when school was in session called Ag in the Classroom, which has been the custom since. For the last three years, numbers reflect attendees not students. In 2023 we saw 325 people over the course of Friday (1-5), Saturday (9-6), and Sunday (9-4). In 2024 we saw 444 people. This year, we saw 750 people, 450 on Saturday alone. A covered, air-conditioned building helped for presenting and for attendee comfort, and a scavenger hunt for crocheted cantaloupes (that were super-cute) helped move people around. RW will always be indoors in future years.

TNC – Saturday meditation events 1x per month, upcoming watercolor workshop, kickoff for Suicide Awareness/Prevention Week with a four-mile family hike that benefits the Carson Valley Trails Association.

AWG – Creek Day Sep. 20, largest volunteer event. Rachel Maurer is no longer with AWG; former AWG AmeriCorps Climate Fellow Bella Kurtz is new Headwaters Coordinator. Rebecca is working with them to help

fulfill their Whale Tail grant funding education.

FPST events (Nara) – Programs end in October, so not a lot going on currently. They recently had the Earth Day celebration in Fallon and in May held a nonpoint-source pollution workshop for Region Nine. Programs will start up again after October.

UNCE Events (Jessica Gardner) – Douglas Co. Master Gardeners has a [garden tour Sep. 13](#); five private homeowners will open their gardens to the public. Cost is \$25 per two people, and proceeds support the Douglas Co. Master Gardener program. This is the tour's first year, and they are very excited. There will be some September seed saving workshops at the Douglas Co. library, dates TBD. Fall usually is pretty slow because the MG course starts in August. January will be their fifth annual seed swap on National Seed Swap Day; they're trying to get away from packaged seeds but having seeds from grown plants here. All seeds encouraged, not solely vegetables, because native seeds help with the watershed.

Historic V&T Trail (Donna) – HV&T is reapplying to Conserve Nevada to start the process for building a bridge over the Carson River. This year, the pot is \$10 million pot but because of federal cuts there will probably be more applicants. This assessment is to determine where a bridge is possible, who owns the property, where the bridge is, and then to look at the floodplain. It's the same grant exactly that we did last time. They have already worked with Lumos and RCI on that.

Next Meeting: Dec 3 (moved to accommodate Thanksgiving holiday and other meetings)

Lauren Healey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: lauren_healey@fws.gov

New and Key Resources

NWI Wetland mapper: [National Wetlands Inventory](#)

American Wetlands Month and Outreach (2025): [American Wetlands Month | U.S. Fish Wildlife Service](#)

NWI Use Highlights Page (2025): [National Wetlands Inventory Use Highlights | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#)

Coastal Status and Trends Report (2024): [2019 Coastal Watersheds Wetlands Status and Trends | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#)

National Status and Trends Report (2024): [2019 Wetlands Status and Trends Report | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#)

Educators page: [Wetland Educational Resources | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#)

50th celebration story: [Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the National Wetlands Inventory | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#)

50th Anniversary Webinar: [Wetland Mapping Consortium Webinars](#)

Other

155+ million acres of mapping in 2024, 90 million so far for 2025

Upcoming webinar: Leveraging Related Federal Mapping Program to Enhance NWI Data Cost Efficiency and

Interoperability (Sept 10th, 12-1 PDT): [Wetland Mapping Consortium Webinars](#)