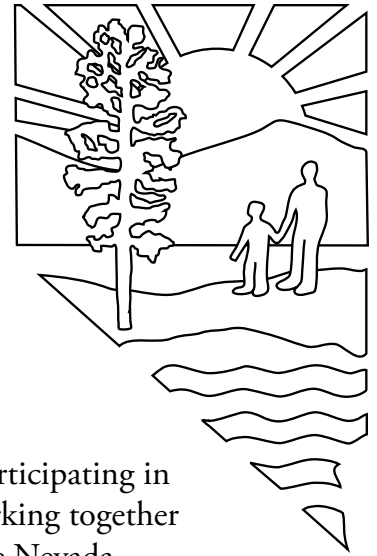


Nevada Natural Resource Education Council



NNREC, the Nevada Natural Resource Education Council, has had a very successful year, serving as a leader in environmental education in Nevada. Our annual report highlights some of our activities and successes.

Partners NNREC partners with a number of organizations by participating in their activities, boards and steering committees, and working together to create teacher training and environmental education events. These include the Nevada Division of Forestry, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Nevada Department of Education, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Tahoe Truckee K-12 Adopt-A-Watershed, Washoe County School District, Clark County School District, Lake Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition, Environmental Leadership, Nevada Service Learning Partnership, Washoe-Storey and Carson Valley Conservation Districts, CHOLLA (Connecting Hands-On Lifelong Learning Adventures) and CHOLLA North, Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships, University of Nevada Reno, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Truckee Meadows Community College, Western Nevada Community College, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, USDA Forest Service, Tahoe Rim Trail Association, and others.

HSRW NNREC is a sponsor of the High Sierra Resource Education Workshop, a summer field study program for high school students considering careers in natural resource management and education, and several of our members serve as workshop facilitators and specialists.

Fire Education NNREC offered this year a Project Fire and Project Learning Tree day long workshop targeted at teachers in western Nevada, which served 18 teachers and many other individuals. A shorter format Burning Issues workshop was offered to 15 people. Both courses included classroom and hands-on, in the field time, and sent teachers away with curriculum materials to use immediately with their students.

Web Site The NNREC web site, at <http://nnrec.org/>, contains a wealth of information and links for people interested in environmental education and issues. A calendar keeps people informed and active, while links to our projects and our partners allow people to locate opportunities in their area.

EnvSci 100 NNREC developed a head-start, field-based Environmental Science 100 course for high school juniors and seniors, working with Truckee Meadows Community College and Western Nevada Community College. Unfortunately the course was not offered due to logistical challenges and low enrollment, however, we hope to offer a similar course in the future.

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NAAEE NNREC is the Nevada affiliate of the North American Association for Environmental Education, an international organization providing a voice for EE at the national level. Our affiliate representative attended the NAAEE Conference in Boston and is active in efforts to share information among state and provincial affiliates to enhance EE capacity and professionalism. NAAEE is largely responsible for advocacy and education which resulted in the continuation of funding for EPA's environmental education program.

Grants NNREC offered grants this year to support Great Basin Outdoor School, the only residential environmental education program in Nevada, serving fifth and sixth grade students from western Nevada; Nevada Outdoor School / Water Canyon Project, serving students and community members in the Winnemucca area; McQueen High School's participation in the Canon EnviroThon; and other small projects.

Conference NNREC did not hold a statewide conference during the 2002-2003 year. We held our first conference in April 2002, but our spring 2003 conference was delayed to the fall of 2003 by the loss of our conference site at Clear Creek Youth Center near Carson City. We will hold our second statewide conference September 27 in Incline Village. In our planning for this conference, we have developed a strong working relationship with the Tahoe Truckee K-12 Adopt-A-Watershed program, as well as a great number of new and renewed contacts with agencies, organizations, teachers and districts, higher education, and individuals.

Other NNREC members participated in Adopt-A-Watershed's development of a regional vision for the Lake Tahoe basin; members participated in development of the Criterion Reference Test for Science with the Nevada Department of Education; members participated in the Nevada Service Learning Partnership's Summer Celebration; NNREC was a sponsor of Environmental Leadership's Pine Cone Ball; members participated in LTEEC's annual conference; NNREC was an active partner in efforts to replicate the very successful CHOLLA organization from southern Nevada to western Nevada; members participated in the Nevada State Science Teachers Association conference in Ely; NNREC was an active participant in Washoe-Storey Conservation District's Adopt-A-Watershed steering committee; members participated in SWEP's Community Leaders in the Classroom program; and many more activities and partnerships than we can remember at the end of the year.

NNREC This was a very active year for NNREC itself. We completed revision of our bylaws and articles of incorporation, setting NNREC on a firm footing as a statewide organization. For the time being, we do not have regional chapters, but expect them in the future as we assist the development of regional and watershed based leadership. The board of directors of NNREC has met on a regular basis throughout the year, coordinating our own activities and those of other organizations and programs. We have developed and continue to develop a set of operating policies to guide our activities. For the first time we have a comprehensive budget that supports our mission and activities. We published one paper newsletter and monthly E-Newsletters to serve our members. Our partnership with the Nevada Division of Forestry has been most beneficial to NNREC, providing grant funding through the USDA Forest Service Conservation Education and BLM Burning Issues programs, opening up many opportunities to provide leadership and training in natural resource education for the state.

For more information on NNREC, for EE events and opportunities, to become a member, or to donate to our scholarships fund, check <http://nnrec.org/>. NNREC is an equal opportunity provider of services.