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**GREAT BASIN  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROGRAM**

- The Driving Issue: *Invasive Plant Species*
- Factors that are important for the management of the Great Basin
  - Population Change
  - Rapid Urbanization
  - Climate Change
  - Technology
  - Government ownership of land
  - Large closed drainage basin system
  - Degraded environmental system

# Patterned After the Estuarial Environmental Initiatives

- Broad initiative involving federal, state, NGOs and universities
- Lead federal agency (US EPA in the case of estuarial initiatives), other possibilities for the Great Basin
- Federal funds flow to all of the partners
- History is that the federal funds become highly leveraged
- Progress on environmental issues should be transparent
- Metrics to inform the **public** of progress

# How Does it Work?

- Governors define environmental priorities
- Commission carries out the governors edicts
- Working groups developed by the commission for each priority
- Participants in working groups are from all interest areas
- Indicators or metrics set for each priority

# Provisional Organization

- Governors
- GBEP Commission
  - Land grants/State agencies
  - NGOs
  - Federal agencies
  - Other GB organizations
- Partner Groups managed within states
- Ad Hoc Technical Committees

# Other Key Groups and Roles

- Great Basin Restoration Initiative (BLM)
- Great Basin Research and Management Partnership (GBRMP)
- Great Basin Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (GBCESU)
- Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition (ENLC)
- And Others...

# Relationship to Other Efforts Designed to Improve the Quality of Life in the Great Basin

- ⦿ Non competitive, in fact, supportive of other efforts
- ⦿ Inclusion of NGOs, State agencies and coalitions in addition to Federal agencies
- ⦿ Organizations join GBEP because of the value in working together
- ⦿ Goal is to bring new resources
- ⦿ The GBEP has broad goals, easily accommodate the efforts of others
- ⦿ Private foundation has been important element in other estuarial initiatives

# Current Status of the GBEP

- Started in late 2006 with a meeting in Reno of the major federal agencies, state agencies, universities and representation from NGOs
- Environmental issues were determined, provisionally and a draft proposal developed 2007
- In March of 2008 conference for NGOs was held
- Endorsed 6 initiatives
- Received (FY09) funding to develop the GBEP

# Current Status of the GBEP

- Meetings with all GB state land grant universities to develop GBEP
- Collaborated with Utah, Oregon, Idaho and California to develop structure
- Approximately 50% of (FY 09) federal funding available to each of the 5 states
- Sub contracts are being developed to support the GBEP

# Issues have remained the same over time

- ⦿ Determined in the conference of 2006
- ⦿ Reaffirmed by the NGOs in the Conference of 2008
- ⦿ Negotiations during 2008 and 2009 brought the invasive species to the forefront
- ⦿ Invasive species now like water quality for the Chesapeake is the one focus issue
- ⦿ The other six fall under invasive species

# Focus: Invasive Plant Species

## *Six Environmental Initiatives:*

- Wildfires
- Water Conservation and Use
- Land Use and Health
- Urban, Rural, Wildlands, Mosaic
- Cultures and Communities
- Biodiversity

# Plans for the Next Year

- Revise the brochure for the GBEP
- Hold another conference in fall 2010 — with focus on implementation
- Major content of conference will be to discuss pre-proposals
- Secure \$4 million for FY11 federal budget
- Move to get the Foundation going

# What to Accomplish Now

- ⦿ During the fall get the sub contracts in place
- ⦿ Produce the revision of the brochure preceding the conference (perhaps several)
- ⦿ Hold the conference in fall of 2010
- ⦿ Request federal funding for FY 2011
- ⦿ Develop research proposals to be presented at the conference

# Role of UNR in the GBEP

- Our goal is to initiate the GBEP
- If it starts, UNR will participate just like any other university
- This is a project too big for any one institution
- It will take all of us working together to succeed

To become more involved or receive added  
information on the  
GBEP

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