



Agricultural  
Research Service  
Great Basin Rangelands  
Research Unit, Reno NV

# GBRRU NEWS

[www.ars.usda.gov/pacific-west-area/reno-nv/great-basin-rangelands-research/](http://www.ars.usda.gov/pacific-west-area/reno-nv/great-basin-rangelands-research/)

**Volume 2  
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Celebrate  
**WOMEN'S  
HISTORY  
MONTH**



**GBRRU congratulates Dr. Beth Newingham for outstanding contributions and celebrates ARS Women in Science!**

Dr. Beth Newingham, Research Ecologist, was recently highlighted in 'Celebrate Woman's History Month' by USDA. Beth works alongside private and public land managers in order to conserve soil and plant resources on rangelands that are threatened by wildfires, invasive plants and climate change. Beth was encouraged by an undergraduate professor to pursue a career in science.

<https://fb.watch/qQ5CuW3iKE/>

## GBRRU Hosts Stakeholder Engagement Meeting

Over 40 participants from state and federal agencies, the University of Nevada Reno, agricultural producers and private interest groups joined the GBRRU to discuss their concerns for rangeland management research in the Great Basin. Dr. Newingham, Dr. Snyder and GBRRU acting research leader Charlie Clements presented their current research focus and discussed the future direction of GBRRU research. USDA-ARS PWA area director, Dr. Tara McHugh, along with associate directors Dr. John Dyer and Dr. Fred Pierson attended the meeting. USDA-ARS National Program Leader, Dr. Peter Vadas, also participated.



Many discussions focused on making the science usable or applied to help the agricultural community and land managers.



Photo: above, Duane Coombs discusses the hardships of livestock operations and how important the agricultural community is in supporting each other through the "hard times"

## Employee Highlights



Rivers Harmon visits his dad at work for USDA bring your kids to work day. "My favorite part was seeing everyone's lab, especially the insect lab, I love bugs!"  
Rivers



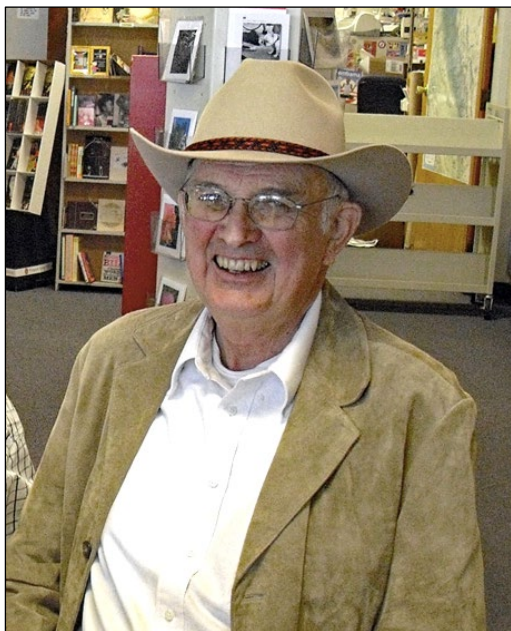
## **GBRRU SRM Symposium “Stakeholder Driven Research”**

GBRRU along with stakeholders presented an overview of Great Basin rangeland issues and research accomplished by the unit at the 2024 annual Society for Range Management meeting in Sparks, NV. Over 1600 people attended the meeting throughout the week with a packed room for the GBRRU Symposium. Jeremy Drew with Resource Concepts Inc. moderated the symposium. Duane Coombs (Rancher) and Harry Quicke (ENVU) joined Charlie Clements, Keirith Snyder, Kirk Tonkel and Dan Harmon as they presented the importance of ARS research for stakeholder concerns and rangeland management.

*(Photo: Dr. Keirith Snyder “The effects of pinyon and juniper on components of the water budget: how much water do trees use?”)*

## **Great Basin Rangelands Research Unit / University of Nevada – Reno Pollinator Garden**

A joint effort initiated 5 years ago between the USDA-ARS Great Basin Rangelands Research Unit and the University of Nevada - Reno to convert an untended green strip at the unit location on campus into a resource for native pollinators has been successful beyond expectations. A variety of species of native plants are thriving in the garden, and in June of 2023, survey efforts carried out by UNR students for the Natural History Museum on campus have found numerous species of bees visiting flowers in the renovated green strip. In addition, a variety of other flower-visiting insects, including flies, beetles, and butterflies, have been observed in the garden. To get such a large number of pollinators and other native insects attracted to the urban garden in just a few years is an example of how opportunistic these insects are when provided with food sources. Hopefully, future surveys will turn up even more species of these beneficial insects. *Kirk Tonkel*



## **James Albert Young Aug 19, 1937 - March 18, 2024**

Dr. James A. Young passed away on March 18th at the age of 86 with his family by his side. Dr. Young spent 43 years as a Rangeland Scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, ARS, GBRRU in Reno, Nevada. Upon Dr. Young's retirement, he was recognized on the United States Senate floor for his commitment and preservation of western rangelands. Dr. Young is renowned for his knowledge of Great Basin Rangelands and was awarded the U.S. Department of Agriculture Outstanding Scientist of the Year Award (1993) and honored by the Secretary of Agriculture with the Superior Service Award in 1995, the highest honor given by the USDA. Dr. Young authored more than 700 scientific articles including numerous books such as “Cattle in the Cold Desert” and “Cheatgrass: Fire and Forage on the Range”. Dr. Young has touched so many lives in the range management field in such a positive way, he will be dearly missed.