



Agricultural
Research Service
Great Basin Rangelands
Research Unit

GBRRU NEWS

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GBRRU on the “Come Rain or Shine” Podcast

This podcast is a collaborative product of the Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center, Eco Impact Solutions, and New Mexico State University.

The podcast spoke with Charlie Clements, from the Great Basin Rangeland Research Unit at the USDA Agricultural Research Service. Charlie and his team conduct research on the restoration of ecologically threatened rangelands and advancements in sustainable agriculture.



[Learn more and listen
to the full episode here!](#)

IMAGINE

Institute for Managing Annual Grasses
Invading Natural Ecosystems

GBRRU participated in a two-day event in Elko, NV hosted by IMAGINE, a co-produced science, outreach, and education program to develop, implement, evaluate, and adjust statewide and regional strategies for mitigating impacts of invasive annual grasses in rangelands while empowering informed decision making by landowners and managers. Meeting attendees toured a GBRRU research site (2016-present) near Izzenhood Basin, north of Battle Mountain, NV. The event also included presentations from University Nevada Reno (UNR) researchers, BLM, Nevada Dept. of Wildlife (NDOW) and Nevada Gold resource managers, and an herbicide aerial application demonstration.



GBRRU researchers discuss their ongoing studies at Izzenhood, NV.

For an overview of the event read [Progressive Rancher, July/Aug 2025](#)



Employee Highlights



Jill Daubert, GBRRU Admin Officer (AO), received an appreciation award for being part of an amazing PWA-ARS team that helped multiple locations after a significant loss of admin employees this year. Jill moved to Nevada from Germany after separating from active-duty Army service with a background in IT, adult education, and logistics. She started with GBRRU in 2020 as a PSA and became our AO in 2022. She says, "Living in Reno fulfills my love for the desert."

Thank you Jill !



Does successful rangeland restoration change the insect community?

Kirk Tonkel, an Entomology Research Technician at the GBRRU, wants to know. Kirk began a monitoring study this year at two long-term GBRRU restoration research locations using traps to collect surface-active and flower-visiting insects. Traps were deployed at four separate 2-week periods between March and September. Now Kirk must sort and identify all those insects before sampling begins again next spring. It will be a busy winter!



2025 brought an increased appreciation of teamwork!



In times of change we often rely on our partners, colleagues, family and friends, and 2025 was no exception. GBRRU was joined by friends, family and our Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station and UNR colleagues from the Rangeland Ecology Lab for a 4th of July celebration BBQ.

Left to right: Katherine Lacy, Zach Wells, Charlie Clements, Dave Board, Xavier Davilla, Kylie Hopkins, Nicole Havrilchak, Will Richardson, Brian Morra, Wade Lieurance, Fay Allen, Sandra Li, Dan Harmon, Jeff Allen, Jill Daubert, Jacob Phillips, Kirk Tonel, Keirith Snyder.

Outreach and Engagement

GBRRU has a long history of youth outreach. One of our favorite annual events is the University of Nevada, Reno, College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources Field Day & Ag Expo. Held at the Agricultural Experiment Station, Reno NV, this event hosts hands-on activities for youth that highlight local working groups and research for sustainable agriculture and food security in Nevada.



Another favorite outreach event is the Silver Stage Fall Festival. This year's event hosted by the Lyon County School District in Silver Springs, NV, was attended by 874 kids from elementary to high school levels and 457 community members. GBRRU has attended this event, highlighted as a Celebration of Food, Family, Farming and Fun, since it began in 2014.



Jacob Phillips and Dan Harmon at the Silver Stage Fall Festival, September 2025.