



Agricultural  
Research Service  
Great Basin Rangelands  
Research Unit

# 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/)

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The summer brought familiar events, and some new and exciting things for the GBRRU. Crickets, seagulls to eat the crickets, butterflies and moths, flowers, and Jacob Phillips' (soils technician) first time on the tractor and seed drill !



## Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young visits GBRRU

In October, our Great Basin Rangelands Research Unit was honored to host Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics (REE). Researchers at the unit highlighted some of their current projects. Dr. Jacobs-Young and Sharon Drumm (Senior Advisor) discussed areas of current interest for USDA, such as wildfire concerns. The unit was also joined by BreAnna Martinez, USDA Office of the Chief Scientist, and Katherine Lacy, USDA-ERS.

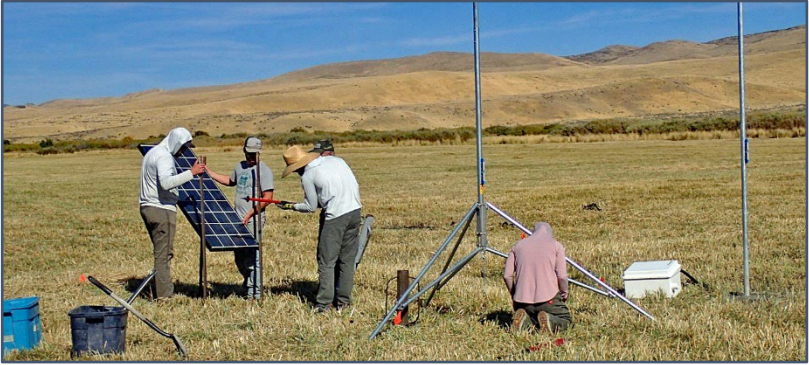
### Employee Highlights

GBRRU Acting Research Leader Charlie Clements and Dr. Beth Newingham receive awards for their acting RL service. Charlie also received a 30 Years-of-Service award.



# Collaboration

GBRRU started a new collaborative project at Maggie Creek, near Carlin, NV with Dr. Tamzen Stringham (UNR), Maggie Creek Ranch, and Nevada Gold Mines. The project will examine how different land use histories and management in three plant communities vary with regards to water loss and carbon storage. Eddy covariance towers were installed in September at three research locations: 1) an irrigated hay field with fall grazing, 2) a mixed community of Basin big sagebrush and Basin wildrye with fall grazing, and 3) a decadent sagebrush community with no grazing.



- Eddy Covariance Tower Monitoring equipment**
- 3-D Sonic Anemometer
  - Open Path Infrared CO2/H2O analyzer
  - Net Radiometer
  - Relative Humidity and temperature sensor
  - Rain gauge tipping bucket
  - Soil heat flux plates
  - Soil moisture sensor
  - Averaging soil thermocouple probes

# Employee Development

Kirk Tonkel, a biological technician at the research unit, recently attended a 'Pollinator Field Sampling and Laboratory Techniques' course hosted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia. Topics included performing pollinator surveys and efficiently collecting high-quality data and specimens. These skills will benefit research efforts by allowing the unit to address questions about how pollinators are responding to rangeland restoration treatments.



# GBRRU Outreach

GBRRU had a busy summer with field tours of long-term ARS research sites, BLM ROGER tours, SAGE STEP tours, NRCS/BLM training classes, and youth agricultural education events including UNR's Nevada Field Day and Ag Expo, and the Nevada Wild Sheep Foundation's Outdoor Experience. These are annual events that give local urban youth a chance to experience agriculture and outdoor recreation activities that they might not be familiar with.



NRCS visits GBRRU research site at Bedell Flat to learn about successful herbicide and seeding methods

BLM ROGER tour in Baker, NV

Silver Sage School district Fall Ag Festival