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**GREAT BASIN  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROGRAM**

- ◎ The Issue: **Invasive Plant Species**
- ◎ Factors that are important drivers of the environment in the Great Basin
  - Population Change
  - Rapid Urbanization
  - Climate Change
  - Technology
  - Government ownership of land
  - Closed drainage basin system
  - Apparent degraded of the environmental

# Patterned After the Existing Estuarial Environmental Initiatives

- Broad initiative involving federal, state, NGOs and universities
- Lead federal agency (US EPA in the case of estuarial initiatives), other possible federal agencies 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 it Works?

- Governors define environmental priorities
- Commission carries out the governor's edicts
- Working groups developed by the commission on each priority or theme
- Participants in working groups are from all interest areas
- Indicators or metrics set for each priority
- Focus on the getting funds, on the ground projects and research

# Provisional Organization

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

# Current Status of the GBEP

- Started in 2006 with a meeting in Reno of the major federal agencies, state agencies, universities and representation from NGOs
- Environmental issues were determined, and a draft proposal developed 2007
- In March of 2008 conference for NGOs was held, endorsed six initiatives
- Received initial (FY09) funding to develop the GBEP—shared with other land grants
- Forwarded a large proposal in 2010, told to go slower and develop specific projects
- 2011 no earmarks, taking proposals to specific agencies

# Focus: Invasive Plant Species

## *Six Environmental Initiatives:*

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

# Plans for the the Future

- ⦿ Revise the two brochures for the GBEP
- ⦿ Begin operations of the Commission, if funding appears
- ⦿ Work on funding for proposals from agencies or an earmark
- ⦿ Proposals involve metrics, die-off and late season grazing—the latter appears most appealing



Receive added information on the  
GBEP from the web page

or

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