



Rick Sandru



Chris Edgington



The Ruby Valley Strategic Alliance:

Offering a Vision for Managing the Ruby Watershed

The greater Ruby Valley provides us with open space, clean water, healthy wildlife habitat, access to wild backcountry, and high-quality recreation. It also is the foundation for a multi-generational agricultural heritage.

Together, members of the Ruby Valley Strategic Alliance (RVSA) – a group composed of ranchers, business owners, conservationists, and others – strive to maintain and enhance what we cherish about the valley so future generations can thrive in and enjoy this valley as we do today.

We've identified not just what we value about the Ruby Valley watershed, but also what is threatening its overall health and how we can confront those threats.

The RVSA has also identified five areas of engagement where we can work together and find solutions that address these threats imperiling working landscapes, wild public lands, our outdoor way of life, and high-quality recreation. These areas offer us a path towards sustaining our communities, our families, the land, and the wildlife of the Ruby Valley.



RUBY VALLEY
STRATEGIC
ALLIANCE



Our Areas of Focus

Land conservation and growth: As conservationists and owners of multi-generation family ranches, we recognize the importance of the area's working lands in providing wildlife habitat and open space. We strive to maintain working lands through conservation programs, easements, and education.

Water quantity and quality: Clean, cold, and ample water is essential for maintaining fisheries, supporting the outdoor recreation economy, and providing irrigation for working lands. We are working to address threats to our water through drought planning, effective Ruby Reservoir management, riparian restoration, tributary connectivity, and streamflow measurement.

Wildlife conflict reduction: The viability of native predator populations depends on keeping working ranches and public lands intact. We are working to secure connected and sustainable populations of grizzly bears while minimizing conflict and supporting the ranching operations that keep migration corridors and valley bottoms free of development. To achieve these outcomes, we prioritize education, policy, funding, predator conflict avoidance and reduction, and depredation compensation.

Maintaining wild backcountry: We recognize the value of sustaining wilderness in the Ruby. Keeping wild public lands intact protects headwater tributaries, ensures clean water, provides space for wildlife, allows for continued grazing, and offers opportunities to find solitude and enjoy quiet recreation. We are working to develop designations for public lands that will provide protection and certainty for these wild public lands.

U.S. Forest Service policy and advocacy

Grazing allotments and public lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service are key to the viability of working ranches. Those lands also support and sustain wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, and water quality. We are dedicated to developing and advocating for long-term solutions that allow for flexible and adaptive land management, that improve communication between Forest Service staff and the public, and develop partnerships that improve stewardship and management outcomes.



RUBY VALLEY
STRATEGIC
ALLIANCE