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The valleys and mountains of the Nevada-California borderlands are found at the intersection of two major North American ecoregions: The Great Basin and The Sierra Nevada. Interactions and intersections between these two ecoregions and the climates, biota, and human societies that characterize them constitute the fabric of western Nevada and eastern California. Rivers and Native American trails have long flowed across this land of transition, and now highways have joined them. The convergence of the Truckee River Basin and the I-80 corridor – with Reno and the Carson Valley at their hub – illustrates the region’s vibrant mingling of water, fish, people, and ideas, and conservation challenges ahead.

The 47<sup>th</sup> Natural Areas Conference (NAC20), *Sierra to Sagebrush: Integrating Management and Stewardship Across Landscapes*, is focused on the unique ecological and management dynamics that distinguish the Nevada-California borderlands. Things are big here: big mountains, big lakes, big landscapes, big ranches, big growth, and big and complex issues. Like: how to balance one of the fastest growing metro areas in the U.S. with preservation of open habitat? How to support more people with less water, while preserving water quality? How to conserve rare or keystone species in the face of global change and rapid urban growth? How to reduce fire frequencies in sagebrush ecosystems but increase them (safely) in montane forests? Solving these issues will depend at least partly on land and resource managers, scientists, and policy makers coming together to share and discuss creative ideas that cross disciplines, ecosystems, and jurisdictional boundaries. NAC20 *Sierra to Sagebrush: Integrating Management and Stewardship Across Landscapes* is an event designed to facilitate this crucial exchange.

The Natural Areas Conference is the longest-running annual national event that brings together professional managers, practitioners, and scientists to exchange the latest science, share innovations, build effective collaborations, and address conservation challenges across state, federal, municipal, and privately-owned natural areas. At the conference, scientists at the leading edge of our understanding of ecology and practitioners innovating to address conservation challenges share their research and work through presentations and symposia that allow for in-depth discussion of complex topics. Natural area managers attend on-site and field workshops where they develop skills in organism and habitat identification, learn how to use technological applications that improve ecosystem monitoring, and evaluate real examples of management practices that are relevant, practical and actionable. These interactions prepare natural areas managers to meet emergent conservation issues in the special places under their stewardship.