



THE NATURE CONSERVANCY Whit Hall Interpretive Center Minden, NV

100% native vegetation used on-site

97% of wood from FSC-certified forests

75% of construction waste recycled

LEED® Facts

The Nature Conservancy
Whit Hall Interpretive Center
Minden, NV

LEED for New Construction
Certification awarded April 4, 2011

Platinum 57*

Sustainable Sites 8/14

Water Efficiency 5/5

Energy & Atmosphere 16/17

Materials & Resources 11/13

Indoor Environmental Quality 12/15

Innovation & Design 5/5

*Out of a possible 69 points

The information provided is based on that stated in the LEED® project certification submittals. USGBC and Creators do not warrant or represent the accuracy of this information. Each building's actual performance is based on its unique design, construction, operation, and maintenance. Energy efficiency and sustainable results will vary.

The Nature Conservancy's Whit Hall Interpretive Center

Leading by example

The Nature Conservancy demonstrates affordable, sustainable living concepts along the Carson River

PROJECT BACKGROUND

When it came time to design the interpretive center at their River Fork Ranch preserve, the Nature Conservancy took it cues from its own supporters who continually strive to make changes in their everyday lives to improve the planet on which we live. In addition to photo-voltaic cells to convert sunlight into electricity and solar panels to heat domestic water, the center uses a passive geothermal system to support interior heating and cooling and a specially constructed cattail-filled wetland to treat its wastewater.

STRATEGIES AND RESULTS

While a number of approaches to facility design were possible, the planning team decided to proceed using a 'charrette' format that brought together project stakeholders and experts from multiple disciplines to develop ideas for the center. Starting with an old ranch house, the team questioned everything - big and small - looking for any opportunity to do things better, more cleanly, more efficiently and with less waste.

ABOUT THE NATURE CONSERVANCY ON THE CARSON RIVER

The Carson River supports some of the best remaining examples of riparian, wetland and meadow habitat in the western Great Basin. Freshwater communities such as these are highly threatened in arid regions and have been lost from many areas due to water diversions, channelization of rivers, habitat conversion, residential development, and invasive species.

The Nature Conservancy has been working on the Carson River since 2000 to protect its precious lands and water using land protection, restoration, sustainable ranching practices, and public access and education. The Conservancy works to develop strong partnerships with businesses, agencies, ranchers, and community members in order to find conservation solutions that work for both people and nature.

"The Whit Hall Interpretive Center serves as the hub of our community outreach activities in the Carson River watershed, so we wanted to showcase some of the best 'green living' ideas we could find. But it was also really important to us to emphasize readily available technologies so that people who visit the center would not only be inspired but able to adapt what they see for use in their own homes and businesses."

Duane Petite
Carson River Project Director
The Nature Conservancy



Architect: Cathexes
Owner: The Nature Conservancy
Contractor: Pannattoni Construction, Inc
Civil Engineer: Gray & Associates
Electrical Engineer & Lighting Designer: PK Electrical
Structural Engineer: Gabbart & Woods
Mechanical & Plumbing Engineer: Sustainable Energy Solutions, LLC
LEED Consultant: Carol Gadda, Cathexes
Commissioning Agent: Jeff Bender
Photographer: The Nature Conservancy

Project Size: 2,752 Square Feet

ABOUT LEED

The LEED® Green Building Rating System™ is the national benchmark for the design, construction, and operations of high-performance green buildings. Visit the U.S. Green Building Council's website at www.usgbc.org to learn more about LEED and green building.



www.usgbcnv.org
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