



## **Dr. Elwood L. Miller, Executive Coordinator**

Dr. Elwood L. Miller has been a professional forester for over forty years. His career spans timber management and fire suppression positions with the US Forest Service and thirty years as a forestry professor and administrator with the University of Nevada, Reno. While at UNR, Dr. Miller provided leadership for numerous innovative developments including the reorganization of the College of Agriculture, the founding of the College of Human and Community Science, and the change in mission direction that transformed Nevada Cooperative Extension. His administrative assignments included Department Head of the Renewable Resources Department, Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture, and Associate Director of the University's Cooperative Extension program. He has received numerous recognitions and awards including the university's highest teacher award and selection as one of twenty-three outstanding graduates in the 75-year history of Northern Arizona University. During his tenure with the university, Dr. Miller was privileged to spend a year working with Mr. Dee Hock, the founder of VISA International, studying emerging organizational structures. Dr. Miller retired from the University January 1, 2000. In January 2002 Dr. Miller accepted his current position as the Executive Coordinator of the Nevada Fire Safe Council. In this role he is assisting urban interface communities increase their survivability in the face of a growing threat from wildfire.

Dr. Miller has long been interested in finding economical methods of harvesting and utilizing biomass generated by projects to improve forest and woodland health and reduce the volume of hazardous woody fuels. In his current role with the Nevada Fire Safe Council he has spoken widely about the obstacle to effective fuel reduction posed by the lack of biomass utilization opportunities. To overcome this obstacle he has successfully acquired economic development grants to determine the volume of biomass that could realistically be made available to an industrial development in Carson City as well as stimulate the implementation of a pilot project. Electrical power generation, as well as the production of wood pellets and soil amendments is some of the options being explored.

Over the past two and one-half years, under Dr. Miller's leadership, the Nevada Fire Safe Council has grown from an organization with less than 50 members, zero community chapters and less than \$200,000 in grant funds to a statewide presence with nearly 1,000 members, 19 community chapters and over \$2,500,000 in financial support. Reducing the hazard and increasing the protection of Nevada communities threatened by wildfire is the focus of the Nevada Fire Safe Council's mission. Reducing costs and developing the State's economy through utilization of biomass generated by fuels reduction projects remains central to the mission of this growing organization. Dr. Miller and the Council have provided critically important leadership in making progress toward achieving this critically important goal.