The past and future of plants and animals in Nevada will be featured in two July programs at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City. The new book “Nevada’s Changing Wildlife Habitat” by local authors George Gruell and Sherman Swenson will be the topic of a talk and book signing at the museum at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 26. On Friday, the museum will feature “Plants and Animals of Nevada” presented at 10 a.m. by George Baumgardner, curator of natural history.

Sherman Swanson is associate professor in the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources at the University of Nevada, Reno and a range specialist for the university’s Cooperative Extension. George Gruell is a retired wildlife specialist with the U.S. Forest Service with decades of experience in the interior West. Together they have written the new book that discusses plant succession, the role of disturbance, climatic extremes, woodcutting, livestock grazing and altered fire routines. Mining influences, invasive species, and plant and habitat recovery are also included, along with strategies for managing the homes of Nevada wildlife.

Swanson is a graduate of the University of Idaho and holds a rangeland resources doctorate from Oregon State University. Gruell holds a bachelor of science in wildlife management from California State University, Humboldt. As part of the research Gruell repeated photographs taken 40 before to see changes and trends. Among the wildlife studied are the sage grouse, mule deer, beaver and songbirds.

The two authors will be available to sign books and to answer questions about their work. Doors open at 6 p.m. for exhibit viewing and the lecture begins at 7 p.m. in the museum’s gallery at 600 N. Carson St.

Baumgardner hosts the monthly behind- the-scenes tour in natural history at 10 a.m. Friday. For reservations, contact Deborah Stevenson at (775) 687-4810 ext. 237. The monthly tour at 1:30 will not be available that day. For information, go to nevadaculture.com.