



Winners!

2010 Golden Pinecone Award



Friends of Nevada Wilderness

Autumn 2010

The Sheldon: Giving a Treasure the Care it Deserves



Friends' volunteers Joan and Jackie give pronghorn room to roam.

Brian Beffort

The Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, in northwestern Nevada, and its sister, Hart Mountain, 20 miles farther north in Oregon, lie at the heart of an ecological hot spot.

This region is one of the last intact pieces of sagebrush-steppe ecosystem, home to hundreds of plant and animal species. These refuges have a chance to remain resilient in the face of climate change, giving hope to species like sage grouse, pronghorn antelope, pygmy rabbit and many others.

Unfortunately, the Sheldon-Hart

region faces many challenges.

Although cattle grazing was removed from the Sheldon in the early 1990s, at least 150 miles of fence remain on the Sheldon, ensnaring pronghorn and killing many sage grouse in collisions. Also, horses remain on the Sheldon, destroying many of the essential springs and streams here.

The good news: You have the power to help the Sheldon-Hart area thrive. Thanks partly to support from the Wildlife Conservation Society, Friends is gearing up to work with the (Cont. on pg.6)

New Wilderness for the Pine Forest Range?

After nearly a year of working in partnership with Trout Unlimited, the Humboldt County Commissioners, and a diverse group of local stakeholders, we have reached a consensus wilderness boundary for the two BLM wilderness study areas in the Pine Forest Range.

Blue Lakes and Alder Creek wilderness study areas have been merged into one proposed wilderness of about 28,000 acres. Friends of Nevada Wilderness was a key player in this process through many meetings, field tours, field work, research and coordination. We hope Congress will designate the Pine Forest Range Wilderness as official wilderness soon with broad, bipartisan local support.

High alpine meadows, pockets of mahogany and aspen with dancing creeks, granite spires, great fishing and healthy populations of wildlife make the Pine Forest Range a true gem. Located in northwest Nevada south of Denio, it is part of a vast connection of critical wildlife corridors stretching from Oregon down through Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge and into the Black Rock National Conservation Area.



OUR MISSION

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is dedicated to preserving all qualified Nevada public lands as wilderness, protecting all present and potential wilderness from ongoing threats, educating the public about the values of and need for wilderness, and improving the management and restoration of wildlands.

PO Box 9754
Reno, NV 89507
(775) 324-7667

Shaaron Netherton
Executive Director
shaaron@nevadawilderness.org

Brian Beffort
Associate Director
brian@nevadawilderness.org

Pat Bruce
Field Project Coordinator
pbruce@nevadawilderness.org

Wes Hoskins
Forest Project Coordinator
wes@nevadawilderness.org

Kurt Kuznicki
Southern Nevada Director
Kurt@nevadawilderness.org

Rose Demoret
Administrative Director
rose@nevadawilderness.org

Richard Knox
Membership Coordinator
richard@nevadawilderness.org

Darcy Shepard
Stewardship Technician
darcy@nevadawilderness.org

Board of Directors

Roger Scholl,
State Chair
Hermi Hiatt
Southern Vice-Chair
Karen Boeger,
Rural Vice-Chair
Larry Dwyer,
Treasurer
Meghan Wolf,
Secretary
Peter Bradley
John Hiatt
Marge Sill
Bart Patterson
Kathy Ujifusa

fnw@nevadawilderness.org
www.nevadawilderness.org
nevadawild.blogspot.com
volunteer4wild@blogspot.com
Join us on Facebook!

FROM THE FRONTLINES

I was recently reading Anthony Barnosky's great book *Heatstroke* on global climate change while re-reading *Lord of the Rings*. There's a wonderful quote where Frodo laments the ring coming to him, wishing it hadn't happened, as we wish global climate change hadn't been on our watch. Gandalf the wizard replies to Frodo "So do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us."

So what can we do with the time given to us to make a difference? Research is showing that the Sheldon/Hart Wildlife Refuges and surrounding lands can possibly serve as refugia for species in times of increasing temperatures. On Sheldon alone there are still 150 miles of dangerous to wildlife barbwire and up to 160 damaged springs that need fencing and/or restoration. Our focus in the next two years will be making a difference on-the-ground to the plants and animals that



Shaaron wrestles with barbwire at the 2010 Sheldon Rendezvous.
Photo by Graham Stafford

call Sheldon home by improving their habitat substantially to help them survive the coming years. Our headline story shows what you can do in the time given to us.

Blue Lakes and Alder Creek WSAs are closer to becoming the Pine Forest Range

Wilderness thanks to the hard work of a diverse group of stakeholders lead by Jim Jeffress from Trout Unlimited working through the Humboldt County Commissioners. What a great example of folks working together. Read more about this unique effort.

When I look at what has been accomplished in our wildlands this year alone I am overwhelmed with what our members have achieved through their time and dollar donations. (read about the

details on pages 4 and 5).

Thank you for making 2010 a wild year.
For the wild,

Shaaron

STIMULUS BRINGS JOBS TO NEVADA



In partnership with the Forest Service and funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, Friends created three summer jobs to monitor and protect wilderness. Renee, John and Katie cataloged informal campsites, inventoried and removed invasive weeds, assisted wilderness visitors and helped improve trails and participated in 19 volunteer projects on Nevada's Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. In all, their activities led them more than 1,000 miles through seven wilderness areas and three Forest Service wilderness study areas across the state. Thanks to their hard work, the Forest Service has a better understanding of the uses and challenges waiting on the Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest.



Renee, hard at work in her office on Mt. Rose.



People who care

Wilderness Rangers

By Kurt Kuznicki, Southern Nevada Director



Kurt Kuznicki

Volunteer Wilderness Ranger Andy Sanchez consults with a bristlecone in the Mount Charleston Wilderness.

As the leaves turn yellow and fall begins to settle into the Spring Mountains, the Volunteer Wilderness Rangers are wrapping up for the season.

The Volunteer Rangers have a lot to be proud of this year. They have chatted with hikers about Leave No Trace, helped wilderness visitors find their way, given

advice to novice hikers, passed out extra water to the ill-prepared, and once carried a woman with a sore knee over a mile to the trailhead.

What was the most-asked question the rangers got this season? "How much farther to the top?"

Along with helping forest visitors, the Rangers performed routine trail maintenance, repaired signs,

gathered data about damage to natural resources and provided real-time information on trail conditions to the Forest Service.

Ask if they'll come back next season, and you can see the answer in the sparkle in their eyes and the smile on their faces: they wouldn't miss it for the world.

Thank you Rangers!

The following people gave their time and energy as volunteer rangers in the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, made a difference for everyone—helping visitors enjoy their experience, while minimizing impacts to the land. Thanks, everyone!

You Rock!

Andy Sanchez

Jose Witt

Chris Jayne

Jocelyn Maldonado

Josie Gatti

Greg Gudenkauf

John Bialecki

Kathy Ujifusa

You, too, can become one of the few, the proud, the Volunteer Wilderness Rangers. Contact Kurt at kurt@nevadawilderness.org.

Help the Desert Refuge

The Desert National Wildlife Refuge is the largest wildlife refuge outside of Alaska. It sits on the edge of north Las Vegas and many people have no idea it is there, providing a home to desert bighorn sheep and other critters. Bird lovers know about great birdwatching at Corn Creek (refuge headquarters).



Sharon Schaffer

Give Back to the Desert Refuge. Help build a birdwatching trail. Oct. 30 & Nov. 6 at Corn Creek. Call Kurt for info, (702) 839-5569.

Friends Wins the Golden Pinecone



Brian Beffort

Nevada EcoNet awarded a "Golden Pinecone" award to Friends this year for our work on behalf of Nevada's wild places. We're honored, but we know the real prize goes to volunteers like Catherine and Peggy (above) and everyone else who makes it possible. Thank you!!



Friends in the Field

Sheldon Rendezvous

In June, more than 70 volunteers came from across the country and all walks of life to support the beauty and wildlife of the Sheldon Refuge.

Together we pulled nearly 5 miles of obsolete barbed-wire fence, a legacy from before cattle grazing was eliminated from the Sheldon in 1990s. At the same time, we built exclosures around springs that have been damaged by horses. At the end of the day, Nevada Muleys whipped up an impressive barbecue, and Pat Bruce's Dutch-oven cakes were a delicious capper. Everyone was tired but well-fed after a rewarding day of work. Friends is determined to make the Sheldon a place where deer, antelope and other wildlife can roam.



Graham Stafford

Above: Max holds the post, while Brad from Nevada Muleys install an exclosure post. Below: Proud volunteers after a good day of hard work in Alta Toquima.

Toquima Trails

The Pasco Canyon and Pine Creek trails in the Alta Toquima Wilderness might be two of the more beautiful and best-maintained trails in Nevada these days, thanks to solid work this season by dedicated volunteers. On several trips this year and last, hard-working folks have cut back overgrowth, cleared out downed trees after storms, and rerouted sections of the trail away from mucky and environmentally sensitive spots.

Now, when hunters and hikers head out to this lonely-but-lovely jewel in central Nevada, they'll have a better experience because of these folks' hard work.



John Fiske

Springing Into Action

For years, Friends volunteers have helped the BLM and Forest Service restore areas from vehicle trespass, invasive weeds and other impacts. Now, we're working on projects that will challenge brains and muscles. Friends will be helping the BLM monitor the health of springs in the Black Rock Desert region over the next couple years. Here, volunteers straddled cold air and hot water to measure the health of hot springs at Soldier Meadows. This data will help the BLM keep these water sources resilient in the face of climate change. If you're interested in rewarding work in the field, give us a call.



Alison Hardenburgh



Volunteers at work in 2010



Brian Beffort

Above: Todd channels his internal workhorse to clean up an abandoned mine site in the Black Rock. Below: volunteers install a cable to guard Gold Butte from vehicle abuse.



Wally Wallace

Quantifying Success

The results of our work to help Nevada's wild places are best found in clear streams, foraging deer herds, and the smiles of those who experience Wild Nevada in its glory. But it's also nice to quantify our results, so here's the sum of our fieldwork in 2010:

- Number of projects/trips: 100+
- Number of volunteers on the ground: 1,000+
- In-kind value of all volunteer work: \$250,000

These numbers help us leverage support for future work. Thank you for making it possible!!

National Public Lands Day

Each year in September, Friends volunteers join us to celebrate and give back to our wonderful public lands across Nevada.

In the Black Rock Desert, one crew of volunteers fenced the third Coyote Dune to protect water, plants and kit foxes from off-road vehicles, while another crew cleaned up an abandoned mine site.

In Gold Butte, 25 volunteers built up sweat equity in triple-digit heat, planting over six dozen native plants along the Falling Man Petroglyph Trail and installing 180 fence posts to direct off-road vehicles away from sensitive desert habitats.

Friends of Gold Butte lead this event, and they did an extraordinary job. Although both Friends groups and the BLM were involved in the event, it is the volunteers who deserve the credit for making this day such a big plus for Nevada's wildlands. "This day was a success, because so many people gave up their Saturday to come and make a difference in an amazing and delicate place," said Andy Sanchez, one of our Volunteer Wilderness Rangers from Mt. Charleston, who just can't seem to get enough.

These are only a few of the projects awesome volunteers completed this year. Check out our blogs to see more project photos and stories:

<http://nevadawild.blogspot.com/>
<http://volunteer4wild.blogspot.com/>

Farewell Billie Jean James 1942-2010



Nevada has lost a wonderful and dedicated friend to people, animals and wild places. Billie Jean actively supported numerous causes and volunteered for several organizations. You could count on her to light up a room with her colorful personality and wardrobe. Billie Jean, we miss you. You brought a beautiful spark of life to everything, and everyone, you touched.



Places that matter

Sage Grouse Feel the Heat



Scott Sady

In January, the Fish and Wildlife Service determined that the greater sage grouse “warranted” protection under the Endangered Species Act, but a threatened or endangered listing was “precluded” because the agency does not have the resources to adequately address the issue.

Friends considers this decision a wake up call to help the sage grouse recover as much as possible before the FWS addresses the issue again. A threatened or endangered listing will not only be a bad sign for this beautiful wildlife species, but it will bring frustrating and expensive constraints on private landowners, businesses, and state and federal agencies working in sage grouse habitat. And nobody wants that.

Join us in 2011 when we will make habitat restoration for sage grouse one of our top priorities. Projects are coming to Washoe and Humboldt Counties to help this beautiful bird thrive.

Sheldon

(Cont. from pg.1)

US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), other organizations and volunteers like you to remove at least 40 miles of fence each year over the next two years. We also plan to attach visible reflectors on the Sheldon’s external boundary fences, to minimize sage grouse mortality from collisions with the fences.

We also plan to help the FWS restore springs and streams on the refuge, so they can provide the best possible habitat and forage for wildlife.

Over the next several years, you’ll be hearing more about opportunities to help heal the Sheldon-Hart region. Please support Friends’ efforts during this campaign by joining us on the ground or donating from home. We may not be able to save the whole world, but working together, we can make a difference in this wild, beautiful and fragile landscape.



Kurt Kuznicki

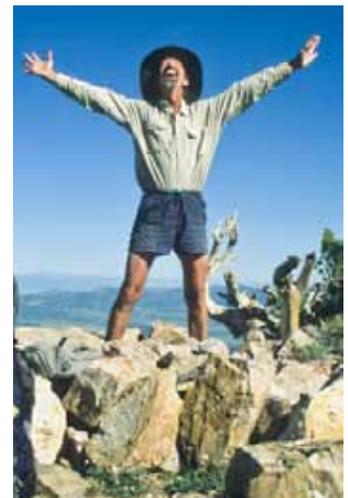
The sagebrush-steppe plants of the Sheldon provide critical habitat for hundreds of wildlife species.

A Plan for the Sheldon

The FWS will release a draft of the Sheldon Refuge’s Comprehensive Conservation Plan toward the end of this year. In July, preliminary alternatives on how the refuge and its resources should be managed (including wilderness) was sent out to the public. Please visit our website for more information on how you can make a difference, or call us at (775) 324-7667.

We Miss You, Walkin’ Jim Stoltz!

For 35 years, you walked more than 28,000 miles across the wild empty places in this country. You sang about mangy moose, grizzlies and living “Forever Wild.” You helped people connect with the wonder and beauty you experienced on your adventures. On September 3rd, poetically the anniversary of the Wilderness Act, you moved on to your next great adventure. We will miss you and always appreciate the joy you brought to us from wild places. Learn more about this wonderful man at walkinjim.com.





Boots on the Ground

When companies like Zappos.com (the biggest online shoe store), Keen (makers of sandals to boots) and REI (sellers of boots and everything else for outdoor enthusiasts) step up to support wilderness, it gives a whole new meaning to "boots on the ground."

On June 16, about 180 Zappos and Keen volunteers partnered with Friends to clean up trails and give the Mt. Charleston campground's tables, toilets and signs a much needed face-lift. REI employees joined us on October 3rd to restore an illegal vehicle scar leading toward the wilderness and improve the trail before being chased out of the wilds by a quick-moving thunderstorm. Talk about putting a good foot forward!



REI employees showing their love for Mt. Charleston.
Photo by Kurt Kuznicki

Congratulations John Hiatt!

On October 16, John Hiatt received a Life Time Achievement Award from the four federal land management agencies in Southern Nevada. John



Brian Beffort

John Hiatt is making Nevada a better place, one fencepost at a time.

has given more than three decades of volunteer service to wild public lands. He was a key player in creating the Red Rock NCA and in getting wilderness areas designated throughout southern Nevada. He has also given thousands of hours of hard work on the ground. We are proud to have him as a longtime board member of Friends of Nevada Wilderness. Thank you, John!

Thank you, Catherine Smith

Although Catherine Smith passed in 2009, she continues to make a difference to wild places across Nevada, because she named Friends of Nevada Wilderness as a beneficiary to her estate.

Catherine loved the outdoors, was a life-long believer in the "web of life" and worked tirelessly for the land. Many of us had the opportunity to join her on the trail.

Shortly before her death, she attended Friends' first Sheldon Rendezvous.

Catherine's generous gift makes it possible for Friends to care for Nevada's wild heritage in her name. Thank you.



Walter Smith

Catherine with her grandson Maxwell

Leave a Legacy of Wilderness

Let your love for nature continue your good work after you pass.

You can name Friends of Nevada Wilderness as a beneficiary to all or part of the following assets:

- 401k or retirement plan
- Life insurance
- Stocks and bonds
- Real estate

Friends places all bequests in our "Forever Wild" fund to maximize long-term benefits to wild places.

Speak with your advisor, or call Friends' Executive Director Shaaron Netherton at (775) 324-7667.

Save the Dates!

StorySongs: From the Soul of the Earth

November 12, 6:30pm
At Patagonia Bldg., Reno

An extraordinary live event
blending the photographs
of Mark Vollmer with the
music of Jim Eaglesmith.

*A benefit for Friends of
Nevada Wilderness.*

Adults \$15/Seniors \$10/ Kids\$5

Order your tickets today
(775) 324-7667

Wild Winter Wingding

December 10, 6pm to 10pm
Grand Sierra Resort
(Tahoe Room)

Help Friends celebrate the
year's successes and thank
our fantastic volunteers.

Good Food!
Silent Auction and Raffle!
Live Music!
Open to Everyone!



Sale!! 2011 Wild Nevada Calendar!

Buy them at your favorite store, or
order 3 calendars from us by
November 15, and get the outrageous
price of 3 for \$25 (Shipping included)

Don't miss out!

Send an email to
fnw@nevadawilderness.org
to sign up for our invitations and
breaking news about wild Nevada!



NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
RENO NV
PERMIT NO. 318