



25 years

Friends of Nevada Wilderness

Working to keep Nevada forever WILD

Spring 2009

wild

About 2009



Jim Yoakum



Brian Belfort

What a great year 2009 will be here in wild Nevada.

Join us this spring as we restore and improve access to the East Walker River. Get your kids out on one of our family friendly campouts. Discover the wonders of Gold Butte. Enjoy the wildflowers on the Sheldon Refuge.

Help maintain the 72-mile-long Toiyabe Crest trail in central Nevada. In April, learn Leave No Trace camping from our certified instructors. Stop by our booth and say "hi" at Earth Day in Reno at Idlewild Park. Gaze at the milky way under a black velvet sky at the Black Rock Desert Rendezvous.

your public lands.

Get involved. There are lots of ways to give back to your public lands. There is something for everyone, and it's great to be out in wild, beautiful places with caring, friendly people. It also feels good to know your donation is making a difference. Thanks for giving back to these lands that give us so much.

Learn how you can help the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and US Fish & Wildlife Service to manage

Our Silver Anniversary



In 1984, caring Nevadans founded Friends of Nevada Wilderness to give Nevada's beautiful and threatened public lands a local voice for protection.

Learn about upcoming projects on page 4

Since that time, our amazing journey has led to a long list of successes, including a wealth of wild places for you and yours to explore and enjoy—from the Ruby Mountains to Rainbow Mountain, Mt. Rose to Mt. Moriah and 64 other wilderness areas across the state. We've also built Nevada's only state-wide Wilderness Stewardship program to keep these places wild.

The many people who have helped Nevada's wild places have been an inspiration and a joy. Without people like you, so much of this would not have been possible. Thank you.

But our work has just begun. As long as there is wilderness in Nevada, there will be Friends of Nevada Wilderness. With your help, Nevada's wild heart will still beat strongly in another 25 years. Please support our work to keep Nevada wild.



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 wild lands.

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FROM THE FRONTLINES

By Shaaron Netherton

I am so glad that March started out with spring showers here in Nevada. I saw tiny phlox and violets blooming the first day of March on the hills behind my house. My roses never even went dormant this winter.

With climate change challenging us, I ask myself what can we collectively do as Friends of Nevada Wilderness to help plants and critters hang in there. Of course we can all lessen our carbon footprint by conserving energy, but we can also work harder to protect places large enough for animals to move

to find food and water. Locally, we can look at our public lands in Nevada and find the best habitat and the most critical places that need our help. One of the best examples of sagebrush steppe community in the state is found on the little-known Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge in northern Washoe County. Read more about what an incredible place this is and what you can do to keep it healthy for the plants and creatures that call it home. This spring also marks the 25th anniversary of Friends of Nevada Wilderness.

Here's to the next 25 years!

Gold Butte

Friends and the Nevada Wilderness Coalition have proposed a National Conservation Area and wilderness complex that would help conserve the area's threatened beauty and natural resources, while still allowing people necessary access.

Our proposal is consistent with the BLM's travel plan for the area. So far, the BLM has signed all routes with carsonite posts as either designated open or closed and their restoration team has been busy restoring past disturbances in the Gold Butte area.

We're excited by the interest Gold Butte's new Congresswoman, Dina Titus, has expressed in the area. We look forward to working with her and Nevada's full Congressional delegation to give Gold Butte the protection it deserves.



Brian Beffort

You never know what you'll discover in Gold Butte.

Mail call

Please contact Representative Dina Titus. Ask her to support an NCA and wilderness in Gold Butte.

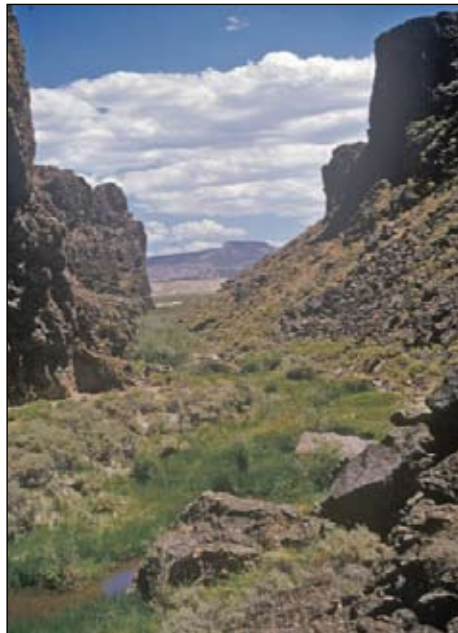


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Secrets of the Sheldon

Waiting in remote northern Nevada, Sheldon's vast beauty can take your breath away. Birds of prey ride thermals along cliffs and deep gorges; high volcanic tables of grass, sage and wildflowers rise above the surrounding landscape like forts, dotted with small lakes and archaeological wonders; mother antelope nuzzle their kids; and vistas are so big you can feel them.



A sage grouse struts his stuff; a pronghorn kid finds his legs; Thousand Creek Gorge is one of several canyons that provide shelter and sustenance for wildlife. Photos by Jim Yoakum.

In the early 1970s, the FWS recommended eight parcels of the refuge for wilderness to the President and Congress.

One of the largest and most ecologically intact of these areas is Big Spring Table. At 65,000 acres, it is the hub of the refuge for wildlife including pronghorn and bighorn sheep. The Rock Spring Table is the highest table in the refuge with many scattered basin lakes. Virgin Creek runs about 17 miles along the table's west side through a steep, rugged gorge, providing great habitat for birds. Other wild places include Mahogany Mountain, Big Mountain, and Fish Creek Mountain.

Livestock grazing permits were purchased and retired in 1993, creating one of the largest blocks of ungrazed sagebrush steppe habitat.

Refuge under siege?

Being a refuge sadly doesn't protect this gem. Threats to the ecological integrity of the Sheldon include invasive plants and animals, degraded wildlife forage resulting from years of livestock grazing and fire suppression, proposed for pipelines, proposed uranium mining, illegal vehicle use, poaching and climate change.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will issue

Sheldon's draft management plan for public review this summer. Friends of Nevada Wilderness has been working with diverse other groups, individuals and refuge personnel to ensure this is a strong plan.

For more planning information visit the refuge site www.fws.gov/Sheldonthartmntn/Sheldon/index.html

Learn more at our website: www.nevadawilderness.org
Click the Sheldon refuge link on the left.

SHELDON RENDEZVOUS

Celebrate the summer solstice on the Sheldon Refuge, June 19-21. Join volunteers from across Nevada for a weekend of fence-pulling, discovering wildflowers, meeting great people, where the deer and the antelope play.

Find details at our website: www.nevadawilderness.org
Click "see all events" on the right

Keeping on Tracks

Travel management planning isn't sexy, but it is crucially important for our public lands. People often disagree about where vehicles should be allowed to drive.

The Forest Service in Nevada is making tough calls on vehicle travel 2009, with help from the public. This process will determine where it is OK to drive. Cross country travel off roads will no longer be allowed, and sensitive lands and views will have better protection.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is working with the Forest Service to ensure our wild places stay that way. Our volunteers will help restore vehicle routes that are no longer needed.

Your Donation Makes a difference!

Help make sure the next 25 years will be as good for Nevada's wild places as the last 25. Donate to Friends of Nevada Wilderness today. Thank you!

Upcoming events and restoration trips

March 26. Images from the Wildlands of Southern Nevada. Presentation and reception with artist Sharon Schafer. 5-8:30 pm. Nevada State Museum, 600 N. Carson St., Carson City.

March 27-29. Soldier Meadows / Fly Canyon. Restoration. 4 hours north of Reno.

April 19. Earth Day Celebration. Information, fun and community. 10am-4pm. Idlewild Park, Reno.

April 24-26. Leave No Trace Training Car Camp. Lavabeds, about 2 hours from Reno.

May 1-3. High Rock Canyon. Restoration. 4 hours north of Reno.

May 11-15. Table Mountain Wilderness. Restoration, about 1 hour north of Tonopah.

May 22-24. Black Rock Rendezvous. Seminars, celebration and restoration. 3 hrs from Reno.

June 6-13. Highland Ridge Wilderness. Restoration with British Conservation Volunteers. 4 hours east of Reno.

June 18-21. Alta Toquima Wilderness. Restoration backpacking trip on the Pasco Canyon Trail. 4 hours east of Reno.

June 19-21. Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. Restoration and exploration 4 hours north of Reno.

June 26-28. Arc Dome Wilderness. Restoration. 3 hours east of Reno.

July 26-August 1. Highland Ridge Wilderness. Restoration British Conservation Volunteers. 4 hours east of Reno.

August 7-9. North Black Rock Range. Restoration. 4 hours north of Reno.

September 18-20. National Public Lands Day. Family-friendly restoration trip.

All trips and events are free (or refundable for the Leave No Trace course).

Most Wilderness Stewardship trips require car camping (unless noted). You will need food, camping equipment, proper clothing and other supplies. We can advise. Call us to carpool or caravan.

Please RSVP for each trip, so we can make appropriate food, tool and travel arrangements. For details, updates, or to RSVP, please contact Friends of Nevada Wilderness at (775) 324-7667.

www.nevadawilderness.org

Don't miss out!

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

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