



**I
N
S
I
D
E**

- FROM THE FRONT LINES: *Thank You Volunteers!* **2**
- TAKE A HIKE: *To Falling Man in Gold Butte* **3**
- STEWARDSHIP: *Department of Wildland Security* **4**
- WASHOE COUNTY OPEN SPACE: *Help Keep it Open* **7**
- 2008 EVENTS: *Mark your calendars* **8**

Friends of Nevada Wilderness

MARCH 2008

Gold Butte: Riches worth protecting



Exploring the sandstone wonderlands of Gold Butte.

Photo courtesy Woods Wheatcroft

Northeast of Las Vegas, nestled between the Overton Arm of Lake Mead and the Arizona border, lies the 300,000-acre region known as Gold Butte. Its wondrous geology, rare wildlife, deep history, remote and undeveloped camping opportunities, and timeless solitude inspire wonder.

"It's incredibly beautiful out here, with the red rock,

sandstone, and views of Arizona and Lake Mead," said Nancy Hall, president of Friends of Gold Butte. "It's also a huge piece of history, going all the way back to early native Americans and Spanish settlers. "But right now, it's not being loved to death; it's being unmanaged to death."

Excessive and uncontrolled off-road vehicle use and other disrespectful human activities are damaging this fragile land.

More photos and hiking at Gold Butte. Page 3



Luckily, Nancy has a vision of wilderness for the wild, beautiful, roadless places in Gold Butte, and National Conservation Area status for the entire region. This will balance access with conservation, while providing information to help

people appreciate what makes Gold Butte so special.

All too often, off-trail ORVs rip through desert tortoise habitat, and vandals deface priceless archaeological relics.

Each day also brings people who discover Gold Butte and pledge to respect and protect its wonders. Please join these great folks to give people long into the future opportunities to discover the wild wondrous riches of Gold Butte.

Ancient bristlecones hold council on the high slopes of Mt. Charleston Wilderness.

Photo by Brian Beffort



Why I Love Wilderness / MIKE DWYER

Every now and again, life deals up a real zinger. One of mine came in 1998 – my 19-year marriage was ending. It was soul-searching time and I needed a sanctuary. I found it in the Mt. Charleston Wilderness Area on the limestone ridge two miles up the North Loop Trail. I went early and often on Sunday mornings.

I was definitely ready to leave 1998 behind, but had no interest in

champagne at midnight. I wanted to say goodbye to 1998 on top of the mountain. I had been eying the summit for more than a week, noting the relative lack of snow. The forecast was for a clear and sunny day. That was all I needed. I was on the trail at 7 a.m., passing the wilderness boundary sign within a few minutes. After four hours of climbing,

continued on page 6



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.

Office Address

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

Angie Dykema
Forest Project Coordinator
angie@nevadawilderness.org

Richard Knox
Membership Coordinator
richard@nevadawilderness.org

Rose Demoret
Administrative Director
rose@nevadawilderness.org

Adriane Zacmanidis
Southern Nevada Director
adriane@nevadawilderness.org

Board of Directors

Hermi Hiatt,
State Chair

Karen Boeger,
Rural Vice-Chair

Bart Patterson,
Southern Vice-Chair

Roger Scholl,
Treasurer

Sarah Perrault,
Secretary

Bob Abbey

Peter Bradley

John Hiatt

Kurt Kuznicki

Marge Sill

Meghan Sural

fnw@nevadawilderness.org
www.nevadawilderness.org
http://nevadawild.blogspot.com



FROM THE FRONTLINES

Thanks to all who helped wilderness in 2007



Shaaron Netherton
executive director

I am so thankful that Nevada has received real snow this winter to help strengthen our watersheds and hopefully give us a wildflower show this spring. After such a gloomy January, some of the February sunshine was a nice treat and I enjoyed it snowshoeing and hiking.

I would like to thank all of you who responded to our year-end request for donations for wilderness stewardship to match a \$40,000 grant from the National Forest Foundation. We are well on our way to our goal and have been able to extend the deadline to March 31. Donate today, and watch it double in good on the ground.

We have an exciting season of wilderness stewardship trips and events like Earth Day. Consult our schedule on Page 8, visit our website, or give us a call, then choose a trip to join. There are many ways to give back to the land; not all of them entail hard work. Join us and find one that makes you smile:

Take pictures or notes, help around camp, and soak in the WILD all around.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who made our Wilderness Stewardship trips in 2007 so fun and successful. Together, we completed 34 projects with 249 volunteers, who worked 6,078 hours, generating \$85,642 of in-kind labor for wilderness—and we made good friends and had a great time doing it. Join us. We can't wait to meet you out in the wild this season.

We are also excited about bringing Nevada's wild beauty to an art gallery near you. The Reno-Tahoe International Airport has invited Friends to hang an exhibit of our greatest photographs from our *Wild Nevada* calendars.

This beautiful exhibit will help thousands of people discover some of Nevada's wild beauty, while learning what Friends of Nevada Wilderness is doing to help keep Nevada forever wild. It's a great chance to advertise our work to a wide audience.

Be a patron of the arts. Please help make this exhibit a success by sending your donation today. Thank you.

**NEW &
IMPROVED
WEBSITE!**

www.nevadawilderness.org

Log on today and discover...

- How to get involved with protecting Nevada's wilderness. Volunteer opportunities are only a click away.
- Beautiful pictures and descriptions of Nevada's wild places.
 - Ideas on getting kids into the wild.
- A wealth of information on Nevada wilderness legislation and management, archived newsletters, words of inspiration, etc.
 - How to support Nevada's wild places.



TAKE A HIKE

Cash in on nature's beauty at Gold Butte

By Brian Beffort

Gold Butte is a vast and remote landscape, but some of its most remarkable sights are its most accessible. At Whitney Pockets, about 90 minutes northeast of Las Vegas, colorful sandstone formations rise from the desert floor, surrounded by yucca and barrel cactus; ancient petroglyphs and pictographs grace a few hidden walls.

At Whitney Pockets, you can hike (watch out for fragile cryptobiotic soils), explore the rock formations, or simply enjoy the shade and camp among desert beauty.

One of the wonderful places at Whitney Pockets is Falling Man Rocks, located 2 miles south of Whitney Pockets. One mile west of pavement's end, take the unsigned, unmaintained dirt track heading south. Whenever the road forks, aim for the sandstone outcrop just to the north of the volcanic butte and larger (but still minor) peak to the south. Park on the north end of the rock formation and explore the colorful sandstone theater from there on foot.

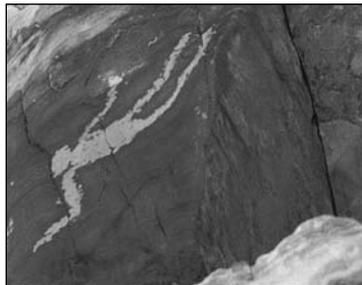
Although it's popular, Gold Butte has no services. Top off your tank in Glendale or Mesquite, and stock your vehicle with all provisions and emergency gear.

Please Leave No Trace when hiking and camping in the area.

For more detailed discussion on Gold Butte and suggestions of specific hikes, see *Afoot & Afield Las Vegas*, by Friends' Associate Director Brian Beffort, available from our website, www.nevadawilderness.org.



Colorful sandstone formations at Whitney Pockets.
Photo by Brian Beffort



Ancient stories in stone.
Photo by Alvin McLane



"Where did I park my car?"
Photo by Woods Wheatcroft

Getting there

From Las Vegas, take I-15 north, then take Exit 112 to Riverside/Bunkerville. Turn right/east, cross the Virgin River, then turn right/south onto the first unsigned, paved road. This road will wind up and down for 19 miles until the colorful and shapely sandstone outcrops will announce your arrival to the Whitney Pockets area. The pavement ends at about 20 miles, just before the intersection with the short road that heads north to Whitney Pockets proper.

Find a place to park among the sandstone, and set out in any direction to explore. Watch out for sensitive cryptobiotic soils, and make sure to stay found.

For more information, contact the BLM, Las Vegas District: (702) 515-5000; www.nv.blm.gov/vegas/

Mail call



**Speak
out for
Gold
Butte!**

Write your Senators and Representative. Urge them to protect Gold Butte as a National Conservation Area with Wilderness. Learn more about what makes Gold Butte special and how you can help at www.nevadawilderness.org.

Senator Harry Reid

Lloyd D. George Building
333 Las Vegas Boulevard
South, # 8016
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Senator John Ensign

333 Las Vegas Blvd. South,
8203
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Representative

Shelley Berkley
2340 Paseo Del Prado,
Suite D-106
Las Vegas, NV 89102

Representative Jon Porter

2501 N. Green Valley
Pkway, #112D
Henderson, NV 89014



Department of Wildland Security

THREAT LEVEL: RED

Wilderness areas are in trouble

By Angie Dykema

According to the Forest Service, Nevada's Forest Service wilderness areas are in the red. You can help get them back where they should be—in the green.

Four years ago, Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth issued his "Chief's 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge" to make sure all wilderness areas are managed appropriately in time for the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Act in 2014.

All Forest Service wilderness areas have been ranked according to specific criteria, including invasive weed control, the presence of solitude and opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation; campsite and trail inventories, the presence of education and fire plans, etc.

The Chief's Challenge scores wilderness by color: green wilderness areas are in good shape; yellow areas are OK but need improvement; and red areas are considered unacceptable.

Currently, all but 5 of Nevada's 23 Forest Service wilderness areas are in the red, but hope is not lost.

Friends is dedicated to pushing your Forest Service wilderness areas out of the red and into the green, and you can help heal your wild places.

Up to the challenge? Spend some spare time this summer to take the pulse of a wilderness area. Check out the position description below.

To learn more about the Chief's Challenge, please visit our website at http://www.nevadawilderness.org/items/document_USFS_Chiefs_10-Year_Wildr_StewChallenge.pdf



Angie Dykema and volunteer Jeff Erdoes patrol the backcountry of the Mt. Rose Wilderness.

Seeking Wilderness Monitors

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is seeking a few dedicated volunteers to commit to hiking trails in specific wilderness areas and collect data on invasive weeds, campsites, visitor use and impacts such as vehicle trespass. This information will help the Forest Service raise Chief's Challenge scores for targeted wilderness areas.

For details about the position, contact Angie Dykema, Forest Project Coordinator, at (775) 324-7667 or angie@nevadawilderness.org



Tough assignment, but somebody's got to do it. Will you hike in and let us know how things are at Liberty Lake in the Ruby Mountains Wilderness?

Photo by Norman Herterich



Wilderness for the flying masses

Support Friends' photo exhibit

Please donate today. Deadline: April 11, 2008

The Reno-Tahoe International Airport has invited Friends to exhibit our favorite wilderness photographs from our Wild Nevada calendars in the from June through August this year (the airport's busiest season).

This exhibit will bring some of Nevada's wild beauty to thousands of people, and it will help Friends' advertise our work to keep Nevada forever wild. Once this exhibit is over, Friends will have a collection of fine photographs to display in galleries, restaurants, public



Above: Sunset over the Monte Christo Range.

Photo courtesy Steve Chandler

Below: A coyote watches from the trees.

Photo courtesy Kurt Kuznicki

buildings and elsewhere.

Please help us take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to help a wide audience find inspiration in Nevada's wild places, hopefully enough to join our work to conserve them.

Send your tax-deductible donation today, or give securely on our website.



The art of nature: Sharon Schafer exhibit

Images from the wildlands of Southern Nevada on display until June 1



Photographs, paintings, and field sketches by Sharon Schafer (the artist who beautifully redesigned Friends' logo recently) invite visitors to explore the stunning natural

beauty of southern Nevada's wildlands, the landscapes, its creatures and vegetation.

Artist and naturalist Schafer gives viewers "a different perspective" on

southern Nevada's public lands, not as a desert wasteland, but rather as a place of unparalleled natural beauty and diversity deserving care and concern.

At the Nevada State Museum in Lorenzi Park, 700 Twin Lakes Dr. Las Vegas, NV 89107. Call the museum for details: (702) 486-5205.

Keep Nevada wild
Find out more about Friends' stewardship programs at our website,
www.nevadawilderness.org
and on our stewardship blog
nevadawild.blogspot.com.
To get more details or sign up for a trip, contact Pat or Angie at (775) 324-7667.



It's a Dedicated Few Who Wear the Blue, and We Appreciate Our Other Volunteers, Too!

If you spot someone wearing a blue helmet on a Friends of Nevada Wilderness trip, you will know she went above and beyond for Nevada's wild lands. A total of 14 blue helmets were awarded to exceptional volunteers for the 2007 season at our volunteer appreciation parties held in Reno and Las Vegas. Thanks to everyone who came to our events, our event hosts (Se7en and other businesses at Arlington Towers, and the Majorie Barrick Museum at UNLV), and those who donated prizes to make them successful. For a full list of all volunteers and supporters of these events, see our website, www.nevadawilderness.org.



Blue Helmet award winners Bill James, Kurt Kuznicki, Andy Fikus, John Hiatt and Hermi Hiatt. Not pictured: Caleb Burke, Jonathan Fleck, Wes Hoskins, Joel Ingram, Keith Jermalowicz, Lucy Larson, Maggie Robinson and Kevin Rybacki.

Love

continued from page 1

I reached the point I had been turned around the previous May, when wet snow balled up in my crampons and turned them into sticks of butter. But on this day, the temperature trumped the sunlight and the snow offered up reassuring squeaks under foot.

Climbing produces a strange combination of pain and pleasure that, for me at least, is often the catalyst for intense introspection. Mt. Charleston can dole out plenty of both. The 16 mile round-trip and elevation gain of 4,213 feet deliver the former. The serenity and the natural beauty, particularly in the winter, deliver the latter.

As I worked my way up the trail that morning, it didn't take long for introspection to kick in. I searched for my responsibility in the failed marriage; I thought about how much I loved my two children and how this must be affecting them; and I wondered what might lie ahead for us all.



Rugged cliffs rise high above the forest on Mount Charleston.
Photo by Brian Beffort

When I needed breaks from the inner journey, the Mountain served up challenges. At one point, I lost the trail in the snow and had to back-track.

At another, a sheer 1,000-foot drop lay just one step off the snow covered trail. And

finally, just above tree-line, the unobstructed wind froze the water-line from my hydration pack.

But I overcame them all, and at 1 p.m. was on the summit. There, alone on that windy peak, I made peace with the

toughest year of my life. I knew at that moment that everything was going to be fine. Yes, there would be more zingers, but I knew I could endure. As I walked off the summit I wondered out-loud what treasures 1999 might hold.

At 6 p.m. I passed the wilderness boundary sign. The sun had set more than an hour before. The cloudless sky above the Griffith—Charleston ridgeline went from azure at the horizon to pitch black directly overhead. Stars were beginning to appear. The air was perfectly still. It was a perfect end for a perfect metaphor of a day.

On July 2, 2000, I took another morning hike to the limestone ridge, but this time I was not alone. In November 1999, I hit treasure. Her name is Anne. On that morning, at my favorite spot, I asked her to marry me.

Mike Dwyer is the former Field Manager of the BLM Las Vegas District.



Washoe County's open space needs your help

The latest draft of Washoe County's Regional Open Space Plan was introduced to the public on January 24. It is a well-prepared, vision-driven document, intended as a blueprint for conservation in southern Washoe for 20 years. It is a product of wise input from knowledgeable members of our community.

In addition to its clear vision and assessment of existing resources, the plan includes innovative concepts, such as an overarching goal of "green infrastructure," and using market and mitigation tools for preserving green infrastructure. However, this plan will succeed only if it's approved and implemented.



You can help keep the Virginia Mountains north of Reno wild and free for all. Photo courtesy Kurt Kuznicki.

How can you help?

■ Familiarize yourself with documents and maps available online. Follow links from www.washoecounty.us/departments/

community development

■ Washoe County residents, please write, call or email the county commissioners. Thank them for funding the plan, and share your thoughts and

concerns. Call 328-2005 or log onto www.co.washoe.nv.us/bcc/contact.html

■ Reno and Sparks residents can email, write or call their mayors and city councilpersons. Urge them to implement the plan in their jurisdictions.

Reno: call 334-2002 or log onto www.ci.reno.nv.us/

Sparks: call 353-2311 or log onto www.ci.sparks.nv.us/

■ Attend upcoming county, city and regional adoption meetings.

For contact and meeting info, go to www.keepwashoewild.org, or subscribe to the Wild Washoe email newsletter list by emailing wildwashoe@gmail.com.

LEAVE A LEGACY OF WILDERNESS ... FOREVER!

Support the Friends of Nevada Wilderness endowment.

Contact the Community Foundation of Western Nevada (Reno) at (775) 333-5499, or the Nevada Community Foundation (Las Vegas) at (702) 892-2326.

Yes!

I want to keep Nevada wild by joining Friends of Nevada Wilderness!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone (day): _____ Email: _____

_____ \$25 Supporter _____ \$50 Friend _____ \$100 Superfriend

_____ \$500 Benefactor _____ Other _____ Monthly, charge my credit card

Payment by: _____ check _____ charge (Visa & Mastercard only)

Card No.: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

I would like to learn more about:

_____ Volunteering

_____ A presentation at my company or club

_____ Leaving a legacy with a bequest

Thank you!

BECOME A MEMBER

Make checks and mail to: Friends of Nevada Wilderness, PO Box 9754, Reno, NV 89507
Or give securely on our website: www.nevadawilderness.org



2008 events

Trips are free, but space is limited. Call for more info or to RSVP at (775) 324-7667.

Soldier Meadows Rehabilitation

March 28-30, in the heart of the Black Rock National Conservation Area

Earth Day, Reno

Sunday, April 20, from 10 am to 4 pm at Idlewild Park.

Summerlin Earth Faire, Las Vegas

Saturday, April 19, from 10 am to 4 pm at Summerlin Centre Community Park

High Rock Lake Wilderness restoration

May 2-4, high in the Calico Mountains in the Black Rock NCA

Lincoln County invasive weed removal

May 16-18, wilderness and details TBA

Black Rock Rendezvous

May 23-26, based in Gerlach, about

90 minutes north of Reno. The kick-off volunteer training, projects and hoe-down for the field season in the Black Rock region. A great way to learn new skills and meet great people.

Mt. Charleston Wilderness restoration

May 31, an hour north of Las Vegas.

Mt. Rose Wilderness weed removal

June 1, within an hour of Reno.

High Schells Wilderness restoration

June 21-22, an hour northeast of Ely

Becky Peak Wilderness restoration

June 27-29, 90 minutes northeast of Ely

Central Nevada restoration with Nevada Outdoor School

July 7-13; several projects in central Nevada

Goshute Canyon Wilderness restoration

July 18-20 in the Cherry Creek Range, north of Ely

High Schells Wilderness restoration

July 19-20, an hour northeast of Ely

Friends' Summer Celebration, Reno

July 19. Join us as we celebrate

Nevada's great people and places, details TBA.

Lahontan Cutthroat Trout ISA restoration

August 1-3; the North Black Rock Range

Mount Moriah Wilderness restoration

August 2-3, just north of Great Basin National Park

Central Nevada restoration with Nevada Outdoor School

August 12-17, on several projects in central Nevada.

Highland Ridge Wilderness restoration

August 22-24, in the Snake Range, just south of Great Basin National Park

High Schells Wilderness restoration

September 6-7, an hour north of Ely

Mount Grafton Wilderness restoration

September 12-14, an hour south of Ely

National Public Lands Day

September 19-21. Save the date for our biggest volunteer events of the year, details TBA

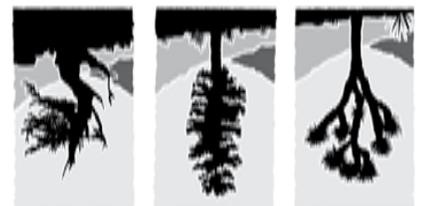
Help Keep Nevada Wild!

Return Service Requested

Reno, NV 89507

PO Box 9754

Friends of Nevada Wilderness



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