

## Volunteers Sizzle on National Public Lands Day in Gold Butte, Nevada



*Volunteers doing dirty work in the heat on Public Lands Day (photo by Andy Sanchez)*

again next year.

Due to the extreme temperatures, Friends of Gold Butte ensured the team stayed hydrated and comfortable – Comfort Tents were set up with cold drinks and snacks. Volunteers were also awarded free CamelBak water bottles for their hard work.

The event was organized and funded in partnership with Friends of Gold Butte and the Las Vegas Bureau of Land Management and supported by Friends of Nevada Wilderness.

“Two different pro-wilderness conservation groups teamed up and worked together with one purpose - to preserve

Volunteers built up a lot of sweat equity in Nevada’s natural resources on Sept. 25, 2010 for National Public Lands Day in Gold Butte, Nevada. In triple-degree heat, 25 volunteers planted over six dozen pieces of native flora along the Falling Man Petroglyph Trail and installed 180 fence posts to direct off-road vehicles away from sensitive desert habitats.

“I worked on installing post fencing to designate a parking/turn around area for off-road vehicle users,” said volunteer Andy Sanchez. It was his first time volunteering for National Public Lands Day, but is planning “without a doubt” to come out



*Friends of Gold Butte President Nancy Hall and Kurt Kuznicki (photo by Andy Sanchez)*

and protect Gold Butte,” said Kurt Kuznicki, Southern Nevada Program Director for Friends of Nevada Wilderness.

But the volunteers deserve the most credit. “I feel like National Public Lands Day was a success in Gold Butte because so many people gave up their Saturday to come and make a difference in an amazing and delicate place,” said Sanchez.

Even members of Friends of Gold Butte who couldn’t make it out contributed: the nonprofit organization raised \$2500 for this event including \$1,600 for posts and \$325 for native nursery plants.

The Clark County Commission as well as Mayor Susan Holecheck of the Gold Butte-neighboring city of Mesquite has voiced their support of conservation projects in the beautiful area.

Gold Butte, northeast of the neon lights of Las Vegas, is home to rock formations like Mosquito Arch and archaeological treasures including the drawings along the Falling Man Petroglyph Trail.



*Mosquito Arch (top, photo by Steffen Synnatschke) and petroglyphs along the trail (photo by Brian Beffort)*