



## MUCK NO MATCH FOR WILDERNESS VOLUNTEERS

Wind, rain, and mud didn't deter wilderness warriors in the Black Rock Desert this Memorial Day weekend during the seventh annual Black Rock Rendezvous.

Over 100 participants from Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Nevada Outdoor School, and Friends of Black Rock-High Rock headed out to the Black Rock National Conservation Area for a weekend of work, speakers, and Dutch oven delights!

Rendezvous attendees left the Black Rock a little muddy but feeling good. "It always surprises me how good it feels to do good things—when I'm doing something that helps the land," said Michelle Bashin. "It really does make me feel



good inside. This was a great experience."

Sunday saw volunteers up early and ready to put in some hard work.

One team built over 30 yards of buck and rail fence to discourage off-highway vehicle trespass into sensitive habitat in the dunes surrounding the Black Rock

playa. A few miles away in the Calico Mountains, another group of volunteers erased the traces of three illegal off-roading routes.

Nevada Outdoor School joined the volunteers monitoring springs in the area and led a nature hike with the kids while the adults learned how to gather

information to complete a Level One Spring Survey to characterize the spring and surrounding area.

The eight volunteers collected data on three springs.

Volunteer Susan Terry was thrilled to learn she could check-out a spring monitoring kit and engage in citizen science on her own schedule.

"I work so many hours, I have to make myself take the time to get outside and do something," Susan said. "And I love springs; finding them is so exciting when you get to see the water and all the life around it in a place where people think there isn't any. I can't wait to get out and do it again."

