



FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Forest Service honors Friends of Nevada Wilderness with Wilderness Stewardship award.

RENO—The U.S. Forest Service has awarded Friends of Nevada Wilderness the national Bob Marshall Award for Group Championship of Wilderness Stewardship. Only one organization each year receives this award which recognizes exemplary leadership and outstanding accomplishments in wilderness stewardship and going the extra mile to keep these special places wild for the future.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is dedicated to the long-term conservation of Nevada's wild watersheds, wildlife habitat, open space and opportunities for traditional recreation on Nevada's majestic public lands. Friends worked proudly with the citizens of White Pine County to protect many of White Pine County's backcountry jewels, such as the High Schells, Mt. Grafton, Goshute Canyon, Huesser Mountain, the South Egan Range, Highland Ridge, and other wild places in White Pine County.

Friends also knows that Wilderness designation is only part of what's necessary to keep the land wild, beautiful and free. It's also important to be good stewards of the land by working with Nevadans and federal land management agencies to ensure these places stay wild on the ground, not just on maps.

"We are deeply honored to receive this award," said Wes Hoskins, Friends' Forest Project coordinator, who has led numerous volunteer trips in White Pine County in 2008. "But we also know that our volunteers really made it possible. These people have traveled far and worked hard to give back to their public lands. Awards are nice, but the greatest honor is definitely working with them."

In 2007 and 2008 alone, Friends has worked with volunteers, the Forest Service and the BLM to complete 10 wilderness restoration projects in White Pine County, generating 2,427 volunteer hours worth more than \$41,335 of in-kind labor to help improve wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities in these areas.

Members of the press and public are invited to join Friends on a volunteer stewardship trip this weekend (September 13) in the Highland Ridge Wilderness, in the southern Snake Range. Volunteers will work with the Bureau of Land Management to improve camping and access points. For more information, call Christy White with the Great Basin Institute at (775) 289-4300, or Brian Beffort with Friends at (775) 324-7667.