



Friends of Nevada Wilderness STEWARDSHIP DISPATCH

June 2012

The Zappos Family and KEEN Footwear Clean Up Mt. Charleston



Thanks to 105 volunteers from the Zappos Family and KEEN Footwear, Mt. Charleston's recreation sites are clean and ready for visitors.

During the third annual clean-up with Friends of Nevada Wilderness, teams painted 53 picnic table and bench sets, cleaned out 45 public barbecue grills, and removed 15 cubic yards of trash.

Volunteers also constructed five miles of trail and broke up illegal fire rings.

"I'm out here enjoying some of this amazing weather, and it's for a good cause!" said Daron, who

works with Zappos.com. "Everyone should take advantage of the Mt. Charleston recreation system."

"It's a great break-up to the work week – you get out of the office and get to help out," said Temple, who works with Zappos Development, Inc. in the content department.

Kurt Kuznicki, Southern Nevada Program Director for Friends, led the project, sponsored by the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership. "I'm thrilled so many folks are willing to lend a hand to keep public recreation areas in great condition. It's our belief that if folks come out and see a freshly painted table and a

beautiful picnic area, they'll leave it that way."

The Zappos Family showed their support for wild Nevada with a \$5,000 contribution to Friends of Nevada Wilderness.

Chris Enlow, who manages KEEN Footwear's care and community programs at the company's Portland headquarters, joined in the fun with more good news: each year, clean-up volunteers are treated to a new pair of KEENs and a commemorative KEEN shirt. This year, over 30 volunteers choose to forgo new shoes and instead donate the value to Friends of Nevada Wilderness.

PREPARING LYE CREEK CAMPGROUND FOR WORK BY YOUTH STEWARDS

Volunteers headed up to the Santa Rosa Range to prepare Lye Creek Campground for youth stewards with Nevada Outdoor School and complete general campground maintenance.

The team sanded and prepped 14 picnic tables to be painted by the 6th-8th grade students who will be participating in Nevada Outdoor School's Adventure Camp II from July 9th-

14th. The week-long program builds kids' confidence while introducing them to recreation opportunities and outdoor skills, culminating in a camp-out and stewardship work at Lye Creek.

In addition to preparing the picnic furniture for painting, volunteers also constructed 50 feet and cleaned up one mile of the fence encircling Lye Creek Campground. The fence prevents grazing cattle and sheep from disturbing campers.

"Lye Creek Campground is one of the only developed camp-



grounds in Humboldt County, so it's important we keep this area maintained," said Wes Hoskins, Forest Project Coordinator for Friends of Nevada Wilderness. "It's great that we can improve Lye Creek and encourage youth stewardship at the same time."

Friends of Nevada Wilderness and Nevada Outdoor School have partnered since 2005 to bring environmental education and stewardship opportunities to families in northern Nevada.

Photo by Graham Stafford

BATTLING MUSK THISTLE ON MT. ROSE

Volunteers waged war against musk thistle and perennial pepperweed in the Mt. Rose Wilderness during the month of June.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness Stewardship Technician Renee Aldrich led the charge, taking two groups of volunteers up the Hunter Creek Trail. During the first battle, eight volunteers removed over 8,000 musk thistle and perennial pepperweed plants; during the second battle, five volunteers pulled out another 8,000 musk thistles.

"It's amazing the difference just two days can make to a wilderness area," said Renee. "These invasives choke out endemic species if we don't give Mother Nature a hand."

Pulling the noxious weed before it flowers prevents the spread of thistles. A single musk thistle flower head can produce over 1,000 seeds for the wind to disperse, and seeds can germinate a decade after they have fallen from the flower head.

