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Friends of Nevada Wilderness

WINTER 2007

558,000 acres of beautiful Nevada secured

By Pete Dronkers

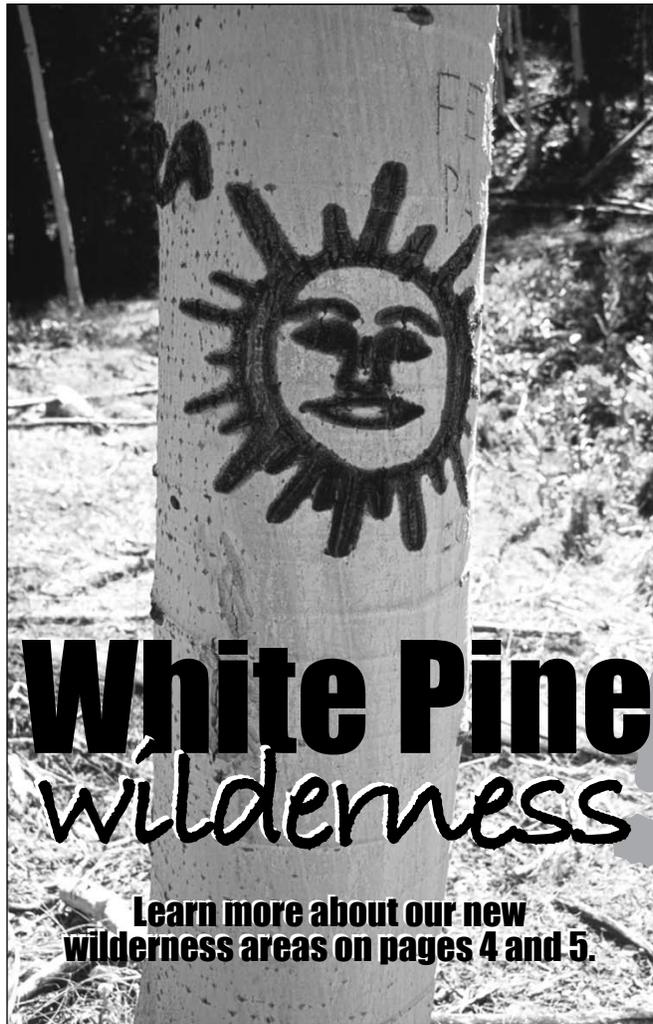
On December 20, the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation

and Development Act designated 12 new wilderness areas, 558,000 acres, in eastern Nevada.

A week later, I bumped into a friend while snowboarding near Berry Creek in the newly designated High Schells Wilderness. He asked me whether the Schells were any different now they had become wilderness. After some thought, I answered no. The ground hadn't changed overnight because of wilderness, but its future has been secured—a future that can never be compromised, and which will help keep things here the way they are.

I asked what he thought. "Yes, they are different," he said, in a relaxed voice. "Because it says something about who we are."

After years of working toward wilderness in White Pine County, attending hundreds of public meetings and driving untold thousands of miles to explore, map and photograph special places, to share and hear the concerns of others, we have risen to the challenge of



The High Schells Wilderness shelters 190 square miles of forests, streams and this antique Basque carving. Photo by Ron Hunter

these wild mountains. We have successfully worked together—real democracy in action—to protect these places, so future generations will be able to enjoy them as we have.

In 50 years, we'll look at the Schells and they won't look much different—just as beautiful as they've always been ... and that's exactly

the point of wilderness protection.

We at Friends of Nevada Wilderness would like to thank each and every one of you for helping—for writing letters, attending meetings, supporting us financially, or by your positive thoughts. We all have a legacy of wilderness to show for it partly because of you.

Healing the land: It does a body good

By Pat Bruce

I have lived in and explored Nevada for 25 years now. While out in the backcountry, I have always left places better than I found them by picking up trash. Now, as Field Project Coordinator for Friends, I have an opportunity to give back to Nevada on a grand scale. I never realized how

much small groups of dedicated people can do. It is an incredible feeling to stand with a group of volunteers, knowing that we have helped heal the land.

Here is a quick summary of what volunteers on the ground did in 2006 to help

preserve the wilderness character of Nevada's special places:

- 36 Restoration Projects, with a total of 8,406 volunteer hours. According to U.S. Government calculations, this in-kind labor is worth \$123,090 to the US Forest Service and BLM in helping them manage Nevada's wild places.

- Restored habitat in 24 illegal vehicle



What can you do for Nevada Wilderness in 2007? Turn to page 7 to find out.

continued on page 2

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 public wild lands.

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FROM THE FRONTLINES

Help nurture our new wilderness areas



Shaaron
Netherton
*executive
director*

It's been a dry winter in Nevada this year, so I am grateful for the raindrops that patter on my window today. I'm hoping there will be fresh snow to tromp through with the family this weekend at the higher elevations.

Counting my blessings, I am still pinching myself for the wild places in White Pine County that are now forever free of drilling rigs, housing developments, and road building. These 12 new wilderness areas were finally given long-overdue protection when the White Pine County Public Lands Bill was signed into law on December 20, 2006. Working together for these special places was truly a labor

of love. A love of the land, a love of our community, a love and respect for all the creatures who need wild places to thrive.

With legislative protection a reality, now comes the lifetime commitment to nurture and guard these new wilderness areas through wise stewardship. Become an active part of the Friends of Nevada Wilderness Stewardship Program. Join us on a restoration trip to the High Schells this summer or one of many other trips around our great state.

In the coming months and years, Friends will travel wherever we can to advocate for the wilderness designation of deserving landscapes across the state, and to work with our fellow citizens to make sure these lands stay *forever wild*. Wherever these travels take us, I hope to see you out there.

WELCOME AND GOODBYE

Faces change at Friends offices

After two years as our Southern Nevada Organizer, Susan Potts has decided to move on to other opportunities. We thank her for her energy and dedication to wilderness, and we wish her the best of luck as she begins writing the next chapter of her life.

In January, we were thrilled to bring Rose Demoret into our ranks as Administrative Director in our Reno office. She moved to Reno from Arizona last year, and looks forward to exploring Nevada's wildlands in addition to kayaking and rock climbing in the Sierra. After only a couple months, we can already tell that her can-do attitude and great sense of organization will help us become a lean, mean wilderness machine. Welcome aboard, Rose, and thanks for joining us!



Potts



Demoret

Healing
the land

continued from page 1
trespass sites.

■ Removed large patches of invasive thistle from the Mt. Rose Wilderness.

■ Regularly inspected nine big-game guzzlers (water developments) in Wilderness, which helped the Nevada Division of Wildlife provide water for bighorn sheep and other wildlife without using motorized vehicles.

Friends' Forest Project Coordinator, Angie Dykema, and I also spent many hours on public outreach events. We also worked directly with the BLM and Forest Service to keep Nevada's wilderness legacy safe from on-going threats.

WORKING together



Exploring the soon-to-be-designated South Egan Range Wilderness. Photo by Pete Dronkers.

The Wilderness Society's Bart Koehler with Friends' Eastern Nevada Organizer Pete Dronkers at January's Hootenanny. Photo by Jen Schmidt.



(From right) Friends staff Angie Dykema and Susan Potts, with volunteers Curt Leet, Jonathan Propp and Meghan McCoy ready to work in the Mt. Moriah Wilderness. Photo by April Johnson.



Volunteers working to restore the fire-ravaged Mormon Mountains Wilderness. Photo by Howard Booth.



Founding Friends board members Marge Sill and Roger Scholl at this winter's wilderness Hootenanny. Photo by Jen Schmidt.

“Designating wilderness is not enough. Wilderness needs stewardship to stay forever wild. Friends is in this for the long run. That’s why I have included Friends of Nevada Wilderness in my estate plans. I invite you to do the same.”

**Signed,
Friends’
Board Chair
Hermi Hiatt**

Leaving a legacy of wilderess

If you would like to include Friends of Nevada Wilderness in your estate plans, your attorney or retirement plan administrator will need the following information:

Name: Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Address: 1 Booth St., Reno, NV 89509
Tax ID #: 88-0211763

For additional information, please call (775) 324-7667



A friendly aspen in the Highland Ridge Wilderness. Photo by Pete Dronkers



Meet your **NEW** Wilderness Areas

By Pete Dronkers

Greetings from White Pine County. Life couldn't be better here now that 558,000 acres of wild mountains are protected forever. Here's a brief introduction to Nevada's 12 new wilderness areas:

The High Schells 121,497 acres U.S. Forest Service

The High Schells is now the largest wilderness area in White Pine County and the 4th largest in Nevada. Most of its 30-mile-long ridgeline is above 10,000 feet and links peaks up to 11,883 feet. Its deep winter snows support lush green scenery in spring, perennial streams in nearly every canyon, and aspen and mixed conifer forests. It's a great place to ski, hike, hunt, and camp, and it is truly one of White Pine County's grandest destinations.

Highland Ridge 68,627 acres Bureau of Land Management

Highland Ridge is contiguous with, and directly south of, Great Basin National Park in the southern Snake Range. Highland Ridge is packed with

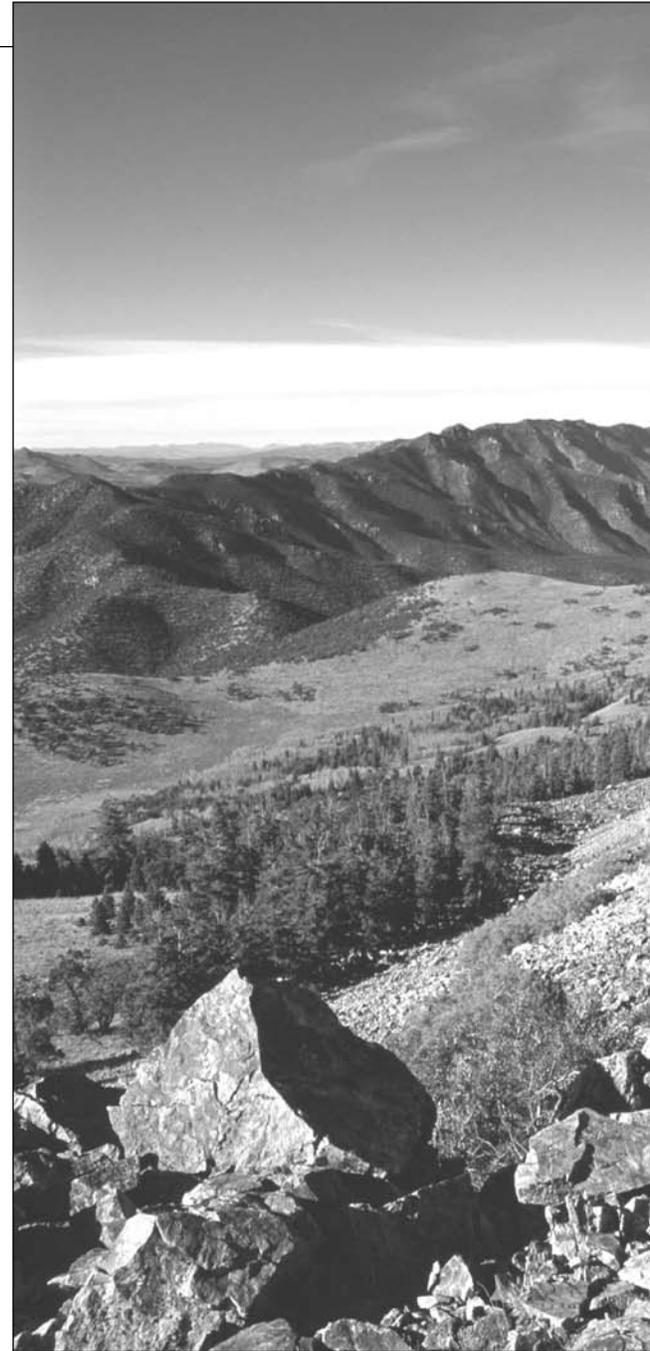
aspen stands, pine and fir forests, and perennial streams. With steep canyon walls secluding the valleys from all other surroundings, Highland Ridge is less typical of the Great Basin, where one can generally gaze at distant ranges. Rugged, steep, and well-watered, Highland Ridge is a seldom-explored destination, from which one can trek all the way to Nevada's second-highest Mountain, Wheeler Peak, among glacial cirques, elk, and streams.

Mount Grafton 78,754 acres, BLM

This scenic gem is home to some of the county's healthiest elk habitat, trout streams, incredible views, and wonderful opportunities for solitude. Its aspen and mixed conifer forests provide a nice contrast to its rugged and exposed limestone cliffs higher up. Rumors of unexplored caves add yet another reason to visit.

South Egan Range 67,214 acres, BLM

The South Egan Range is a land of massive vertical relief. You can stand here atop nameless peaks, with 800-foot sheer limestone cliffs at your feet, looking 4,000 feet down into the



Solitude and forested beauty wait in the Bristlecone Wilderness. Photo by Pete Dronkers

White River Valley, while your voice echoes off canyon walls far below. On the east side, however, the Egan Range resembles a rolling grassland mixed with mountain mahogany, pinyon pine and juniper. Approximately 25 miles long, the Egan Range Wilderness can be seen in a single sweep from the valley to its west, while the east side remains a more complex landscape requiring much exploration to know its secrets. Wherever you go, the Egan Range provides something for everyone, not to mention the numerous raptors, cats, elk, deer, and other critters that call it home.

Goshute Canyon 42,544 acres, BLM

In the Cherry Springs area, the northern end of the Goshute Canyon, large hidden canyons and streams feed elk and aspen. With a low average of over 9,104,58 feet, Goshute is a destination with a network of limestone caves. Ruby Mountain on its east side is a network of limestone caves—large rooms—a network of limestone caves.



Photo by Pete Dronkers.

nyon
s, BLM
Creek Range in the
White Pine County,
nyon is named after its
nyon, where perennial
x, native trout, and
ong ridgeline that
500 feet and rises to
shute is an ideal hiking
n incredible views of the
s to the west. Nestled
s Goshute Cave, a
stone tunnels and
perfect destination for



The Mt. Grafton Wilderness is home to elk and shady streams. Photo by Brian Beffort.

Becky Peak

18,119 acres, BLM

Becky Peak lies just across Steptoe Valley from Goshute Canyon. It is another of White Pine County's 10,000-foot giants that can be seen from a hundred miles away. North-facing slopes hold snow well, offering challenge for backcountry skiers, while summertime activities run the gamut from hikes to guided hunt trips.

Government Peak

6,313 acres, BLM

This wilderness lies just north of Mt. Moriah Wilderness and overlooks the northern Snake Range. Steep cliffs, shelter caves and expansive panoramas make for great exploring in vast solitude.

Bristlecone

14,095 acres, BLM

The Bristlecone Wilderness encompasses 9,411-foot Heusser Mountain, the prominent triangular peak north of Ely. This long and slender mountain boasts healthy stands of ancient bristlecone pine trees and a hidden plateau full of aspen, mixed conifers, native grasses, and springs that cascade down the steep and rugged Rattlesnake Canyon into Steptoe Valley. This mountain is

seldom visited despite its proximity to Ely; one can hike for days in the highlands and never see evidence of the modern age. Bristlecone is also home to some of the only Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep in White Pine County.

The White Pine Range Complex

The White Pine Range in western White Pine County boasts about 160,000 acres of designated wilderness, including Currant Mountain Wilderness, which was designated in 1989. These new areas complement each other well, from the incredible 2,000-foot Limestone slabs of Currant Mountain, to the elegant volcanic shape of Red Mountain, to the rolling, grassy hills of Lampson Canyon. The following wilderness areas help create a large complex of unfragmented wildlife habitat and wild country, perfect for exploring and enjoying:

Shellback, 36,143 acres, USFS
White Pine Range,

40,013 acres, USFS
Red Mountain, 20,490 acres,
USFS

Currant Mountain Additions,
10,697 acres, USFS

Bald Mountain, 22,366 acres,
BLM

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.



Mail call

Your letters to the Bureau of Land Management are needed today!

The BLM in Las Vegas is proposing to allow extensive Search and Rescue crew training using helicopters in the Rainbow Mountain and La Madre Mountain Wilderness areas.



This daytime training would take place on 10 Saturdays every year from January to September, with a maximum of 60 helicopter landings each session.

The Wilderness Act allows for the landing of aircraft "in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area." Friends of Nevada Wilderness supports the need for pilots to train in order to better prepare for search and rescue maneuvers and maximize the safety for all involved.

But practice flights don't have to take place in the wilderness of Red Rock Canyon. Helicopter-supported ground-crew training does not comply with the Wilderness Act and should be prohibited or severely curtailed.

Please write the BLM immediately and ask them to prohibit search and rescue crew training in wilderness areas.

Flight-supported ground-crew trainings should take place outside Wilderness.

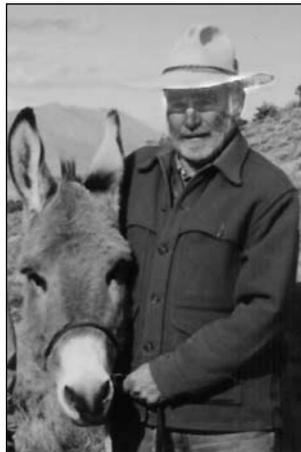
Send your comments to:

Juan Palma, BLM manager
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, NV
89130-2301
Fax: (702) 515-5023

Why I Love Wilderness / DAN HEINZ

H

ow do I articulate my passion for the wild? Wilderness has driven me my entire life—from boyhood adventures to a career in the US Forest Service, and then on to conservation jobs and volunteerism throughout retirement.



Fifty-three years so far. My feelings for wild places are everything the word "passion" evokes. I believe it was Aldo Leopold who said that some people can live without wild places, and some cannot. I, for one, cannot. Neither can I sit by and let any wild country, official "wilderness" or not, roaded or not, be degraded.

My parents were great hikers and introduced my brother and me to long walks and climbs around Pikes Peak. Great hikes started from the last bus stop west in Colorado Springs. The end of WW II meant we could have a car, and surplus gear was affordable. We moved on to backpacking.

Throughout the pain and confusion of adolescence, it became profoundly important for me to escape into the wild for an overnight whenever possible. The stresses of growing up would vanish while laughing with friends around the fire and sleeping under the stars.

By high school, my buddies and I got into fishing and discovered there were no fish anywhere you could drive. Hunting soon captured our imaginations and the best is where you have to walk. Because nobody knows better than a ranger where the best hunting and fishing is, my career destination became clear—the US Forest Service.

With maturity, I have found time in wilderness to be spiritual and essential for well being. Something best experienced alone. The very essence of wilderness for me is complete dependence on myself. No society providing me with safety or support of any kind. For me, the presence of more than one companion, or a cell phone, reduces the wilderness experience to nothing more than a nice walk in the woods. Well, it may be OK to bring along an ass or two.

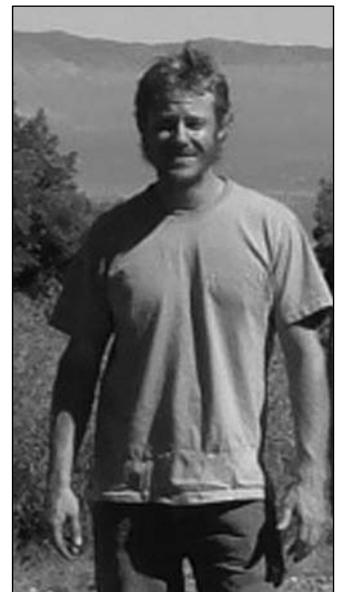
VOLUNTEER *hero*

Giving back to Nevada's wildlands has been more productive and more fun recently thanks to **Wes Hoskins'** tireless work and big smile. In the last year, Wes has joined Friends of Nevada Wilderness on at least eight volunteer restoration projects, helping us clear trails and restore habitat everywhere from Arc Dome to High Rock Canyon. Recently, he just adopted Mt. Rose Wilderness, committing to hike and monitor the wilderness to keep it safe from damage.

With full-time work, full-time school, and a daughter to help raise, it's not like he has a lot of time. So why does he do it?

"If not me, then who else?" he answered. "Every time I go out into the wild, I get so much out of it. I volunteer to give something back. And everybody I meet on these trips is so nice because they are volunteering. Everybody is so relaxed and friendly. Right off the bat, I know I'm with kindred folk."

*Nevada is a better place because of you, Wes.
Thank you!*





YES, YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

One hour a week for wilderness

Your public lands in Nevada need you. You can make a difference by donating one hour each week to help your favorite wild places. There are many ways that one hour can make a difference:

Write a letter

Your Congressional leaders will appreciate hearing from you, whether it's to thank them for their hard work in designating wilderness in White Pine County, or to urge them to protect a favorite, threatened place you love.

As a member of Friends, you should have a contact sheet for Nevada's Congressional delegation. If you don't have one, or can't find yours, give us a call and we'll get one out to you.

You might also consider submitting a letter to the editor of your local paper that explains why wilderness is important to you. We also have contact information for all major

newspapers in the state.

The US Forest Service is currently revising the Forest Plan for the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. The HT Forest Supervisor must evaluate the wilderness character of roadless areas throughout the state. **Your letter urging the Forest Service to recommend wilderness for your favorite places will help keep those places forever wild.** Send your letter to Planning Team, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks NV, 89431. If you have questions about the process, or if you would like a copy of comments drafted by Friends of Nevada Wilderness, please call us.

Keep Nevada Forever Wild!

fnw@nevadawilderness.org

(775) 324-7667

www.nevadawilderness.org

Volunteer

Donate your time and skill to keep the wild in Nevada wilderness. There are many ways you can help—either in the office or out in the wild. Come in every other week and help us in the office for two hours, or use all your hours in one weekend by joining us on a volunteer trip somewhere wild and beautiful. Call us for more details at (775) 324-7667.

Experience Wilderness

Wilderness needs people to help keep it wild, and we need your eyes and ears on the ground. Make a point to visit a wilderness area in Nevada this year. Take a hike, or simply drive to the edge and look in. Get to know it. Fall in love

with it. Take pictures. Let us know what you experience. We'd like to hear from you. If you find trash, vandalism, or other bad things, we can pass your information on to the appropriate land management agency and work with them to fix the situation.

Donate to Friends

Everyone needs a friend. Wilderness is no different. Friends of Nevada Wilderness needs friends, too. Your support will help us work for wilderness by advocating to our elected leaders for the highest protection land can receive—wilderness designation; to work with land management agencies to make sure wilderness is managed to keep it wild; and to recruit volunteers to step up and care for our public lands.

Your donations will go to on-the-ground protection of Nevada's wild places, and your donations are tax deductible.

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



2007 volunteer trips ... *Mark your calendar!*

Here's a list of the wilderness restoration trips and outreach events we have planned so far in 2007:

March 10-11. Arrow Canyon Wilderness, about 2 hours north of Las Vegas.

April 21. Summerlin Earth Faire, 10a to 4p, 1800 South Town Center Dr. Las Vegas.

April 22. Earthday celebration, 10a to 4p at Idlewild Park, Reno.

May 12-13. Weepah Spring Wilderness, about 3 hours north of Las Vegas.

May 19-20. Mormon Mountains Wilderness, about two hours north of Las Vegas

May 26. Black Rock Rendezvous. A day of seminars, presentations, camping, food, music and camping under the stars.

June 1-3. Berry Creek in High Schells Wilderness, about an hour north of Ely, with camping among the pines.

June 8-9. Berry Creek in High Schells Wilderness.

June 23-24. Mt. Grafton Wilderness, about an hour south of Ely.

July 7-8. North Black Rock Range, about four hours north of Reno.

July 13-15. Timber Creek in High Schells Wilderness, about an hour north of Ely, with camping among the pines.

August 11-12. Calico Wilderness, about three hours north of Reno. Fringe benefit—Perseid meteors!

September 21-23. Boundary Peak Wilderness. Trail-restoration and hiking on

the slopes of Nevada's highest mountain.

September 29-30. National Public Lands Day. Our biggest volunteer event of the year in and around High Rock Canyon, about four hours north of Reno.

All trips are free. For details and updates, or to sign up for a trip, please contact Friends of Nevada Wilderness at: (775) 324-7667. Or check out www.nevadawilderness.org.

Most wilderness restoration trips require car camping. You will need food, camping equipment and other supplies. Call us to carpool or caravan.

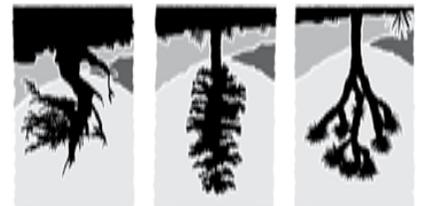
Please RSVP for each trip, so we can make appropriate food, tool, and travel arrangements.

Return Service Requested

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Friends of Nevada Wilderness



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