



OPEN TRAILS FOR ALL

Friends' Trail Crew Improves Public Access to Nevada's Wilderness



Volunteers and Friends' Trail Crew work together to clear trails in the Table Mountain Wilderness.

PHOTO: KURT KUZNICKI

By Gretchen Conn, trail crew member

Deer, cougar and other wildlife roam through Pasco Canyon in the Alta Toquima Wilderness. Now so can you, thanks to Friends of Nevada Wilderness' Nye County trail crew.

For the last couple months, the crew has been in central Nevada wilderness areas, removing overgrown brush to re-open long-lost hiking trails the hills have reclaimed.

Some nights during our hitches, the moon is so bright and so big, it lights up our camp and the mountain ranges beyond.

Our mornings begin when the sun starts to shine; we eat our breakfast, do our morning stretches, have our safety meeting, and start hiking up the trail, tools in hand

Our first task is to remove a bunch of wind-topped aspen littering the trail, which snakes its way through the thick forest.

Once we clear the trees and install water breaks, we begin to see the treasures that call this area home.

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Life in the Sagebrush Sea

By Brian Beffort

Pick your favorite wide valley in northern Nevada, and look across. What do you see?

"Just a bunch of sagebrush," most people say.

This reaction is understandable from those who come from other parts of the world, where nature expresses herself with lush, bright-

er and taller forms of beauty.

However, closer inspection reveals a vibrant, diverse and thriving community of life, one that is unique and which Friends is working hard to protect.

What at first appears as a valley of monotonous shrubs is often a vibrant community

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Keeping the Sagebrush Sea intact will protect sage-grouse and hundreds of other wildlife species.

PHOTO: SCOTT SADY

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 wild lands.

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FRONTLINES

By Shaaron Netherton / Executive Director



Fifty years ago, the march on Washington culminated with Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

At that time, people like Aldo Leopold, Olaus and Mardy Murie,

Howard Zahniser and Nevada's Marge Sill shared another dream: to see an enduring system of wilderness across the country.

It was a time to right injustices, both against our people and our planet.

Both dreams were realized in 1964, when President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act in July, then the Wilderness Act in September, creating Nevada's first wilderness, the Jarbidge.

While our country has made great strides in social justice and the environment, there is still a long way to go.

"The next chapter is for us to remember the past and to look ahead at what we can do," said Marge Sill, one of Friends' founders. "These two things, environmental and social justice, are closely related. We need to make sure our

children and grandchildren can get out into the beautiful country and also have the same rights as any other person."

This fall, we are kicking off a year-long celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act and of Nevada Wilderness. We honor those visionaries of the past that put in place one of the most envied land protection systems in the world.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness has helped grow that system over our 30 years to 68 wilderness areas across the state.

While we celebrate the wilderness heroes of the past, we also want to celebrate today's and tomorrow's heroes, who will care for Nevada's wildlands for future generations.

While working to heal wilderness, many find that they heal themselves and grow stronger at the same time. Wilderness provides a place for people who need to get away from the turmoil of life, people who want to give back to the land and its creatures the joy they have felt walking in the wild, and most of all, those who want their children and grandchildren to experience this same joy.

Join Friends as we celebrate the past 50 years of wilderness and the next 50 years. Let Nevada's wild places into your heart and soul. Become a part of the future story of Nevada's Wilderness.

Building Strong in Southern Nevada

By Kurt Kuznicki, Southern NV Director

In southern Nevada, you have many accomplishments to celebrate.

After a decade-long campaign, legislation has finally been introduced in both the Senate and the House for a Gold Butte National Conservation Area with Wilderness.

Wonderful business partners like R&D Events, Bird & Hike and SH Architecture have invested their time, talent and treasure in wilderness. These partnerships provide critical support to keep your southern Nevada wilderness areas healthy and beautiful, improving

southern Nevada quality of life.

Our volunteer base continues to grow, and our hard-working volunteers have completed more than 20 projects to help the wild this year.

But there are still many miles to go before we reach the finish line.

Wilderness needs you. Desert tortoise need your donations and voice to protect their homes in Gold Butte. Your monthly donations keep tools in the hands of committed volunteers.

With your help, we can keep wilderness wild in 2013, so wipe away the sweat, adjust your boots and let's keep working for Wild Nevada.

We have moved! Friends has moved into a new office with warehouse space to better support our volunteers. We've also redecorated our website. Stop by our Open House on October 10 (see page 8) and give www.NevadaWilderness.org a spin. We'd love your feedback.

Wilderness Seeds Sprouting in Congress

As you probably know, the last Congress (112th) was the first that failed to designate wilderness since the Wilderness Act passed in 1964. The 113th Congress seems to be on track to make additions to our nation's wild legacy, and Nevada's Congressional Delegation is working to make it so.

Currently, there are four pieces of active legislation in Congress to designate wilderness in Nevada:

- **The Pine Forest Range Recreation Enhancement Act (HR433, S342).**

This bill will designate 26,000 acres of wilderness in this beautiful, wild range north of Winnemucca.

- **The Lyon County Economic Development and Conservation Act (HR696, S159).** This bill will designate the 40,000-acre Wovoka Wilderness and allow the Pumpkin Hollow mine to expand.

- **Gold Butte National Conservation Area Act (S1054, HR2276).** This bill will create the Gold Butte NCA with wilderness, while leaving open more than 500 miles of roads—a balance between conservation and access.



The Proposed Pine Forest Range Wilderness enjoys support from Nevada's Humboldt County and the entire Nevada Congressional delegation.

PHOTO: BRIAN BEFFORT

- **Douglas County Conservation Act (S1263).** In addition to numerous land conveyances to allow for trails, flood control and open space, this bill will designate the 13,000-acre Burbank Canyons Wilderness.

Friends hopes these bills will make it to the President's desk in time to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act next year.

Democracy belongs to those who

speak up. If you haven't yet, contact your Congressional leaders to thank them for their work for Nevada's wilderness. On your computer, go to www.NevadaWilderness.org, and follow the "Take Action" links to support these bills.

To track the status of these (or any other) bills in Congress, go to <http://thomas.loc.gov> and search by bill number.

COMING SOON: WILDERNESS ACT 50TH ANNIVERSARY

2014 will be a special year indeed, as we celebrate 50 years of the Wilderness Act protecting Nevada's, and our country's, most beautiful and important places.

Look forward to events, projects and celebration of America's living wild heritage. We will kick things off with the Wild & Scenic Film Festival on November 14 in Las Vegas. Join us for an evening of beauty and inspiring stories of activism.

WILD & SCENIC® FILM FESTIVAL *Las Vegas*

Thursday, November 14

**Doors Open at 6 pm
at the Historic Fifth St. Schoolhouse**

**Details and Film Trailers
www.NevadaWilderness.org/Wild_Scenic_Film_Fest**



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BOOTS ON THE GROUND: Making a Difference Across Wild Nevada!

OPEN TRAILS FOR ALL *Continued from Page 1*

Above, a large redtail hawk soars on dihedral wings, scanning the ground below for food.

Elsewhere, we hear the helpless chatter of unknown baby birds coming from a cavity in a tall aspen. Soon, an adult red-naped sapsucker darts out of the cavity, revealing their identity.

As we work our way deeper into the wild, trails reappear again after years of minimal human use.

As summer turns to fall, we'll move from one overgrown trail to

In 2012 & 2013, Friends' trail crews have completed the following:

- Maintained 38 miles of trail
- Removed 500 trees
- Hosted 7 volunteer projects, which
- Generated 1,214 volunteer hours and



Gretchen shows the trail who's boss on Table Mountain.

KURT KUZNICKI

another, clearing your paths and building memories at the same time.

\$26,453 of in-kind service to our Forest Service lands in central Nevada.

In mid-September, the crew will be working on the Summit Trail in the Santa Rosas, north of Winnemucca.

Businesses Step Up for the Wild

Business is good for wilderness. Really. We are happy to announce Sponsorship Opportunities for businesses.

Businesses that support Nevada wilderness enjoy tax breaks, marketing opportunities, and expanded community awareness.

There is also pride and peace of mind knowing you're making a difference to your local community, economy, wild places and wildlife.

Join Zappos, Patagonia, R&D Events, SH Architecture, MGM and UPS, who are helping Wild Nevada with donations and volunteers.

Contact Jose Witt in southern



Brian and Kathy from SH Architecture investing in the Mt. Charleston Wilderness. JOSE WITT

Nevada (jose@nevadawilderness.org) or Kurt Kuznicki in northern Nevada (kurt@nevadawilderness.org) to see how your company can improve your community and bottom line.

Wes, Alli and Brenna are moving on to new opportunities.

You have all made a real difference to Wild Nevada. Thanks and best of luck!

BLACK ROCK COMMITMENT

The next time you're standing at Twin Springs, near the peak of the North Black Rock Range Wilderness, look around at the sagebrush and grass gracing the mountain slopes, and down at the Black Rock Wilderness Area, nearly a vertical mile below you, and the North and South Jackson Mountains Wilderness areas a dozen miles away across the Black Rock.

What you won't see are tangles of rusting barbed wire and fence posts, thanks to hard work by volunteers over the years.

Eight years ago, Friends'



RENEE ALDRICH

Heavy Metal Volunteers, pulling a sled of former fence to the truck waiting at the wilderness boundary.

volunteers travelled to this remote site and helped the BLM begin to dismantle old, dangerous barbed-wire fence around a riparian area

Numerous times over the years, we returned to cut and roll more wire and carry it out.

Finally, on July 27, volunteers removed the last of the fence. The wilderness is wilder and more beautiful, thanks to volunteers and their job well done!

**Great job, crews
and volunteers!
Thanks for making
Wild Nevada better.**

HEALING THE WILD



Dedicated volunteers helping habitat heal from wildfire, with their protected seedlings in the background. PHOTO: RENEE ALDRICH

FIRE RECOVERY

During the cool spring months of April and May, more than 60 volunteers from Reno, Winnemucca and beyond joined Friends of Nevada Wilderness, the US Forest Service and the Nevada Department of Wildlife on six stewardship trips to the Santa Rosa Mountain Range.

Their job was to help heal areas in the Santa Rosas that have been hit hard with fires in recent years

Volunteers worked more than 550 hours to plant and cage roughly 6,000 bitterbrush and sagebrush seedlings in burnt areas.

As these seedlings mature, the bitterbrush and sagebrush will provide important winter forage to wildlife in the area and reduce opportunities for invasive plants to move in.

Thanks to the Dream Tag's Charitable Fund at the Community Foundation of Western Nevada for making these projects possible.

Carpenter 1 Fire: Mt. Charleston

On July 1, the lightning-started Carpenter 1 Fire in the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area ravaged nearly 28,000 acres, with a substantial amount of the burn in the Mt Charleston Wilderness.

That's the sad news; the good news is, our hard-working southern Nevada volunteers are rallying and ready to assist the Forest Service in their efforts to make the wilderness safe for visitors and rehab the burned area to keep erosion from causing further destruction and help native plants gain back their habitat. Please visit our website if you want to help. We will post volunteer projects and efforts as soon as they become available.

WILDLIFE REFUGE RESTORATION

Another Successful Summer on the Sheldon

Since June, three Americorps* interns and their crew leader have removed obsolete and non-functioning water tanks, pipes and other garbage from 20 springs on the refuge, improving conditions for native plants and wildlife. The crew also monitored the health of those springs to create a baseline against which we can track the health of these springs in the future.

Along the way, the crew also discovered and removed an additional 10 miles of barbed-wire fence tucked away in the rugged canyons and slopes of the Sheldon.

"That fence was in some pretty tough territory," said crew member Tom Cassell. "I don't know how anyone got it in there in the first place."

To date, Friends' volunteers and crew members have removed 188 miles of old cattle pasture fencing from the Sheldon Refuge. Unless we find more, we look forward to removing the last 10 miles in 2014.

Overall, the crew had a wonderful summer working surrounded by Sheldon's expansive beauty.

"It was great," said Tom, who hails from Boston. "I'd never been to a place so far out in the middle of nowhere before. I love the landscape, the mountains and all the wild animals. It was so vast."

Tom enjoyed the experience so much, he stayed on an extra week as an unpaid volunteer to help wrap up the loose ends from the season of work. Thanks, Tom and the rest of the crew, for all your work to benefit wildlife and wildness up on the Sheldon!

*Americorps interns receive half of their stipend from the federal government, and the other half from the organization hiring them. At the end of their 300-hour commitment, each intern also received an educational reward they can use for school.



Removing the imprint of man's past work from the Sheldon Refuge.

WILDLAND INVENTORY

Discovering Nevada's Remote Wildlands

By Will Boyer, Inventory crew member

This field season, Friends has had inventory crews out monitoring Nevada's wilderness study areas, in order to make sure these areas are receiving the care they need.

Here's a highlight from the summer: The Roberts Mountain WSA in Eureka County.

At 10,133 feet tall, Robert's Creek Mountain is a broad mountain with many sub peaks, creating a large, high-alpine environment. Near the summit are several small lakes and ponds, as well as expansive meadows. Aspen groves and countless mahogany trees dot its flanks, and numerous springs provide water to streams.

Several forks of Robert's Creek drain the south side of this mountain. From these streams, limestone cliffs rise majestically to form high canyon walls, bluffs and spires, with numerous caves and alcoves. Large birds of prey circle overhead.

Sagebrush, mule's ears, and numerous wildflowers are also abundant and carpet the area. Antelope and mule deer, as well as other desert wildlife, commonly graze here.

This area is also excellent habitat for sage-grouse, and these birds are active here, along with many others. The quality of these mountain habitats are equaled only by their own scenic beauty. The air is fresh. The only sounds are wildlife and the wind in the trees. One could spend



Wild, beautiful views abound fore and aft for our wilderness inventory crews.

PHOTO: WILL BOYER

days hiking these magnificent hills and canyons.

The high slopes provide spectacular views of surrounding mountain ranges—the Simpson Parks, the Diamond Range, the Rubies, the Monitor Range, the Toiyabes and the Mountain Boy Range all provide inspiration for future exploration.

The BLM also appears to be managing this WSA actively and effectively; signs are mostly in place, and vehicle trespass appears minimal. This is an area that deserves permanent protection as designated wilderness.

If you go: For cautious, well-prepared travelers, the Robert's Mountain WSA is a great place to discover Nevada's wild beauty.

Robert's Mountain WSA lies west of NV Highway 278, which runs between Eureka and Carlin.

Outside of those towns, there are no services in the area. Do not expect cell service. You will be on your own. Prepare to bring all the food, water, shelter and emergency equipment you might need out there.

For more information about the area, contact the BLM office in Battle Mountain, at (775) 635-4000.

DONATE TODAY, AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME.

Your tax-deductible gift to Friends of Nevada Wilderness is an investment in the future of Nevada's air, water, healthy wildlife, community health and quality of life, and opportunities to explore and discover for the children of the future.

Please consider Friends of Nevada Wilderness in your year-end charitable giving and estate planning. Tax ID: 88-0211763



Life on the Sagebrush Sea

Continued from Page 1

of plants that contains a dozen or so species each of shrubs, grasses and forbs (flowers).

A Canopy Forest

As in a rainforest, larger plants shade and shelter smaller plants and wildlife underneath them. In this case, however, the canopy is rarely more than a few feet tall.

What many call the Sagebrush Sea covers roughly 120 million acres from Washington to Wyoming, and south to New Mexico and Arizona.

Nevada's hundreds of mountain ranges bring incredible diversity to the mix through our variety of elevations, aspects and neighboring plant communities, from valley bottoms to mountain peaks.

Living in Nevada's portion of the Sagebrush Sea are more than

50 species of sagebrush-dependent wildlife species, including sage-grouse, pygmy rabbits, burrowing owls, ferruginous hawks, the American badger and pronghorn. Another 250 wildlife species use sagebrush habitat during at least part of their life cycles, though they may not depend on it totally.

Of these, sage-grouse symbolize the health of the Sagebrush Sea and get a lot of attention, because of the imminent listing decision by the Fish & Wildlife Service, due in 2015. If sage-grouse are listed, Nevada could face serious impacts.

Friends believes that working together on local, state and federal levels, Nevadans can minimize the impact of a potential listing on our communities and economy by protecting and restoring key sage-



Pronghorn bring speedy grace to the vast beauty of the Sagebrush Sea. PHOTO: DIANE McALLISTER

brush habitats in the state.

"The wild sagebrush steppes and mountains of Nevada are among the last vestiges of pure wild habitat on the planet," said Nevada Department of Wildlife biologist and Friends' board member Pete Bradley. "Unique and beautiful, Nevada's Sagebrush Sea deserves to be protected."

Keep Nevada Wild! Buy Stuff!



Wild Nevada Calendar

Various colors and sizes. Call for availability.



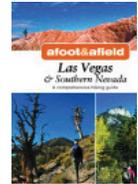
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By Brian Beffort

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Donations (not purchases) are tax-deductible! Proceeds benefit wild places across Nevada!



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UPCOMING TRIPS AND EVENTS

National Public Lands Day

This year in Nevada, we're celebrating NPLD with four events. Join us!

NPLD, Sept. 20-22, Soldier Meadows

Help clean-up and restore Soldier Meadows Hot Springs. Pat at pbruce@nevadawilderness.org or (775) 324-7667.

NPLD, Sept. 27-29, Santa Rosa Range

Help remove old fence from the Santa Rosas. Renee@nevadawilderness.org or (775) 324-7667.

NPLD, Sept. 28, So. McCullough Mtns.

Join Friends and the BLM as we clean up wild habitat. Jesy@nevadawilderness.org, or (530) 598-0121.

NPLD, Sept. 28, Desert Wildlife Refuge

Join Friends and the Fish & Wildlife Service as we remove old, unsightly fence near Corn Creek Visitor Center. Contact jose@nevadawilderness.org, or (702) 203-1720.

Oct. 5, Desert National Wildlife Refuge.

Join Friends and the Fish & Wildlife Service as we plant natives at Corn Creek. Contact jose@nevadawilderness.org, or (702) 203-1720.

Oct. 10, Friends' Open House, Sparks

Join Friends' staff and board as we celebrate another successful year at our new headquarters at 1360 Greg St., #111 in Sparks. 4:30 to 6:30pm. Call 324-7667.

Oct. 11, Eldorado Wilderness

Help turn an old dump site into wildlife habitat, in this rugged wilderness. Jesy@nevadawilderness.org, or (530) 598-0121.

Oct. 16, South McCullough Wilderness

Patagonia and Zappos employees will be cleaning up the wilderness. To organize a project for your group, contact jose@nevadawilderness.org or (702) 203-1720.

Oct. 18-19, Mesquite, Gold Butte Days

Help Friends and Mesquite celebrate Gold Butte. Booths, crafts, cowboy poetry, classic cars, races and fun! Contact kurt@nevadawilderness.org.

Oct. 26-27, So. McCullough Wilderness.

Help protect habitat from vehicles. Friends will cook dinner and breakfast for those who camp at the project. Jose@nevadawilderness.org or (702) 203-1720

Oct. 25-27 and Nov. 1-3, Santa Rosas

Help Friends and the Forest Service

heal habitat after wildfires. Renee@nevadawilderness.org or (324-7667).

Nov. 8-10, Lunar Crater, Nye County

Help heal disturbed areas and explore this remote, beautiful corner of Nye County. There's work and fun for all abilities. Contact Kurt at kurt@nevadawilderness.org.

Nov. 14-16, Seedling Planting, Lost Fire.

Join Friends, NDOW and the BLM as we reseed NW NV after wildfire. Renee@nevadawilderness.org or (775) 324-7667.

Nov. 14, Wild & Scenic Film Festival, Las Vegas.

Inspire your activism and support Wild Nevada with these nature and adventure films, at the Historic 5th St Schoolhouse. katie@nevadawilderness.org or (775) 324-7667.

Dec. TBA, Wilderness Wingding, Reno

Friends' annual tribute to the great volunteers who do good for wilderness. Cargo in Reno. Call 775-324-7667.

To sign up for alerts and e-newsletters, email fnw@nevadawilderness.org, or call (775) 324-7667. For info on southern events, call (702) 203-1720.

UPDATED SCHEDULES ARE POSTED AT
WWW.NEVADAWILDERNESS.ORG