Nevada proudly welcomes two new wilderness areas: the Pine Forest Range Wilderness in Humboldt County and Wovoka Wilderness in the South Pine Grove Range in Lyon County. After many years of Friends of Nevada Wilderness working with local governments, recreationists, ranchers and sportsmen, two locally supported wilderness areas are now a reality.

In mid December, Congress passed a package of public lands bill as part of the National Defense Authorization Act which created the 26,000-acre Pine Forest Range Wilderness and the 49,000-acre Wovoka Wilderness. An additional 23,000 acres were protected from mining and leasing near Wovoka Wilderness, bringing total protection to this area to over 72,000 acres.

In retrospect, the years of meetings, tours, and pouring over of maps to get agreements was the easy part. The challenge came when the republican chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, Doc Hastings (R-WA), insisted...
What a year 2014 has been! We end the year welcoming our new Pine Forest Range and Wovoka Wilderness areas. While the package of public lands had controversial aspects that Friends of Nevada Wilderness did not support, we are appreciative that all the work our supporters did over the years on protecting these deserving areas has paid off. We also celebrated a convergence of Wilderness anniversaries: the Wilderness Act at 50 and Friends of Nevada Wilderness at 30. We’ve celebrated the past and looked hard into what the next 50 years could bring for wild Nevada.

The future is, of course, in the hands of the next generation of wilderness stewards who will defend and care for our existing wilderness and work across political boundaries to protect the wild Nevada we all love. That next generation has some great mentors to give them both the skills and inspiration to carry on and we honored a number of those special people at our Wilderness Wingding on December 5th. To find out who, check out page 6!

We will need all those inspired defenders because there are some serious challenges ahead, including an escalating threat to dismantle our national public lands, including our wilderness study areas. These public lands, held in trust by each and every one of us, are a precious national treasure. As the Nevada legislature takes up efforts to gut our public lands, I hope you will stand up with me to fight back and make it clear that Nevadans want to keep our public lands PUBLIC, and not be sold off for development or to pay government debts.

On the positive side, we are making great strides working across the state on our bi-partisan Sage-Grouse Wilderness Campaign that will protect beautiful wilderness while keeping development from further fragmenting and destroying sage-grouse habitat. 2015 is shaping up to be an especially important year for wilderness in Nevada and I challenge you all to make a New Year’s Resolution to make saving Nevada’s Wilderness a top priority (after shedding a few of those holiday pounds). Seriously, we need all hands on deck in 2015 and there will be many ways you can help make a difference: letter writing, attending meetings, volunteering on the ground and making a special financial donation.

Wovoka and Pine Forest 

Continued from Page 1

on inserting wilderness damaging language into the bills that had been carefully worked out and supported fully by Nevadans. We appreciate the work done by the Nevada congressional delegation to strip out that “poison pill” language and get them back closer to the original bills that were introduced.

As with nearly every wilderness area designated, there is a champion without whose labor of love wilderness would not be possible. For Wovoka, Steve Pellegrini and Art Shipley made it happen. The Pine Forest Range was possible because of steadfast work of Jim Jeffress with Trout Unlimited. Friends of Nevada Wilderness raises a glass to toast these individuals and honor their dedication.
Speak Up For Nevada’s Roadless Areas

These plans will zone our public lands and decide what gets developed and what gets protected. Our past inventory crew findings have been submitted to appropriate BLM District Offices as part of the RMP process. The best way to preserve the ecological integrity of Nevada’s last wild lands is to keep these roadless corridors intact and your comments and participation in this process are needed!

The BLM needs to hear from you to help safeguard our desert landscapes. Now is the time to have your voice heard for the future of Nevada’s public lands – whether you camp, hike, fish, or hunt, you need to speak up for these threatened wild areas that carry prime opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation and priceless habitat for wildlife.

Check our website, e-mail shevawn@nevadawilderness.org, or call the office at 775-324-7667 to learn how you can make your voice heard.

Goldilocks: Our Feathered Friend:

Nevada’s wild lands offer outstanding opportunities for adventure and surprising encounters with nature and we look for staff who can meet those challenges of the Nevada backcountry. In June, while our intrepid two-person wilderness inventory crew were adventuring in the Goshute Canyon Range in eastern Nevada, they discovered a golden eagle hopelessly trapped in a stock tank. Immediately Julien Pellegrini - an expert falconer - jumped into action to save this magnificent raptor.

Crew member Will Boyer documented the rescue and produced a compelling short film of the encounter. Will’s film, “Goldilocks: Our Feathered Friend” premiered at the Wild and Scenic Film Festival in Las Vegas on November 13th of this year and is now available for viewing on our YouTube page:

www.youtube.com/user/NevadaWild
NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

September 27th marked National Public Lands Day and Nevada volunteers joined the nation in service to our public lands.

Northern Nevada volunteers spent the weekend in the Pine Forest Range. Amidst a stunning backdrop of aspens, volunteers rehabilitated the trail to Blue Lakes, limbed back the road, installed and painted a new sign, and cleaned the bathrooms. This popular recreational spot has been given a much needed public lands make-over which will be enjoyed by hikers, hunters, and fishermen for years to come.

Our Southern Nevada volunteers split to cover three different public lands sites in Clark County – Rainbow Mountain Wilderness, the National Wildlife Desert Refuge, and Mt. Charleston Wilderness where volunteers re-naturalized a wilderness trespass, spread 75 pounds of native seed to re-naturalize an old pasture, and installed drainage dips. Volunteers from MGM Resorts, REI, Go Mt. Charleston, and the Nevada Naturalists all came out to partake in the fun. A huge thank you to everyone who participated!

STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGE

10 years ago, in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, the Forest Service issued a Stewardship Challenge, calling for all Wilderness areas in the National Forest System to meet baseline management standards by 2014. In response to the challenge, the National Forest Foundation (NFF), the official non-profit partner of the Forest Service, has provided matching grants to non-profit partners like Friends of Nevada Wilderness to help National Forest Wilderness Areas.

Over the years, we have been able to leverage these funds to make a real on-the-ground difference to wilderness areas like Mt. Rose, Mt. Charleston, Table Mountain, and the Santa Rosa Range. As a result of your efforts, all 22 Forest Service wilderness areas in Nevada met the minimum standard in the Stewardship Challenge:

“Friends of Nevada Wilderness has been the primary workforce for many of our Wilderness Areas over the last 8 years and we would not have been able to accomplish this without their tremendous effort and support,” said Dan Morris, Recreation Officer of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, “None of this amazing work would get done without our hardworking, dedicated volunteers - you are the best!”
FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS

FENCE FREE SHELDON:

Near the end of June, about thirty volunteers removed the last three remaining miles of fence in the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge making a fence-free refuge a reality! This has been a huge concerted effort of volunteers and partnering organizations throughout the years in removing over 200 miles of barbed wire fence. That’s more than half a million acres of fence-free habitat for herds of pronghorn and other creatures to roam free.

Spirits were high among these enthusiastic volunteers as they wrestled with the last miles of tangled barbed wire fence, sharing stories and laughter. A huge thank you to everyone who has participated in this extensive project over the years — our volunteers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and other partnering organizations!

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

ANOTHER GREAT YEAR IN WILD NEVADA

While events, lectures, and celebratory events have been spreading the word on wilderness, our hard working volunteers have been making a lasting difference in wilderness areas throughout the state.

With an incredibly busy season for both Northern and Southern Nevada, our volunteers have done so much for our wilderness areas this year.

We want to thank all of our amazing volunteers for another great year keeping the public in our public lands!
Wilderness Wingding

On December 5th, Friends of Nevada Wilderness held their eighth annual Wilderness Wingding to celebrate the supporters who have helped make 2014 such a fantastic year for wilderness! Members of the business community banded together to help make the party a true success - donating items for the raffle and silent auction, providing all of the beer and wine, and even donating and cooking a complete BBQ meal for the attendees!

Spirits were high as wilderness admirers gathered under one roof to see old friends, meet new ones, and congratulate the esteemed Friends of Nevada Wilderness’ 2014 award winners. In the spirit of the wild year 1964 that the Wilderness Act was signed into law, attendees came in their best 60’s garb, with flowers in their hair and covered in tie-dye!

Congratulations 2014 Award Winners

Volunteers of the Year:
- Jim Neveln
- Kevin Williams
- Susan Murphy

Agency Partner:
- Austin Ranger District
- Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Activist of the Year:
- Scott Moore

Partner Organization:
- Las Vegas Mountaineers Club

Agency Team Players:
- Brian Day & Mike Webster
- Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge

Corporate Partner of the Year:
- SH Architecture

Marge Sill Wilderness Legacy Award:
- Bart Koehler

Northern Nevada Volunteers of the Year: Kevin Williams (left) and Jim Neveln (right). [Photo: Paul White]

2014 Volunteer Accomplishments

Volunteer for a day. Make a difference that lasts a lifetime!

- Donated $200,047 of in-kind labor to Nevada’s public lands.
- Placed over 7,000 markers on fences in sensitive sage-grouse lek sites; reducing fatal fence strikes.
- Planted over 3,300 native plants in wilderness area.
- Removed over 11,000 invasive weeds.
- Volunteered over 5,353 hours in our public lands on 95 individual restoration projects.
- Installed 129 new signs for the National Park Service, the BLM, and the Forest Service; including wilderness boundary signs, wilderness portal signs, and trail signs.
- Monitored wilderness use; assisting the National Park Service and the Forest Service in ensuring the preservation of wilderness characteristics.
Wilderness enthusiasts in Nevada joined the nation this year in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, adding their voice to the national efforts underway to bring wilderness to the forefront of the public imagination. From celebratory picnics and hikes to a Sparks Museum wilderness exhibit, this year has been full of celebration, laughter, and memories to last a lifetime.

The 50th Anniversary also pushed us to trying out new ways to reach folks, such as tailoring outreach events to at-risk youth populations. Partnering with great organizations like the Boys and Girls Club and Big Brothers Big Sisters, we were able to integrate wilderness into the indoor and outdoor classrooms. Also new was our Artown wild art exhibit in July.

Over 20 artists contributed more than 50 art pieces - all showcasing the beauty of wild Nevada.

While there has been much to celebrate during the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, there is still much to protect. We hope you continue to join us in shaping the future of our wild lands through its stewardship and administrative protection. Wilderness begins with you and culminates in a lasting legacy that generations 50, 100, 200 years from now will appreciate and cherish.

What kind of legacy do you want to leave?

Nevadans on the Hill

Since this year marks the golden anniversary of the Wilderness Act, Friends of Nevada Wilderness sent three of its most ardent wilderness activists, to celebrate and advocate for Nevada’s wild places at Wilderness Week in Washington D.C. During the week, the dedicated Friends’ activists took the fight for Nevada’s wild places to Capitol Hill and met with select members of the Nevada Congressional Delegation and their staff, like longtime wilderness champion Senator Harry Reid, along with Senator Dean Heller, Congressman Steven Horsford and Congressman Mark Amodei.

As luck would have it, the activists happened to be in town when the Pine Forest and Wovoka Bills passed the House and so had the opportunity to thank both Congressman Horsford and Amodei for their bipartisanship, hard work, and commitment to our state. When asked about his time in D.C., Scott Moore replied, “I now have the confidence and peace of mind that I will be able to share Nevada’s Wild Places with my children and their children because wilderness really is forever.”

You do not have to go to Washington D.C. to make a difference, as President Theodore Roosevelt once said, “Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.” We can all lobby Congress by making phone calls, writing letters, and attending meetings right here in our home towns and by working together for the wild, we can have a Wilderness Forever.
Sage-Grouse Wilderness Campaign Update

We must protect our remaining sagebrush habitat that supports not only Greater Sage-Grouse but to so many other native wildlife. This is a complex ecosystem with complex needs and complex protection solutions. Friends of Nevada Wilderness is working on the legislative part of Sage-Grouse protection but the BLM’s Sage-Grouse EIS and the Nevada Governor’s Plan are also working on essential parts as well. Collectively, we might just make all the difference.

Nevada’s Sage-Grouse legislation has two main objectives:

- Provide regulatory certainty to the Fish and Wildlife Service that by designating wilderness, including Sage-Grouse habitat, these areas are forever free from being mined, developed, roaded, etc.

- Provide a funding stream for important Sage-Grouse habitat restoration including riparian and spring restoration.

Throughout 2014, Friends of Nevada Wilderness has been working long and hard with local governments, ranchers, Tribes, sportsmen, agencies and others to find common sense wilderness boundaries that will protect both high value wilderness and Sage-Grouse habitat. We’ve put a lot of miles on the road, produced a lot of draft maps, and drank a lot of caffeine working to find long-term protection for wild areas that you care about.

This legislation should be introduced into Congress early in 2015 and we will need your support to get it passed in time to help the Fish and Wildlife Service make its listing decision for the Greater Sage-Grouse by the end of the year.

To get involved in the Sage-Grouse Wilderness Campaign, call the office at (775) 324-7667 or contact Shevawn Von Tobel at shevawn@NevadaWilderness.org.

Seeking out the Wild Refuges of Nevada

Every year, we send our Inventory Crews to determine the last remaining wild areas on Nevada’s public lands and every year, they return with high-quality documentation of lands with wilderness characteristics and unforgettable memories of some of our state’s most beautiful landscapes. For the 2014 season, Friends of Nevada Wilderness Inventory Crews focused on lands in Elko County. From June through September, inventory field crews evaluated 20 areas, totaling nearly 400,000 acres of outstanding wilderness characteristics.

Highlights of the field season for crew members Will Boyer, Julien Pellegrini, and Ian Olsen included climbing 5,000 feet to summit Pilot Peak, exploring the remote and empty wild lands of the Northern Cherry Creek Mountains, and surprising encounters with wildlife in the sagebrush lowlands of the northern county.

Crew members reported that Northern Elko County was well-watered and rich in wildlife, including lots of sage-grouse. On the western alluvial fans of the Toano Range, the crew discovered a single large rock outcrop, which was used as a scratching post and polished by mammoths and other Pleistocene behemoths more than 10,000 years ago.

The findings of the 2014 field inventory crews are being compiled and submitted to the Elko BLM District Office.
Trail Crews Improve Wilderness

Two of the crew members fell in love with wild Nevada so much so that they immediately joined our central Nevada trail crew in the fall to work in the Austin/Tonopah Ranger District. They completed three eight-day tours, removing trees and brush and repairing the tread on almost 20 miles of trail. The crew began the season working on the North Mt. Jefferson Trail in the Alta Toquima Wilderness and then worked their way up to the southern end. Despite some stormy skies and dangerous weather, this hearty crew then proceeded to the Clear Creek Trail in the Monitors and completed heavy brushing for the remainder of the trail.

These tenacious trail crews have worked tirelessly to improve these routes so we all can more safely and easily access the breathtaking beauty and wonder that these wilderness areas offer. Big thanks to Mt. Charleston license plates, the Recreation and Trail Project, and RAC grants from the Forest Service.
In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and Friends of Nevada Wilderness’ own 30th anniversary, Friends kicked-off its first comprehensive fundraising campaign last March with a goal of $300,000. We would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to everyone who has come forward and contributed! These gifts are making us a stronger, more effective organization as we look forward to another 30 years of success in protecting and caring for wilderness in Nevada.

LUSH Fresh Handmade Cosmetics is a British company famous for its hand-made cosmetics using vegetarian recipes and for never engaging in animal testing – they currently have over 800 stores worldwide! LUSH first came across our organization several years ago through one of its Las Vegas locations. LUSH contributed $50,000 to Friends for advocacy part of which funded a trip to D.C this past fall where staff, volunteers, and one representative from LUSH lobbied for additional Nevada wilderness. A second key advocacy gift came from the Nightingale Family Foundation, which contributed $25,000 towards the Sage-Grouse Wilderness Campaign. Patagonia also contributed $10,000 to this important campaign, which could add as much as 2 million more acres of wilderness in Nevada.

Reno businessman, lawyer, and philanthropist, Bill Thornton helped Friends secure a much needed field vehicle with a donation of $15,000 toward a Ford F250 truck. Generous gifts from Dick Beniot also made this purchase possible. The vehicle, known affectionately as “Barry White”, spent the summer in the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge where volunteers removed the last miles of fence and other decommissioned materials. Our board member Karen Boeger also pitched in by donating a second vehicle to our fleet, her beloved personal truck, “Big Red” - a Nissan Frontier.

Many other Friends supporters have stepped up this year! The Southern Nevada Stewardship Program received a boost with a gift of $10,000 from the NV Energy Foundation. We’d also like to give a special thanks to all of our Board of Directors, The Wilson Conservation Trust, and Sorenson’s Resort.

If you are interested in supporting our 30th Anniversary Campaign, kindly call Shaaron Netherton or Connie Howard at 775-324-7667.

Commemorative Kiosk Installed in Mt. Charleston

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, Friends of Nevada Wilderness received a grant from the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance to install a commemorative kiosk in the Spring Mountain Recreation Area. With the help of Forest Service Ranger Joseph Smith and five young men from the Spring Mountain Youth Camp, a correctional facility for male youth, we installed the kiosk in mid August.

The sign’s location at the new Mud Springs Loop trailhead off Cold Creek Road provides information about appropriate uses of Mt. Charleston Wilderness. The information is intended to help all users understand best practices and Leave No Trace principles so we can all use and enjoy the area while keeping it wild!
Women for Wilderness

On October 9th, Friends of Nevada Wilderness held its first “Women for Wilderness” event to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of The Wilderness Act and our 30th year as an organization. So many of Nevada’s women have played a pivotal role in the wilderness movement - including Friends’ board members Marge Sill and Hermit Hiatt - that a special event was in order.

Penny McClary, Don Carlin and board member Karen Boeger graciously hosted this event at the Washoe Pines Ranch. The Sierra Sweethearts played amazing Bluegrass tunes and Great Basin Brewing Co., led by Chef James Garza and Baker Gina Gonzales provided a sumptuous hors d’oeuvres and four kinds of beer. Whispering Vines helped out with their excellent wines. And, the gentle soul of wilderness cooperated with a picture perfect evening for the women in attendance.

Executive Director Shaaron Netherton provided a presentation of Friends 30 years of success in protecting Nevada wilderness and our goals for the future. She also explained the significance of Washoe Pines Ranch as the home of Maya Miller, a Nevada activist who helped in the creation of Sand Harbor State Park at Lake Tahoe and so much more. Shaaron also outlined what’s next for Friends - our current goals and the nature of Friends’ statewide advocacy, stewardship, and education and outreach programs.

So many women live the complex lives of multi-tasking as they juggle families, work, and play that wilderness is especially important to them as a spiritual refuge. Friends is sure that Nevada’s women will continue to be a strong force for wilderness in our state.

Keep Nevada Wild!

Order today at www.NevadaWilderness.org/shop
Or by calling (775) 324-7667

Or send this form with your check to Friends of Nevada Wilderness, PO Box 9754, Reno, NV 89507

Membership  _____ x $25 = $_____
T-shirts  _____ x $17 = $_____
Calendar  _____ x $13 = $_____
Wild NV Book  _____ x $18 = $_____
Subtotal $_____
Additional donation $_____
Total $_____

(Prices include tax + shipping)

Payment by: _____ check _____ charge (Visa, Mastercard, and American Express)

Name: ______________________________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________
City: _____________________________ State: _______   ZIP: ________________
Phone (day): ___________________ E-mail: _______________________________
Card No.: _________________________________________ Exp. Date: ________
Signature: ______________________________________

3-digit code on back: ______

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

National Day of Service, Jan. 19
Join Friends and USFWS to get a jump on invasive mustard weeds in Corn Creek. Volunteers will hand pull weeds to promote a healthy habitat for native vegetation and wildlife. Volunteers of all ages welcome. Contact Jose at jose@nevadawilderness.org or (702) 515-5417.

Wilderness Love, Feb. 14
Join Friends and the Sierra Club as we spend Valentine’s Day working for wilderness! E-mail jose@nevadawilderness.org or call (702) 515-5417.

Black Rock Rendezvous, May 22-25
Another year of fun and stewardship in the Black Rock Desert with our parner organizations, Friends of Black Rock and the Nevada Outdoor School, and partner agency, the BLM. Contact Renee at renee@nevadawilderness.org or call the office at 775-324-7667.

Mt. Rose Weed Pull, May 30
Join the Invasive Weed Warriors as we help keep the invasive weeds at bay. Contact renee@nevadawilderness.org, or (775) 324-7667.

National Trails Day, June 5-7
Spend National Trails Day in the beautiful rugged country of the Black Rock Desert at Stevens Camp! Contact renee@nevadawilderness.org, or (775) 324-7667.

Mt. Rose Weed Pull, June 17
Another gorgeous day out in Mt. Rose Wilderness to remove invasive weeks to help the native plants gain ground. E-mail renee@nevadawilderness.org or (775) 324-7667.

More events to be added in the upcoming months. All dates subject to change. Please call or e-mail to verify dates and time.

To sign up for alerts and e-newsletters, email fnw@nevadawilderness.org, or call (775) 324-7667. For info on Southern events, call (702) 515-5417.

CHECK WEBSITE FOR MORE EVENTS!
UPDATED SCHEDULES POSTED AT www.NEVAWILD.org

NEW WILDERNESS FOR NEVADA: OPEN FOR MORE INFORMATION!