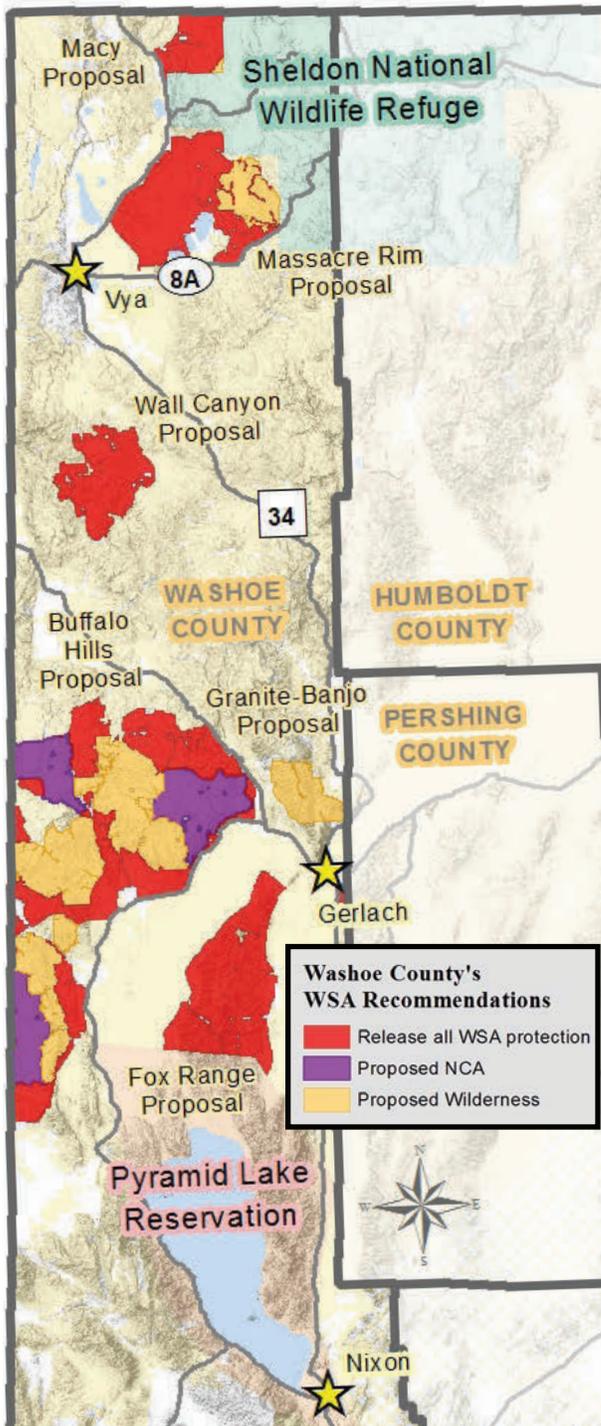




KEEPING WASHOE WILD



Washoe County is blessed with an abundance of public lands that provide sweeping vistas, expansive sagebrush seas, and healthy populations of pronghorn, bighorn sheep, numerous reptiles, song birds and a stronghold for the Greater Sage-Grouse. In this wild region stretching north of Pyramid Lake to the Oregon border, the roads are dirt, there is little cell phone coverage, and nature rules.

Unfortunately, the Washoe County Commissioners seem more interested in development than conservation and they are proposing to eliminate protections that have been in place since 1980 for many of these wild places. Their proposal to strip protections for 62% of our county's Wilderness Study Areas is appalling. Fortunately during the public hearings held April 24th and 26th, your voices were heard loud and clear standing up for Wilderness and open space.

The need for Wilderness - protected lands where the forces of nature are allowed the opportunity to operate, uninhibited from human interference – becomes more and more pressing as the population of the Truckee Meadows swells. Our quality of life, including a broad range of outdoor recreation opportunities and beautiful backcountry are what makes living in Washoe County special.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness has been invested in working alongside local legislators and various stakeholders to help find a balance

Continued on Page 10



A storm rolls in over Massacre Rim Wilderness Study Area. Photo by Kirk Peterson.

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FRONTLINES

By Shaaron Netherton / Executive Director



We need your voices now more than ever to stand up for public lands and Wilderness. I can't thank you all enough for your calls, letters, emails and in-person defense of our public lands early this year. You were there in southern Nevada pushing back on the military's proposal to take over more of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. You were there telling Washoe County Commissioners not to get rid of our public lands and Wilderness Study Areas.

Nevada's public lands and wild places are front and center this year with numerous bills or county proposals that could make or break Wilderness. Both the Clark and Washoe County Commissioners are wrestling

with different versions of public land bill proposals that would offer up more public lands for sale and development while also looking at conservation. Public lands bills for Pershing and Douglas counties are also moving. We MUST stay vigilant and fight for Wilderness.

While the public lands bills could offer some Wilderness protection, Senator Dean Heller's "get rid of Wilderness Study Areas" bill, if passed, would eliminate nearly a million acres of protected wildlands. We would lose places like the Park Range, Owyhee Canyon, Morey and Goshute Peak Wilderness Study Areas.

Don't give up! In Nevada especially, your voices will be heard and we will make a difference but only if we reach out, work together and stay focused. That said, get out and visit these areas at risk and think about what Wilderness and public lands mean to you and to our quality of life here in the Silver State.

SHAARON NETHERTON AND MARGE SILL: 'RENO PEOPLE' HONOREES

The City of Reno is celebrating its 150th anniversary, and honoring 150 people who made The Biggest Little City the community it is today. We are proud to announce two of those people are Shaaron Netherton, Executive Director of Friends of Nevada Wilderness, and the late Marge Sill, founding board member of Friends and the Mother of Nevada Wilderness.

Shaaron has served as Executive Director for Friends of Nevada Wilderness since July 2000, and her 22 years of public land management experience in the BLM with 10 years in Nevada working specifically in the BLM's Wilderness program give her a level of expertise that benefits not only Friends of Nevada Wilderness, but public lands lovers across America.

Marge worked tirelessly in her younger years to ensure Nevada's Wilderness jewel Jarbidge was designated with



Marge Sill (Left) and Shaaron Netherton (Right).

the original 1964 Wilderness Act, and didn't stop fighting for our wild places until she passed away in 2016.

Through hard work and perseverance, these two women not only built an organization, they built a movement and a community that has led to the protection of over 3.4 million acres of Wilderness in Nevada.

SPRING BREAKERS BECOME DESERT DEFENDERS



Our Alternative Spring Break students pose in front of the beautiful Sheep Range, after a week of hard work restoring America's public lands in southern Nevada. Photo by Dan Alvey.

Nevada's beautiful backcountry won out over beachside margaritas for 22 college students who spent their spring break week volunteering on our public lands. Friends of Nevada Wilderness was honored to host Alternative Spring Break for the eighth consecutive year, helping students get in touch with nature by doing restoration projects and learning about conservation.

Daily restoration trips included projects in the Arrow Canyon Wilderness, Pahrnatag National Wildlife Refuge, and the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, where volunteers built a barrier at the trailhead to the Desert Dunes area to prevent illegal off-roading in the sensitive area. The group camped out along the beach of Upper Pahrnatag Lake and attendees were treated to delicious cowboy cooking each evening, courtesy of volunteer chef Barry Chapman.

Throughout the week, student volunteers also heard about the

importance of advocating for our public lands like the Desert Refuge, with guest speakers drawing the connection between volunteering for on-the-ground restoration efforts and being a public lands advocate. The volunteers learned that caring for the land goes hand-in-hand with speaking up for the land.

Peter Sbraccia, a senior majoring in Geology at UNLV and a multi-year Alternative Spring Break attendee, loves working on stewardship projects that keep public land protected. "That first trip was my first ever stewardship experience, and now I do them all the time," said Peter. "This was a good way for me to start getting involved."

We would like to thank Barrick, who has sponsored our Alternative Spring Break event for the last four years. Friends relies on solid partnerships to complete our mission of protecting Nevada's public lands and preserving them for future generations. Barrick has been an incredible partner

when it comes to funding important projects like Alternative Spring Break, which has allowed us to provide more than 100 students with an experience of a lifetime and help them become our future public land stewards. Thank you, Barrick, for your generous support!



Student volunteer Kim poses with tree cages installed in the Pahrnatag Refuge. Photo by Dan Alvey.



Student volunteer Netta helps erect a barrier to protect the Desert Dunes in the Desert Refuge. Photo by Dan Alvey.

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS UNDER SIEGE

Senator Dean Heller is launching an attack on Nevada's Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) and is planning on introducing legislation soon. This year Senator Heller has been actively trying to get rural counties in Nevada to pass resolutions that will formally ask him to get rid of Wilderness Study Areas in their counties. Heller is telling those counties that he has support from Secretary Ryan Zinke, that they have an ally in the White House and that the Republican chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee will ensure the bill gets a hearing. So far the Senator has pushed for and received resolutions or letters of support from Elko, Nye, Lander, Mineral, Eureka and Humboldt Counties.

Heller's staff told Lander County the Senator needs written support because, "When Dean drops this bill, all hell's going to break lose with Friends of Nevada Wilderness...and we need to show that we have support from the affected communities."

Wilderness Study Areas are the wildest, most remote and often some of the most beautiful land managed by the BLM in Nevada. They are truly the best of the best, and the BLM was directed to manage these areas to protect their Wilderness values until Congress determined whether or not to designate them as Wilderness. Following direction by Congress, the BLM identified about 100 WSAs in Nevada by 1980, all of which had outstanding Wilderness values. Over the years, some of these areas have been designated as Wilderness.

Nevada has 63 Wilderness Study Areas remaining, totalling 2.5 million acres.

Senator Heller's bill aims to immediately get rid of Wilderness Study Areas that were deemed by the BLM to be of more value for development uses (non-suitable) than Wilderness uses. Those areas that the BLM felt should be Wilderness (suitable)

would be scheduled for release in 2-5 years if Congress doesn't designate them as Wilderness before then.

After the BLM initially inventoried and designated Nevada's WSAs around 1980, they conducted a study and analysis that weighed the Wilderness values against other more development values. Using this information, the BLM made recommendations to Congress on which WSAs - or portions of WSAs - were "suitable or non-suitable" for Wilderness. In the 1980's the BLM may have felt that other potential development values outweighed the Wilderness values in certain areas. Nonetheless, every WSA has Wilderness values. Though because so much time has gone by, those 30 year old recommendations have been given little if any attention by Congress when designating Wilderness.



Kawich WSA in Nye County. Photo by Brian Beffort.



Jack rabbits and other wildlife thrive in the protected habitats.

WSA HIGHLIGHT: WALL CANYON

Washoe County is brimming with amazing wild areas and the beautiful Wall Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA) is a prime example. Located about four hours north of Reno, this WSA contains most of Boulder Mountain, the upper portions of Wall Canyon, and approximately 15% of the Hays Canyon Range. Directly adjacent to the Wall Canyon WSA are two other amazing areas: Two Hats and the Hays Canyon Range, both of which have been inventoried as having Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

Visitors to the Wall Canyon WSA will be in awe of the area's rolling buttes, upland benches and many canyons with impressive canyon rims. More into wildlife than topography? Then grab your favorite pair of binoculars and head up to Wall Canyon in the spring to watch the Greater Sage-Grouse perform their elaborate courtship rituals. In addition to Sage-Grouse, this area is home to some of the state's healthiest herds of California bighorn sheep and mule deer,

as well as the only known location of the endangered Wall Canyon sucker fish.

Ready to start planning your trip yet? Don't forget to check out Hays Canyon Road. From Highway 34, head south-east along this well graded road. At the summit, you will be greeted by amazing views of Wall Canyon, Hays Canyon, and Two Hats. Descending from the summit are a series of switchbacks that will take you down to the choke point of the Hays Canyon, known as Devil's Gate. The "gate" is a tight squeeze between rocky walls with just enough room to squeeze your vehicle through. We recommend only driving this road in dry conditions with 4WD.

Now that we've got you daydreaming about a trip to Wall Canyon, we are asking for your help to make sure this area stays wild. Take a second to read about our campaign for Wild Washoe and learn what you can do online at nevadawilderness.org/wildwashoe



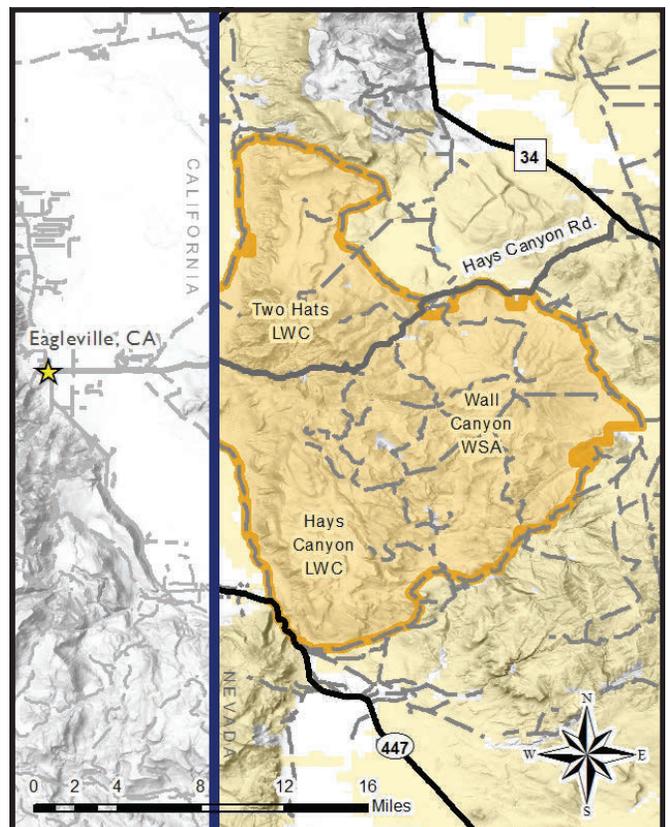
Overlooking Hays Canyon LWC. Photo by Kirk Peterson.



An aspen forest in the Wall Canyon WSA. Photo by Kirk Peterson.



The Two Hats LWC. Photo by Kirk Peterson.



THE FIGHT FOR DESERT REFUGE CONTINUES

In October of 2017, the Air Force released the Draft LEIS outlining their proposal to take over more of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. In January of 2018, they held a series of public meetings in southern Nevada. At the Las Vegas meeting, over 250 people packed the room, unanimously opposing any expansion of the already oversized, 2.9 million-acre Nevada Test and Training Range. Hunters, business interests, local politicians, jeeps, biologists, hikers, and mountain bikers all united in favor of keeping the military from intruding further into our beloved refuge.

Prior to the Las Vegas meeting, about 50 people attended Friends' public #DontBombTheBighorn rally. Speakers gave their reasons why they support the Desert Refuge being protected for future generations. Greg Anderson, Chairman of the Moapa Band of Paiutes, gave testimony on how his people, the Moapa Band of Paiutes, see the bighorn as Paiute



Southern Nevada Director, Jose Witt, addresses the crowd at the #DontBombTheBighorn rally. Photo by Dan Alvey.

people. He also stated how the Paiute people revere the mountains of the Desert Refuge as sacred spaces that should be preserved and protected. Architect Eric Roberts shared how places like the Desert Refuge allow his company to be successful because

talented employees are attracted to cities with protected public lands. Jose Witt spoke about the threats from the military to the proposed Wilderness and to wildlife, loss of public access and why people should care enough to get involved.

The Fight To Save The Desert National Wildlife Refuge Marches On

**1,200
Voices**



Over 1,200 people took action on our #DontBombTheBighorn campaign website. Currently, a petition is available to sign for our Nevada Congressional Delegation urging them to vote with conservation when the time comes.

**11,000
Sheep**



After populations of bighorn sheep plummeted in Nevada due to disease, loss of habitat and over-hunting, biologists and conservationists were able to restore populations to over 11,000. The largest populations of bighorn still reside in the rugged mountain ranges of the Desert Refuge.



The Nevada Testing and Training Range is currently 2.9 million acres. It is larger than 7 Nevada counties and larger than the entire state of Rhode Island! The Desert Refuge should not lose another inch to widen their borders!



**Fall
2018**

The Military's Final LEIS will be released some time this fall. Once the Final LEIS is released, congress may vote at any time on the fate of the Desert Refuge.

#DontBombTheBighorn



**Late
2021**

Congress has until November 2021 to make a decision on the Military's proposal for land withdrawal in the Desert Refuge. Let's make sure they make the right decision and protect the Desert Refuge!

AN UNFORGETTABLE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

By Bill Huggins



Photo by Crystal DiPietro

Seeing wildlife is like seeing celebrities, only better. —Tania Andrews

All of us who love Wild Nevada have lots in common, probably number one is the desire to engage with nonhuman animals in their natural habitats. I spend weeks out of every year in Wild Nevada and I've had some stunning experiences with our native wildlife that I will never forget.

Living in the desert southwest for almost three decades, I've seen lots of bighorns, our state animal, in herds from six to twenty sheep, always at a decent distance—though in some places they're used to us and

will linger and watch so long as we don't get too close. One morning several years ago I was traversing a slot canyon down to the Colorado River. A strong wind blew on the rim above where I started the hike, but once the wind- and water-smoothed canyon walls closed around me a stillness fell and I lost myself in the swish of my boots through sand.

I slid over a couple of dry waterfalls. I turned a corner and found myself less than twenty feet from a small herd of bighorns, munching on plants. The closest was the male,

easily identifiable by his large curving horns. Behind him were a few more sheep. I went right to some advice an old-timer had given me years before: if you run into a male bighorn and he cocks his head, get out of there because it means he's going to charge. I was deep in the drainage, the walls towering around me, literally nowhere to go. Unlike the kit fox, the sheep didn't stare—they were almost instantly gone, levitating up those vertical walls, vanished so fast it was hard to believe they had been there—but they were, a few hundred feet up, staring down at me.

A MESSAGE ON THE MOUNTAIN

The Spring Mountains welcome thousands of guests looking for summer recreation in southern Nevada. With so many visitors, there is a need to limit the inevitable impact on the mountain. This summer, Friends of Nevada Wilderness will be out on the trails in Mt. Charleston to help spread Leave No Trace principles and foster a sense of extended community among the Spring Mountains' visitors. Thanks to funding from the Mt. Charleston

License Plate grant, we will be installing Leave No Trace inspired literature in several trail kiosks, hosting information tables on popular trails, fixing switchbacks, promoting awareness of fire restrictions, and educating the public on what makes Mt. Charleston so great and why we need to protect its natural beauty. To volunteer with this project, contact Shi-Lynn in our southern Nevada office at (702) 515-5417. We hope to see you this summer on Mt. Charleston!



Shi-Lynn Campbell and volunteer Susan Murphy completing trail work in Mt. Charleston. Photo by Grace Larsen.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: CATHY SCHMIDT

Here at Friends of Nevada Wilderness we love our family of volunteers! Their generosity, spirit, humility, and commitment are all traits that we stand in awe of every day and we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has selflessly given their time and energy to support the mission of Friends of Nevada Wilderness.

Over the past few years, Cathy Schmidt has become a regular volunteer on our stewardship trips, as well as in the office, and she is a fierce advocate for public



Cathy Schmidt carries out old fencing with northern Nevada Stewardship Manager, Nora Kaufmann. Photo by Kurt Kuznicki.

lands. When asked why she volunteers with Friends of Nevada Wilderness, she said that taking care of the environment has always been important to her.

“I started volunteering with Friends because I wanted to learn more about our Wilderness areas and get out with those taking care of them. The fine folks, delicious food, and incredible experiences in the field keep me coming back. I feel like I am giving back and showing gratitude for the beauty and wonder of the Wilderness.”

When asked if she had any advice for new volunteers with Friends, Cathy offered this: “Dive in! Get out in the wilds and advocate for the preservation of these lands. I’ve learned so much and really have a much greater appreciation for the restorative potential of Wilderness. If you aren’t really a camper, get involved in advocating with local government, or do day trips, or volunteer at the local events. The volunteers are all really great — I’ve made some good friends.”

When she isn’t volunteering with Friends of Nevada Wilderness, the Sierra Club, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, or working on political campaigns, you can find Cathy hiking and traveling all over the world. She recently returned from a trip to Greece where she hiked across the island of Crete. Thanks for the inspiration, Cathy!

BECOME A WILDERNESS WEED WARRIOR

On May 5th, Friends of Nevada Wilderness partnered with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful to perform an invasive weed removal as part of their annual Great Community Clean Up event. This year, we had an astonishing 70 volunteers show up ready to work hard and have fun. Led by the Stewardship Team, we split into smaller groups and headed into the Mt. Rose Wilderness to control the spread of the invasive musk thistle. Invasive weeds compete with native plants for light, nutrients, and water, diminishing native wildlife habitat and increasing fire danger. Armed with gloves and shovels, volunteers removed approximately 7,500 invasive weeds from Reno’s backyard Wilderness!

This spring, Friends of Nevada Wilderness will be holding a total of eight invasive weed removals in the Mt. Rose Wilderness thanks to generous funding from the National Forest Foundation and from the Truckee River Fund, a grant administered by the Community Foundation of

Western Nevada. This great work is only possible because of hard-working volunteers like you! If you’re interested in joining us in the fight against invasive weeds, please visit the Calendar of Events on our website and RSVP today.



A group of 70 volunteer Weed Warriors pose outside of the Mt. Rose Wilderness. Photo by Kurt Kuznicki.

UPDATE ON PUBLIC LANDS LEGISLATION

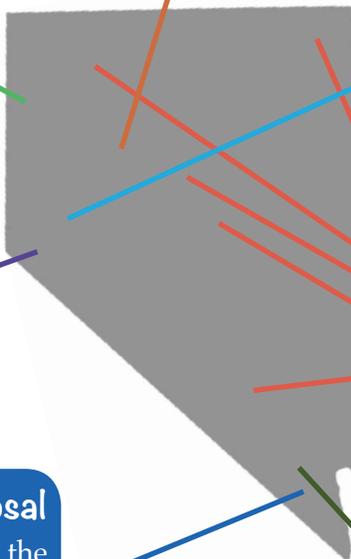
Washoe County Public Lands Bill Proposal

Washoe County recently released a proposal for development and conservation that was not well received.



Pershing County Public Lands Bill

Passed the House in early 2018 and is now being reviewed in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The bill would designate seven Wilderness areas totalling 136,000 acres.



Fallon Naval Air Station Expansion

The Navy wants a 224,000-acre expansion for their training range. The expansion would affect Job Peak, Stillwater Range and the Clan Alpine Mountains Wilderness Study Areas.

Douglas County Public Lands Bill

This bill has been in the works for years and may be ready for reintroduction after a number of changes. The Burbank Canyons Wilderness area would be designated in this bill.

Senator Heller's Anti-WSA Bill

If enacted, this bill would eliminate nearly one million acres of protected Wilderness Study Areas across Elko, Humboldt, Eureka, Nye and Lander counties.

Clark County Public Lands Bill Proposal

Clark County has been working over the last year on a development/conservation proposal. There may be a county resolution proposed this summer.

Desert National Wildlife Refuge

The military released their draft Legislative EIS last fall and held public meetings around southern Nevada in January. Their final LEIS will be out late summer and it will then be up to Congress to decide the fate of the proposed Sheep Range Wilderness as well as public access in the refuge.

Stay up to date on all our campaigns at nevadawilderness.org/campaigns



KEEPING WASHOE WILD

Continued from Front Page

between the need for development and conservation, but with the release of the county's most recent proposal, we feel the commissioners are disconnected from the needs of Washoe County residents. It is unclear

what the county's next steps will be but we urge everyone to continue write or email their commissioners about the importance of significant Wilderness protection in Washoe County.



Nora Kaufmann submits a comment at the April 26th hearing. Photo by Kurt Kuznicki.



Shaaron Netherton presents 250+ signed postcards in opposition to the proposal. Photo by Kurt Kuznicki.

Act Now!

Submit Your Comments

Washoe County
Commissioners

1001 E. Ninth St
Building A
Reno, NV 89512

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: CHRIS CUTSHAW



We are very excited to announce our new northern Nevada Stewardship Coordinator, Chris Cutshaw. Chris grew up and attended university in Arizona before moving to Nevada where he fell in love with “the sweeping valleys and wild nature of the Great Basin.” When he’s not working at the Friends’ office or in the field keeping Nevada wild, you can find him climbing at the local crag or skiing around Tahoe. He’s not too particular on the sport as long as it means he can be outside and in nature.

Chris’s name may sound familiar, that’s because he was part of Friends’ Northern Nevada Stewardship Team

in 2015 as an AmeriCorps member. During the 2015 stewardship season, Chris grew to be an integral part of the Friends community and when the chance to bring him back as a regular staff member arrived, we jumped at the opportunity! Want to meet Chris? Please consider joining him on a stewardship project this season, or swing by the office and say hello.

Fun Fact:

Chris was voted best hair in high school, his hair even has its own facebook page. Good luck finding it.

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 charitable giving and estate planning. Contact Dan Alvey for more information; Call (775) 324-7667 or email dan@nevadawilderness.org. Tax ID: 88-0211763.



INTRODUCING TIM BUCHANAN

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is happy to welcome our newest board member, Tim Buchanan. Tim brings the unique combination of a life-long passion for Nevada's wild landscapes and a professional background in corporate social responsibility and sustainability in the global mining industry. Tim worked for Barrick from 2001-2017, serving as Senior Adviser/Director of the Energy and Extractives Advisory Services and then as Director of Corporate Social Responsibility, and he is currently serving as the Public Affairs Administrative Officer for the Office of the Mayor and City Council of Henderson. Please allow us to introduce Tim Buchanan!

Why do you think Wilderness is important?

I always liked John C. Van Dyke's statement that "The deserts should never be reclaimed. They are the breathing-spaces of the west and should be preserved forever." Our wild areas of Nevada are the best places to take a nice, long deep breath and shed the stress and strain of our increasingly hectic modern life!

What are your favorite outdoor activities to do in Wilderness?

Hiking and Backpacking.

If you could recommend one area in wild Nevada for someone who has never visited our state, what place would that be?

That is very difficult for me to answer because there are so many beautiful places in the state of Nevada! Having hiked many peaks over the last 35 years, I would have to say that the Mount Moriah Wilderness is near the top of the list for a backpack/peak bag trip. The beauty, endless vistas, remoteness, and solitude of the top of the range would be a wonderful first impression of our beautiful state!



Give the Gift of Wilderness!

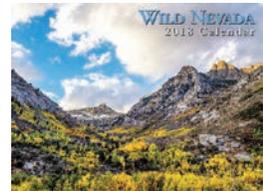
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2018 Wild Nevada Calendar

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

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FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS

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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UPCOMING TRIPS AND EVENTS

Northern Nevada

Mt. Rose Wilderness Weed Warriors: June 13; June 20; June 27
Help us as we work on removing invasive weeds from the Mt. Rose Wilderness, it's a great way to experience Reno's backyard Wilderness!

Santa Rosa Bull Thistle Extravaganza, June 15-17
Join us for a weekend in the backcountry of the beautiful Santa Rosa Mountains. We will be removing the noxious weeds and camping near a peaceful waterfall.

South Jackson Wilderness Project, July 27-29
Join us as we head into the South Jackson Wilderness in the Black Rock National Conservation Area to work

on a variety of projects to help protect and restore this beautiful area.

High Rock Canyon Project, September 14-16
Help us protect this beautiful area that provides important habitat for bighorn sheep and migratory falcons.

National Public Lands Day, September 28-30
Friends will be partnering with the BLM to celebrate Public Lands by working on restoration projects in and around Soldier Meadows.

Southern Nevada

Bonanza Extravaganza
Part 1, June 21-24
Part 2, August 9-12
Join us as we head into the Mt. Charleston Wilderness to maintaining the Bonanza Trail. We'll be maintaining the trail during the days and camping along it in the evenings. There's no better way to get to know Mt. Charleston Wilderness!

Griffith Peak Trail Rebuild
Part 1, July 26-29
Part 2, September 13-16
Join us as we head into the Mt. Charleston Wilderness to rebuild the Griffith Peak Trail. We'll be working on the trail during the days and camping along it in the evenings. Join us for a unique, authentic trail crew experience!

CONTACT OUR OFFICES FOR
DETAILS!

RENO: (775) 324-7667
LAS VEGAS: (702) 515-5417

Follow Us! @friendsofnwild



CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE
EVENTS:

NEVADAWILDERNESS.ORG