



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Friends of Nevada Wilderness honors National Wildlife Refuge Week with Native Planting in Desert National Wildlife Refuge

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On September 21, the U.S. Senate resolved to designate October 14-21 as National Wildlife Refuge Week. The resolution recognizes the remarkable lands and waters of the National Wildlife Refuge System to the American people, their value to local communities and the support provided by refuge Friends groups and volunteers.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness will honor this resolution with a volunteer project on October 13 to plant 300 native plants at Corn Creek, on the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. Additional partners participating in this project will be Wildlife and Habitat Improvement of Nevada and SH Architecture. Matt Flores, volunteer coordinator for the Refuge, is organizing the event.

Just north of Las Vegas, the Desert National Wildlife Refuge is the largest wildlife refuge outside of Alaska and provides essential habitat for Nevada's state animal, the desert bighorn sheep. Nestled against the Oregon border, the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge provides more than a half-million acres of quality wildlife habitat for pronghorn, sage grouse and other wildlife. Both provide a wealth of outdoor opportunities to the public. The Fish & Wildlife Service has recommended a majority of each to be designated as wilderness by Congress.

"We feel both Sheldon and Desert are big, wild and wonderful," said Friends' Executive Director Shaaron Netherton. "It's great that we have such amazing resources in Nevada for the public to enjoy, and such fantastic volunteers who step up to care for these important wildlands."

Over the years, Friends' volunteers have completed more than 30 projects on wildlife refuges in Nevada, including removing 168 miles of obsolete barbed-wire removed from Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge; pulling invasive weeds, planting native shrubs and trees, removing debris, building trails and restoring vehicle impacts to wildlife habitat.

In recognition of these efforts, the southern Nevada land management agencies will be awarding Friends of Nevada Wilderness with a "Partner Sponsor Award" on October 13.