



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**UNLV Students to Attend Alternative Spring Break**

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Photo, Video, Interview Opportunity

**WHAT:**

Friends of Nevada Wilderness, in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Great Basin Institute, is hosting an Alternative Spring Break volunteer and educational opportunity for UNLV students. This week long experience will provide students with the opportunity to learn about the local environment, management, and restoration of the National Desert Wildlife Refuge - the nation's largest wildlife refuge in the contiguous U.S. The week will consist of volunteer work to revitalize and enhance habitat throughout the Refuge, including naturalizing illegal road scars, planting native vegetation, and cleaning debris in order to improve wildlife habitat and restore areas to a more natural state. Guest speakers, who will join the students each evening to present different topics related to the Refuge, include:

Steve Rowland, UNLV Professor of Geology  
Doug Merkler, State Resources Soil Scientist  
Brad Gore, CSN Professor of Geology  
David Charlet, Professor of Biology and Environmental Science

**WHEN:**

Sunday through Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>.

**WHY:**

Not only is Alternative Spring Break in the National Desert Wildlife Refuge an important way for students to give back to public lands but it's also a valuable opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge and experience in the environmental sciences and related fields. The week is also a refreshing change of pace for those students interested in a more meaningful experience to both give back to their community and to learn new skills. "These folks are getting involved with their public lands on a unique level by enjoying a productive and rewarding week in the outdoors," said Harry Knowin, the Volunteer Program Coordinator for the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. Last year, Alternative Spring Break volunteers removed 5,000 pounds of scrap fence and other waste.

**WHERE:**

Desert National Wildlife Refuge, the camp will be located near the intersection of Mormon Well and Gass Peak Road.

**MEDIA:**

Attend for photo, video, and interview opportunity.

To get more information on this event, please contact Jose at [jose@nevadawilderness.org](mailto:jose@nevadawilderness.org) or call the office at (702) 839-5568. Get information about future projects with Friends of Nevada Wilderness at our website [www.nevadawilderness.org/calendar\\_of\\_events](http://www.nevadawilderness.org/calendar_of_events).