

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**University Students Give Back to Public Lands during
Alternative Spring Break**

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Photo, Video, Interview Opportunity

Las Vegas, NV – Starting March 29th 2015, Friends of Nevada Wilderness is partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to host the 5th annual Alternative Spring Break, a four day service learning program designed to provide students with hands-on experience in the environmental sciences and land management fields.

Thirteen students from the University of Nevada Las Vegas and Nevada State College will spend four days in the Pahranaagat National Wildlife Refuge to participate in stewardship projects by day and enjoy educational discussions over dinner at night.

Alternative Spring Break provides students with the opportunity to give directly back to Nevada’s public lands,” says Jose Witt, Friends of Nevada Wilderness’ Southern Nevada Manager, “The majority of the students who attend Alternative Spring Break have never been camping before so this week also serves as a great introduction to the value of public lands here in Southern Nevada.”

Approximately 90 miles northeast of North Las Vegas in Lincoln County, Pahranaagat National Wildlife Refuge serves as a critical destination for migratory birds due to having one of the few wetland habitats in Southern Nevada. The endangered southwestern Willow Flycatcher, a light grayish green colored bird makes a home in the dense deciduous trees of a riparian ecosystem. Students and volunteers will work directly with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to learn more about the Refuge, the wildlife species that reside there, and effective habitat management and restoration techniques utilized in the Pahranaagat.

Founded in 1984, Friends of Nevada Wilderness has helped protect over 3 million acres of Nevada’s wild lands by leading efforts in the expansion or designation of all 70 wildernesses in the state, including the creation of Mt. Charleston Wilderness. Over the past thirty-one years, Friends of Nevada Wilderness has grown a nationally recognized and award-winning Wilderness Stewardship Volunteer Program, generating over \$1 million of in-kind services to benefit Nevada’s public lands throughout the state.

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For more information on this event and about Friends of Nevada Wilderness, please e-mail Jose Witt at jose@nevadawilderness.org, call the office at (702) 839-5568, or visit our website at <http://www.nevadawilderness.org>.