



FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wildfire Recovery Efforts Underway Across Northwestern Nevada

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Photo, Video, Interview Opportunity

Reno, Nevada (March 22, 2016) – Wildfires make a profound impact on Nevada’s public lands every year. Public land management agencies like the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management not only bear the brunt of wildfire prevention and suppression but need to conduct yearly habitat restoration projects in areas severely burned by large wildfires.

The statewide non-profit organization Friends of Nevada Wilderness is dedicated to assisting the land management agencies with the task. The organization will begin its northern Nevada stewardship season by partnering with the U.S. Forest Service and BLM to conduct critical habitat restoration efforts in four priority areas affected by wildfires. Projects will consist of planting native seedlings like bitterbrush and sagebrush in an effort to rehabilitate wildlife habitat and prevent invasive weeds from colonizing. The projects are funded by the Dream Tags Fund at the Community Foundation of Western Nevada, a fund that is paid for by the proceeds of the annual sale of raffle chances to win a Nevada Dream Tag, a chance for sportsmen throughout the U.S. to win special big game hunt tags.

“The Community Foundation of Western Nevada is proud to support the protection of Nevada’s wildlife habitat through the Dream Tags Fund,” says Tracy Turner, Chief Philanthropy Officer at the Community Foundation, “Working with the Advisory Board on Dream Tags is a rewarding experience. Our Advisory Board members are passionate about Nevada and passionate about Nevada’s wildlife. We are delighted to support Friends of Nevada Wilderness in their efforts to protect and restore precious wildlife habitat.”

This weekend, Friends of Nevada Wilderness is seeking volunteers to join the organization and BLM near Mosquito Lake, directly west of the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, to help recovery efforts in an area affected by the 2014 Coleman wildfire which burned nearly 20,000 acres. Last season, Friends of Nevada Wilderness’ volunteers planted nearly 8,000 sagebrush seedlings and a few hundred bitterbrush seedlings in this area and hope to plant an additional few thousand native seedlings by the end of spring 2016.

“The 2014 Coleman Fire burned through a large portion of the 2005 Barrel Fire. Replanting of sagebrush into these areas will benefit a multitude of sagebrush-steppe species including mule deer and pronghorn antelope, as well as Greater Sage-Grouse, brewers sparrows, and sage sparrows,” says Elias Flores, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist of the Bureau of Land Management Applegate Field Office, “In today’s world of reduced budgets, partnerships such as these with Friends of Nevada Wilderness and Dream Tags Charitable Fund are vitally important in order for the BLM to meet its landscape management goals.”

Interested volunteers are encouraged to call the Friends of Nevada Wilderness office at 775-324-7667 to discuss project details or visit the website www.nevadawilderness.org/calendar_of_events. Friends may be

able to accommodate volunteers with transportation to and from the project site, camping gear, and meals. Volunteer projects are a great way for volunteers to experience a new part of wild Nevada, complete important restoration projects on public lands, and meet like-minded volunteers

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 Mt. Rose Wilderness and Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conversation Area. Over the past thirty-two years, Friends of Nevada Wilderness has grown a nationally recognized and award-winning Wilderness Stewardship Volunteer Program which has generated over \$1 million of in-kind services to benefit Nevada's public lands.

For more information about Friends of Nevada Wilderness, visit <http://www.nevadawilderness.org/>

For photos of last year's Coleman Fire Seedling Planting project, visit [our Flickr page here](#).



Volunteers planting sagebrush seedlings in area affected by Coleman wildfire, 2015.
Photo credit: Kurt Kuznicki

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