



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friends of Nevada Wilderness Thanks President Obama for the Creation of Gold Butte National Monument

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LAS VEGAS (December 28, 2016) - Today, President Obama designated Gold Butte as a National Monument. Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon, is home to countless cultural, historic, and natural wonders that make this area so unique and are now preserved for future generations. For decades, Nevadans have been working to protect the nationally significant cultural, historic, and natural treasures in Gold Butte and today their hard work has paid off.

Shaaron Netherton, Executive Director of Friends of Nevada Wilderness released the following statement: "Friends of Nevada Wilderness and our supporters have been working hard to protect Gold Butte for over twenty years and we are so happy that President Obama has finally protected one of Nevada's most iconic natural places. We also thank our congressional champions, Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus, for continuing to be Nevada's voice in Washington to protect Gold Butte."

About Gold Butte: Gold Butte is located near Mesquite, Nevada and is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago. In addition, Gold Butte offers an array of outdoor recreational uses. Visitors to Gold Butte enjoy the area through hiking, hunting, birding, camping, climbing, ORV riding on designated trails, and traditional tribal uses.

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 Mt. Charleston Wilderness. 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/>

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