



FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Volunteers to help open the South Loop Trail in the Spring Mountains

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Photo, Video, Interview Opportunity

Las Vegas, NV— On Saturday, September 24, Over 50 volunteers at the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area will join hundreds of thousands of fellow Americans at public land sites across the country to give back to the lands where we play, learn, exercise, and relax in celebration of the 23rd annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD) – the nation’s largest, single-day volunteer effort for public lands.

One project, hosted by Friends of Nevada Wilderness, will take place in the Spring Mountains as part of a continued effort to recover popular destinations like the South Loop Trail that were affected by the 2013 Carpenter 1 wildfire. Part of the Humboldt –Toiyabe National Forest, the Spring Mountains receive 1 million visitors each year. NPLD, coordinated each year by the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) with support from national sponsor Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc., brings together volunteers from across the country to improve and restore the lands and facilities that Americans use and enjoy every day. “This trail is really important to me and the hiking community,” says volunteer, Mike Greene, “I’ll volunteer on National Public Lands Day and any day because it’s meaningful work and I have fun doing it; especially when it’s on the South Loop Trail!”

In July 2013, the Carpenter 1 wildfire burned nearly 28,000 acres of the southern Spring Mountains, resulting in the closure of popular recreation sites in the area until the resulting hazards could be mitigated. Since then, volunteers have donated nearly \$18,000 of in-kind labor (598 hours) to help re-open popular hiking destinations like the Mt. Charleston National Recreation Trail (NRT), formerly known as the South Loop Trail. Volunteers on National Public Lands Day will complete the work needed to open this trail by repairing drainage structures and stairs originally damaged by subsequent flooding after the fire. Directly following the maintenance project at 1 pm the Forest Service will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the first weekend of the South Loop Trail being open to the public in over three years.

Another project will also have the Spring Mountains Visitor Gateway bustling with volunteers installing benches, levelling paths and generally improving the outdoor experience available to visitors at the Gateway. Go Mt. Charleston is leading this effort and is still promoting public participation. Anyone interested in helping with these finishing touches should email volunteer@gomtcharleston.com.

Starting at 2 pm, all visitors can enjoy a free educational concert by Jalisco All Stars joined by the U.S. Forest Service and GO Mt. Charleston staff. “The Spring Mountains (National Recreation Area) sees over 1 million visitors annually,” says Leonie Mowat, Operations Director for GO Mt. Charleston, “providing a safe, comfortable space and a place for the community to come together is invaluable.”

Founded in 1984, Friends of Nevada 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-two years, Friends of Nevada Wilderness has also 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.

For more information about the South Loop Trail Maintenance project, call (702) 515-5417 or email Jose at jose@nevadawilderness.org. For more information and to sign up for the Spring Mountains Visitor Gateway project email volunteer@gomtcharleston.com. Get information about future projects with Friends of Nevada Wilderness at the website <http://www.nevadawilderness.org>. Get more information about future projects and hikes with GO Mt. Charleston on their website <http://www.gomtcharleston.com>.



Volunteers are excited to work in Mt. Charleston Wilderness!

Photo taken 7/23/2016 on South Loop Trail in the Spring Mountain National Recreation Area.

Photo credit: Grace Larsen

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