



FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Volunteers Spend Day of Service in Gold Butte National Monument

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Photo, Video, Interview Opportunity

January 19, 2017 (Las Vegas, NV) – On the Day of Service, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, nearly thirty volunteers joined Friends of Nevada Wilderness and Friends of Gold Butte to reduce the damaging effects of illegal motorized incursions in the newly designated Gold Butte National Monument.

Volunteers of all ages from Las Vegas, Henderson, Boulder City, and Mesquite spent the holiday near the First Rock and Falling Man trailhead in Gold Butte to remove unlawful vehicle tracks, delineate a parking area, and re-naturalize the area. One volunteer from Mesquite, Francis Golden, said, “I truly believe we all have an obligation to contribute what we can to help our communities become better places. For me, giving several hours of my time and energy to help repair damaged areas goes hand in hand with my deep love of nature.”

Gold Butte National Monument, designated in late December 2016 by President Obama, is a landscape beloved for its recreational opportunities, mining history, prehistoric petroglyphs, and traces of ancient life. In recent years, Gold Butte has suffered degradation and destruction, examples of which were carefully recorded, documented, and reported by Friends of Gold Butte in two separate damage reports. With this new designation, the same groups that worked to protect the area are now working to help the Bureau of Land Management, the managing agency of Gold Butte National Monument, and erase what they can of the damage that’s been done.

Grace Larsen, Stewardship Coordinator for Friends of Nevada Wilderness says, “This work is important because we’re restoring the natural habitat for the threatened desert tortoise, sensitive plants species and other wildlife that live in Gold Butte.” The Gold Butte restoration project was made possible by a KEEN Effect grant from the footwear company, KEEN.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness and Friends of Gold Butte will return to Gold Butte National Monument throughout the spring and fall to continue the restoration work needed in Gold Butte. Friends of Gold Butte will also continue to lead hikes to many of the popular attractions in the new monument. Anyone interested in volunteering should watch the Friends of Nevada Wilderness calendar of events webpage, http://www.nevadawilderness.org/calendar_of_events. Those interested in joining hikes should visit the Friends of Gold Butte Meetup page, <http://www.meetup.com/Friends-of-Gold-Butte>.



**Volunteers pleased with the work they accomplished on Martin Luther King Jr Day in Gold Butte National Monument.
Photo credit: Steve Dudrow**

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More photos of the Gold Butte Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day can be found at:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/113807194@N05/sets/72157679271411345>

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) 515-5417, or visit our website at <http://www.nevadawilderness.org>.

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