



FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Volunteers Gather on Earth Day in the Santa Rosa Range to Assist in Wildfire Recovery Efforts

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Photo, Video, Interview Opportunity

Winnemucca, Nevada (April 19, 2017) – This Saturday on April 22nd, northern Nevada volunteers will spend Earth Day volunteering to plant native sagebrush and bitterbrush seedlings in the Santa Rosa Range in areas affected by wildfires.

Wildfires make a profound impact on Nevada's public lands every year. The Santa Rosa Range, just north of Winnemucca, is still recovering from the Hansen wildfire in 2012 that burned 20 square miles. Public land management agencies like the U.S. Forest Service 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 by conducting critical habitat restoration efforts in priority areas affected by wildfires like the Santa Rosa Range. Projects will consist of planting native seedlings like bitterbrush and sagebrush in an effort to rehabilitate winter forage for wildlife and prevent invasive weeds from colonizing.

Last season, Friends of Nevada Wilderness' volunteers planted nearly 7,000 sagebrush and bitterbrush seedlings across northern Nevada in areas affected by wildfires. Volunteers are well on their way to beating that record – last weekend, volunteers planted 1,200 seedlings in the Santa Rosa Range.

"The 2012 Hansen Fire burned through a large portion of the Santa Rosa Range. Our volunteers immediately got to work in restoring affected wildlife habitat. Since 2012, in partnership with the Forest Service, we've planted 20,000 native seedlings in the area." says Richie Bednarski, Stewardship Coordinator of Friends of Nevada Wilderness.

The projects are funded by the Dream Tags Charitable 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.

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.

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About Friends of Nevada Wilderness

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 week's Santa Rosa Seedling Planting project, visit [our Flickr page here.](#)



Volunteer Elissa Davis planting a sagebrush seedling in the Santa Rosa Range, 2017.

Photo credit: Kurt Kuznicki