



FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Volunteers will Celebrate Public Lands Day in the Black Rock Desert**

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Photo, Video, Interview Opportunity

**Black Rock NCA, Nevada (September 26, 2017)** – Join Friends of Nevada Wilderness in celebrating National Public Lands Day for a weekend of habitat restoration and volunteer stewardship on the Black Rock Desert – High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness, a statewide non-profit, will be partnering the Winnemucca Bureau of Land Management to host the 24<sup>th</sup> annual National Public Lands Day celebration over the weekend of September 29<sup>th</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Approximately 40 volunteers will spend Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, restoring critical habitat for the threatened Desert Dace, a fish found only in the hot springs at Soldier Meadows, by removing grasses that are choking out the habitat for the fish that otherwise thrive in the warm temperatures of the hot springs. Volunteers will also have the opportunity to install Wilderness educational boundary signage in the North Black Rock Range Wilderness.

In addition to contributing some time and service to our public lands, volunteers camping at Soldier Meadows will have opportunities to hike, explore, and learn about the area, and to compete in the always-popular Dutch Oven Cook-off on Saturday night! The weekend's family-friendly festivities will also include a kid's camp, hosted by Nevada Outdoor School.

This year, volunteers in the Silver State will also be celebrating the very first Nevada Public Lands Day. Governor Brian Sandoval signed Senate Bill 413 on June 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, establishing the last Saturday in September as Public Lands Day in Nevada. An official Nevada Public Lands Day serves as an annual reminder to our elected officials that Nevadans value our public lands and want to keep them in public hands.

Interested volunteers are encouraged to call the Friends of Nevada Wilderness office at [775-324-7667](tel:775-324-7667) to discuss project details or visit the website [www.nevadawilderness.org/calendar\\_of\\_events](http://www.nevadawilderness.org/calendar_of_events).

### **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, the Wilderness Stewardship Volunteer Program 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 National Public Lands Day celebrations, visit [our Flickr page here](#).

Attached Photo: Volunteer weeding springs for the Desert Dace, September 2016. Credit: Nora Kaufmann

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