

***** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

Sunday - Friday, March 25 - 30, 2018: 8th Annual Alternative Spring Break with Friends of Nevada Wilderness

Southern Nevada Spring Breakers Spend Their Week Volunteering in Wildlife Refuges

ALAMO, NV – Friends of Nevada Wilderness is holding their 8th Annual Alternative Spring Break the last week of March in the Pahrnagat and Desert National Wildlife Refuges. Friends of Nevada Wilderness staff will host a group of 23 students from UNLV for a week of stewardship on our public lands. Our Spring Breakers, staff and volunteers will travel 2 hours north of Las Vegas to the Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge on March 25 to begin their Spring Break with a purpose. The crew will camp on Upper Pahrnagat Lake in the Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge and complete a series of projects in both the Pahrnagat and Desert National Wildlife Refuges as well as Arrow Canyon Wilderness. Over the course of the week, participants will protect habitat, erect boundary posts, rehabilitate Wilderness incursions, learn from environmental experts and enjoy time in nature. These projects will take the attendees into the Desert National Wildlife Refuge via Alamo road and through some of the most remote and pristine areas of Southern Nevada. This stretch of Alamo Road is threatened to be lost to an Air Force land withdrawal for Nellis Testing and Training Range. Part of our Alternative Spring Break will be educating the students on public land advocacy and the current threats facing the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. Friends will also provide tents for students without one and will chef gourmet camp-style meals each night as well as breakfast to get the day started. We would like to thank the students who will volunteer their Spring Break to help Friends complete some much-needed work in Arrow Canyon Wilderness and on the Pahrnagat and Desert National Wildlife Refuges. Members of the press are welcome to stop by our camp for a chat or accompany us on any projects within this week.

WHO: UNLV students, Volunteers, Friends of Nevada Wilderness Staff

WHAT: Alternative Spring Break

WHEN: Sunday, March 25 1:00 pm to Friday, March 30 9:00 am

WHERE: Pahrnagat and Desert National Wildlife Refuges [HWY 93 Mile Post 32, Alamo, NV 89001](#)

LIVESTREAM LINK: Not Available

Background: 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 the designation of La Madre Mountain Wilderness. Over the past thirty-two years, Friends of Nevada Wilderness has grown a nationally recognized and award-winning Wilderness Stewardship Volunteer Program, generating well over \$1 million of in-kind services to benefit Nevada's public lands. Friends continues to coordinate Alternative Spring Break for all students who wish to participate in a helping a cause rather than partying over their Spring Break week. Over the last 8 years, the Alternative Spring Break event has been a weeklong celebration of public lands designed to give participants a sense of ownership of Nevada's public lands and a responsibility in their preservation. During Alternative Spring Break, student volunteers spend their days restoring trails and natural spaces. Once finished and back at camp, we provide camp games, cooked meals and invite speakers to educate participants on topics related to the particular area we are in. It is our goal to leave attendees enriched with knowledge

of wild areas of Nevada and issues that affect our public lands (designation, maintenance, protection) while providing an entertaining experience crafted to increase their love and respect for nature.



Tim Buchannan, current Friends of Nevada Wilderness board member, leads a chat on mining with Alternative Spring Breakers in 2016 (Lake Mojave/ Lake Mead National Recreation Area)