



## FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **The Griffith Peak Trail is Open!**

Volunteer hand crews spent years restoring  
the popular Mt. Charleston trail after ravaging fire

Contact Grace Palermo at 218-428-7167 or [grace@nevadawilderness.org](mailto:grace@nevadawilderness.org)

**Las Vegas, NV.** - Just in time for National Public Lands Day, Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the U.S. Forest Service are thrilled to invite the public back to hike the Griffith Peak Trail, which had been closed for several years due to extensive damage from the 2013 Carpenter 1 fire.

The fire roared through 28,000 acres of the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (SMNRA) in the Mt. Charleston Wilderness, leaving behind fallen trees and dangerous conditions. Subsequent rains caused extensive flood damage, leaving land managers wondering if the trail could ever be used again. Now, after thousands of hours of volunteer and staff work over three years, the trail is once again available for public use.

Since 2018, more than 80 volunteers have hiked into the Wilderness Area carrying hand tools and crosscut saws for multi-day hitches, sometimes at elevations over 10,000 feet. Motorized vehicles and mechanized equipment are not allowed in designated Wilderness Areas, so all the trail work was done the old-fashioned way, with primitive tools, creating opportunities for volunteers to practice skills that few people know and use anymore.

Volunteers were supported at times by residents of the Spring Mountains Youth Camp, which is part of the Clark County School District. Teenage students staying at the camp situated inside the National Forest helped complete critical rock work and build steps where a large section of the trail had washed out.

“Our volunteers and staff have cleared hundreds of fallen trees and cut miles of new tread so hikers can once again hit this trail,” said Shaaron Netherton, Executive Director of Friends of Nevada Wilderness. “Their enthusiasm, persistence and love of the wild are what made this day possible. It’s hard to express how much we appreciate our amazing volunteers.”

“Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Friends of Nevada Wilderness, the trail has been restored and will reopen to the public in time for National Public Lands Day on September 26<sup>th</sup>,” Deb MacNeill, SMNRA Area Manager added. “We are very grateful to have such amazing non-profit partners and volunteers supporting the Recreation Area and are excited to announce that Griffith Peak Trail is once again open to the public.”

The Griffith Peak Trail offers hikers stunning views into the back of Red Rock Canyon, and provides a first-hand visual of how an ecosystem gradually recovers from a devastating fire. Accessing the trail requires several miles of travel in a high clearance vehicle. Users can do a thru-hike or a loop. Friends and the U.S. Forest Service strongly encourage all trail users to do their homework and be prepared for Wilderness conditions, including changing weather especially at the high elevations, few and far-between signs and markers along the trail and lack of cell service. For more information, check these websites:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/htnf/>  
[https://www.nevadawilderness.org/mount\\_charleston\\_wilderness](https://www.nevadawilderness.org/mount_charleston_wilderness)  
<https://www.gomtcharleston.com/maps-guides/>  
[https://www.birdandhike.com/Hike/Mt\\_Char/Griffith\\_H/Griffith\\_H.htm](https://www.birdandhike.com/Hike/Mt_Char/Griffith_H/Griffith_H.htm)

Please, get out and enjoy the newly accessible Griffith Peak Trail, and remember to [Leave No Trace!](#)  
Visit the [National Environmental Education Foundation site](#) for more information on National Public Lands Day.

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### **About Friends of Nevada Wilderness**

Founded in 1984, Friends of Nevada Wilderness has helped protect over 3.4 million acres of Nevada's wild lands by leading efforts in the expansion or designation of all 70 Wilderness areas in the state. Over the past twenty years, the Wilderness Stewardship Volunteer Program has generated over \$2 million of in-kind services to benefit Nevada's public lands. For more information, visit <http://www.nevadawilderness.org/>.



*Americorps members Jackie Spicer and Melissa Guerrero with their crosscut saw on the Griffith Peak Trail  
Photo by Peter Sbraccia*