



FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Help Observe National Wildlife Refuge Week Save the Desert Refuge!

Contact Shaaron Netherton at 775-324-7667

Or shaaron@nevadawilderness.org

Reno, NV. – Nevadans are being asked to observe National Wildlife Refuge Week October 11-17, by urging their representatives in Congress to save the Desert National Wildlife Refuge.

The fate of the Refuge remains uncertain as Congress approaches the deadline for adopting the National Defense Authorization Act, which addresses the U.S. Air Force's request to expand the Nellis Test and Training Range (NTTR) into the Refuge. The Nevada delegation has remained strong and united against an expansion and supports only the status quo, keeping NTTR at its current size.

The Refuge needs more protection and Friends of Nevada Wilderness has been seeking permanent Wilderness protection for much of the Refuge so the long-standing threat of a destructive military expansion can finally end. NTTR already covers nearly three million acres of public land in Nevada, including more than 800,000 acres of the Refuge. Although the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service still attempts to manage much of that land, it is difficult to monitor the military's impacts on the area that is closed to public access.

"As the largest wildlife refuge outside of Alaska, Desert is one of the most critical expanses of wildlife habitat in the country," Friends Executive Director Shaaron Netherton said during Refuge Week. "We are so fortunate that this very special place is right here in Nevada. We should all be doing everything in our power to secure permanent Wilderness protection for the Desert Refuge, home of the Desert Bighorn sheep, the Desert Tortoise, and hundreds of other unique animal and plant species."

Visit nevadawilderness.org for more information on the [Refuge](#) and to [contact](#) our representatives. For more information on National Wildlife Refuge Week, visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [website](#).

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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/>.



The Desert National Wildlife Refuge

Photo by Kurt Kuznicki