COVID-19 Summer Field Strategies

Chris Cutshaw
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Overview

1. Our volunteer program and COVID
2. Our strategies for bringing back volunteer opportunities
3. Lessons Learned so far
Our Volunteer Program and COVID

- Single day and multi-night camping projects
- Rides for volunteers
- Group Meals
- Numerous staff and volunteers in high-risk categories
- Work with 4 different land management agencies
Volunteer Hours 2019 vs 2020

6,042 2019

1,187 2020
What is important to us for the 2021 Season?

1. SAFETY (staff, volunteers, communities)
2. Create meaningful volunteer opportunities
3. Get work done
How we are bringing back Stewardship Opportunities in 2021:

1. New and Improved Safety Measures
2. Communication with Volunteers
3. Flexibility
New and Improved Safety Measures

1. The Basics (masks, social distancing, if you’re sick don’t come, etc...)
2. No more Group Rides
3. Tools and Equipment
4. Limit group sizes
Group Meals/Food Service

- **Food Prep:**
  - The risk of getting sick with COVID from eating or handling food is considered very low. (CDC)
  - Only staff can prep group meals
  - Frequent handwashing (before, during, after)
  - Always wear a mask and gloves
  - Serve food to volunteers

- **For Volunteers:**
  - Wash hands before meals and before filling water bottles
  - Wear a mask while getting food
  - No self-service (served by staff)
  - Sit at least 6 ft apart
Increased Volunteer Communication:

1. COVID Safety measures provided multiple times
2. Good old fashioned phone calls
3. Safety talk and empowering volunteers to look out for each other
Lessons Learned So Far...

- Volunteers have been very receptive to new measures
- Added safety measures take time, expect less
- Folks are going to take off their masks at some point. Create safe ways to do it
- Be prepared for more last-minute cancellations
- Be prepared to change your plans
The End

chris@nevadawilderness.org