



FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Volunteers Lead Wildfire Recovery Efforts In Northern Nevada**

Contact **Your Name** at **Your Phone Number** or **Your Email**.

Photo, Video, Interview Opportunity

**Reno, Nevada (March 30, 2016)** – Friends of Nevada Wilderness has begun its northern Nevada stewardship season by partnering with the U.S. Forest Service and BLM to conduct critical habitat restoration efforts in four priority areas affected by wildfires. The wildfire recovery projects consist of planting native seedlings like bitterbrush and sagebrush in order to rehabilitate wildlife habitat and prevent invasive weeds from colonizing. The projects are funded by the Dream Tags Fund at the Community Foundation of Western Nevada, and paid for by the proceeds of the annual sale of raffle chances to win special big game hunt tags.

“The Community Foundation is proud to support the protection of Nevada’s wildlife habitat through the Dream Tags Fund,” says Tracy Turner, Philanthropy Officer at the Community Foundation.

In early March, Friends’ volunteers ventured north for the weekend to plant seedlings in an area affected by the Coleman wildfire of 2014. A staggering 2,400 sagebrush seedlings were planted that day and volunteer efforts were rewarded with a delicious dinner of chicken curry and apple cobbler. The newly planted seedlings were treated to a mild snow storm that night which provided necessary water to give them a good head start.

“The 2014 Coleman Fire burned through a large portion of the 2005 Barrel Fire. Replanting of sagebrush into these areas will benefit a multitude of sagebrush-steppe species including mule deer and pronghorn antelope, as well as Greater Sage-Grouse, brewers sparrows, and sage sparrows,” says Elias Flores, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist of the Bureau of Land Management Applegate Field Office.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness will be conducting two more wildfire recovery projects in April. Volunteers will be planting native seedlings in the Desatoya Wilderness Study Area, an area affected by the Cold Springs wildfire of 2015 which burned 4,012 acres. Interested volunteers are encouraged to call the Friends of Nevada Wilderness office at 775-324-7667 to discuss project details or visit the website at [www.nevadawilderness.org/calendar\\_of\\_events](http://www.nevadawilderness.org/calendar_of_events).

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. Over the past thirty-two years, Friends of Nevada Wilderness has grown a nationally recognized and award-winning Wilderness Stewardship Volunteer Program which 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 the Coleman Fire Seedling Planting project, [visit our Flickr album here](#).

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