



SOLDIER MEADOWS CABIN: REHABBED AND READY FOR THE PUBLIC

Hunters, photographers, wildlife watchers, and all other wilderness warriors rejoice – the public use cabin at Soldier Meadows is rehabbed and ready for visitors!

Friends of Nevada Wilderness led three volunteer trips up to the Black Rock National Conservation Area to restore the cabin. The team put in two new windows, fully enclosed the storage area, and laid a gravel floor. They also installed a wood stove to keep guests toasty on cold nights.

“It’s a great place, and now people can enjoy it,” Project Leader Pat Bruce said. “It’s open to everyone - hunters, hikers, artists - so everyone can enjoy the Soldier Meadows area of the NCA.”

Local contractors donated their labor and skill to assist with the much-needed structural repairs and improvements, including Ron LaBella, Mike Ford, Chris Brown,

Emmitt Rosaschi, and Phil Akins. Zach Million from the Winnemucca District Bureau of Land Management lent a helping hand on the trips. University of Nevada, Reno, freshman Seth Barton worked on the chimney and interior brickwork. Volunteers covered up obscene graffiti that had taken over the visitor sign-in wall, and provided a log book for future guests.

“It was unfortunate we had to cover up pieces of history that had been written on the wall, but recent writings had become extremely offensive and off-topic,” Pat said.

The primitive cabin – there is no plumbing or electricity – is located



in the heart of Soldier Meadows, offering a close place to stay while enjoying the dozens of hot springs, or hunting chucker in the fall.

Soldier Meadows also offers access to several wilderness areas: North Black Rock Range Wilderness, High Rock Lake Wilderness, and East Fork High Rock Canyon Wilderness.

The cabin is first-come public use, and open year-round. Please bring your own firewood; size is less than 24 inches and no more than four inches across.

“There are not a lot of historic places left in the world that are free to stay,” Pat said.

“Leave this place better than you found it - pack out garbage to avoid rodents and leave fire wood for the next visitors so we can continue using this place.”

AN IMPROMPTU WINTER RESCUE

Stewardship Director Pat Bruce loves to show off his favorite parts of wild Nevada, and a tour of the Black Rock NCA backcountry became a rescue mission the last weekend of January.

“We see a light bobbing in the distance, and we pull over to make room,” said Pat, who was driving on a narrow dirt road in the High Rock Canyon area. “But it never got closer, so we drove up to investigate.” Pat and the volunteers were surprised to see a couple and their dogs.

Their car broke through ice over a deep puddle and was stuck.

Everyone piled into the pick-up and headed back to the cabin in Soldiers Meadows, where a fire was quickly lit in the wood stove and the rescues were warmed up and fed.

The next morning, the team towed the vehicle out of High Rock Canyon into Soldier Meadows and the couple caught a ride with Pat into town later that day.

“It was a great safety reminder - even if you are just planning a day trip, you have to be well prepared for emergencies with plenty of food, water, and warm clothes,” Pat said.