



FRIENDS *of*  
NEVADA  
WILDERNESS

SPRING/SUMMER 2022



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## FRONTLINES

By Shaaron Netherton / Executive Director

## I love spring!

Something about our land renewing itself makes me feel

positive and hopeful. On the hopeful note, we have been working hard all winter behind the scenes to help line up potentially millions of acres of new conservation proposals within Nevada. Lately, our work has been directed at efforts in Washoe and Nye Counties. As legislation for these counties emerge, we will be keeping you all posted and working hard to see them across the finish line. We will need your help to do this.

In March, local author Michael Branch treated Reno to a great presentation launching his new book, *On the Trail of the Jackalope*. The book is delightful and Michael donated a percentage of his initial royalties to us here at Friends for our hard work protecting jackalope habitat across Nevada.

A big welcome to Karen Weiss, our new Membership and Outreach Coordinator (see below) and to Olivia Wolff, our

former AmeriCorps service volunteer now working with us as an employee in our northern Nevada stewardship program.

We have hired our summer trail and resource crews and are expecting a productive year keeping your Wilderness trails and lands open and accessible. We have a new trail map available this spring for the Snake Range in far eastern Nevada covering Mt. Moriah Wilderness, the Great Basin National Park and the Highland Ridge Wilderness. Volunteers are needed for stewardship and monitoring projects across much of the state so dust off your boots and plan to join us. Meet new friends, eat well and explore your public lands.

You can read more about all of these exciting developments in the pages that follow!

Shaaron



## MEET KAREN WEISS!

We're thrilled to welcome Karen as our new Membership and Outreach Coordinator. Karen learned to love wild places while growing up and camping



with her family across the American west. She maintained that passion throughout her 25-year career with the BLM, working in Oregon, Utah and northern Nevada, serving in a number of positions including manager of Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas, Public Affairs Specialist and Associate District Manager at the Battle Mountain Office.

Karen has a BA in Environmental Studies and an MA in Recreation Administration. After retiring from BLM, she earned a teaching certificate and spent six years in Hawaii teaching science and prioritizing family affairs. We're so glad we were able to lure her from an island in the Pacific back to the high desert of Nevada. She will help make sure our members' needs are met and the ranks continue to grow!

# WE ADVOCATE

*To Keep Nevada Wild*



*Palisade Mesa WSA in beautiful Nye County - Photo by Kurt Kuznicki*

## WILD WASHOE

Thanks to the leadership of Senator Jacky Rosen and her top-notch staff, we are now encouraged by the direction of discussions that could very well lead to a Washoe County public lands bill weighing heavily in favor of conservation, particularly in the far northern part of the county. We're also working with other conservation partners, hoping to maintain access to popular recreation areas closer to the urban population.

We have been at the staff's disposal to assist with mapping, ground-truthing various concerns and working out detailed solutions and whatever else we can do to move the process forward. Finally, after years of various attempts at Washoe County legislation, it appears we're on the right path. Stay tuned as we may soon be calling on you, our volunteers and supporters, to encourage your elected leaders to get to the finish line and Keep Washoe Wild!



*Proposed Hays Canyon NCA in Northern Washoe County - Photo by Kirk Peterson*

## WILD CENTRAL NYE COUNTY

Breaking News! Once again, our tried and true strategy to listen to stakeholders' concerns, negotiate in good faith, assist in seeking out common-sense solutions and just plain hang in there, has resulted in a local agreement to designate almost 427,000 acres of new Wilderness Area in Nye County. We're also very excited that local officials have agreed to what we're calling the 216,000 acre Lunar Starlight National Conservation Area, an historic effort to preserve a truly unique Western landscape. And again, we will look to Senator Rosen and her staff to condense all of this hard work into federal legislation that we fervently hope will come to pass. Nye County is home to some of the crown jewels of wild lands and we are cautiously optimistic that Nye could become the wild heart of the Great Basin.

## Introduced legislation still pending...

**Churchill/Fallon:** Would designate new Wilderness and NCAs, including the Stillwater Range, Clan Alpines, Desatoyas and Cain Mountain

**Douglas:** Would designate the small Burbank Canyons Wilderness

**Lander:** Would designate portions of the Desatoya Range and Cain Mountain that extend into Churchill and Pershing counties

**Pershing:** Would designate seven Wilderness Areas including Tobin Crest and the Selenites

**Ruby Mountains:** Would protect the area from future oil and gas leases that could lead to exploration



# WE STEWARD

*In Northern Nevada*

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR...  
NORTHERN NEVADA STEWARDSHIP SEASON!

We have an exciting year ahead with events for all skill levels throughout northern Nevada. We can't wait to get back outside with our wonderful community of volunteers. Be sure to keep an eye on the Calendar of Events page on our website for event dates and details!

## CALLING ALL WEED WARRIORS!

The fight to keep invasive weeds out of Mt. Rose Wilderness continues this spring with multiple projects in May and June. We encourage anyone with a few spare hours to join us to remove the invasive Musk Thistle. These projects are fun, rewarding, and directly benefit Mt. Rose Wilderness.

## MAKING WAY FOR WILDLIFE FENCE REMOVAL EVENTS

For a state whose motto is "Don't Fence Me In," Nevada has a lot of barbed-wire fence. It's estimated that the West contains enough fencing to circle the equator 25 times. Some of that fence, originally installed to contain livestock, mark boundaries, or to keep animals away from roads, is still in use. Miles of it, however, have not served a purpose for years and are now useless and dangerous. It can alter habitat by excluding wildlife from springs, dissect travel routes, and cause animals to get tangled up in the barbed wire. Sage grouse, raptors, deer, elk, bighorn sheep and pronghorn can be victims of the fencing. These non-functioning fences are a blemish on an otherwise wide-open landscape, taking away from the remote and unbridled nature of the land.

This year we'll need volunteer help to remove fence in the Soldier Meadows area (north of the Black Rock Desert) and the Santa Rosa-Paradise Peak Wilderness (north of



*Stewardship volunteers get to "do their time" in beautiful places like Arc Dome Wilderness*

*Photo by Kurt Kuznicki*

Winnemucca). These projects are hard work but extremely rewarding. Nothing beats the satisfaction of looking over your shoulder at the end of the day and not seeing any fence; seeing how open and free the landscape is because of your work.

## WELCOME OLIVIA!

The northern Nevada team is excited to officially welcome former Americorps Service Member Olivia Wolff to our ranks. Olivia was hired as the northern Nevada Programs Coordinator to support stewardship, communications, and outreach efforts. It's clear that Olivia will be a great fit and a wonderful addition to Friends!



*Taking out a damaging road in the North Jackson Wilderness Area*

*Photo by Kurt Kuznicki*

Check out  
[nevadawilderness.org/volunteer](http://nevadawilderness.org/volunteer)  
to sign up!



# WE STEWARD

*In Southern Nevada*



*Volunteers had a fun time at a combo spring surveying/birding event with Red Rock Audubon in February. They spotted a variety of species that rely on the sensitive springs, highlighting the need to care for our scarce water resources.*

*Photo by Clarice Wheeler*

As the weather finally cooled off in Southern Nevada, the southern team migrated into the fabulous desert for a huge variety of springs monitoring and stewardship events. Thanks to the excellent support of AmeriCorps James Hada and Mina Cooper and a robust group of almost 300 volunteers, the springs team has completed hundreds of spring surveys! We are nearing our goal of collecting data at all of the springs on public lands in Clark County.

With the help of new volunteers from the Red Rock Audubon, we've been able to gather data on the many bird species that make use of the springs, from spotted towhees to golden eagles.

But the job doesn't stop with surveying springs—we're also working hard to restore springs habitat for the wildlife that rely on them. Over the

winter, the springs team took two trips deep into Gold Butte to Quail Spring, one of the last, best habitats for the extremely rare Relict Leopard Frogs. Volunteers jumped waist-deep in water to dig out the pools so the frogs can continue to thrive there!

Southern Nevada Stewardship, with the help of wonderful AmeriCorps Nicole Collar, has been hard at work with our BLM partners, rehabilitating an old road scar at Sloan Canyon NCA, and turning it into a new hiking route to the North McCullough Wilderness that will bypass the sensitive cultural resources at Petroglyph Canyon. We partnered with Get Outdoors Nevada and BLM to clean-up a truckload of garbage near Spirit Mountain Wilderness and the proposed Avi Kwa Ame National Monument. Last but not least, our flagship project, Alternative Spring

Break, was back in action in March with many of our non-profit, federal, and volunteer partners supporting a week-long stewardship learning project in Gold Butte.

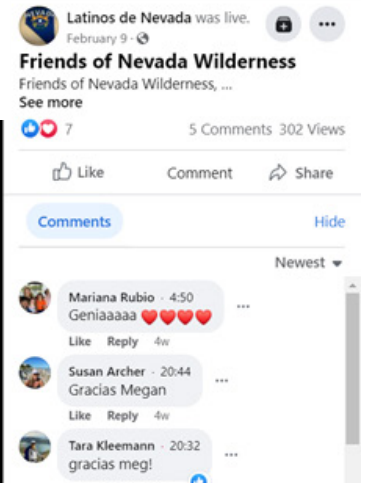
Both our springs and stewardship teams are looking forward to lots of exciting work this summer. The springs team will be dipping their toes into new springs in Nye County with recent funding from the Lincoln Dynamic Foundation. We are excited to continue efforts to clear Mt. Charleston of graffiti and maintain many of our most-loved mountain trails. Keep an eye out on the calendar to get involved with upcoming spring surveying trainings, stewardship work, and restoration events.

See more of our wonderful volunteers on page 7 and 10!



# We Reach Out

The Stewardship team is working hard to reach out to diverse groups around the state. Meg Tait, who is Argentine, gave a presentation about Friends in Spanish to the Facebook group Latinos de Nevada. The video was recorded and is linked to our Facebook page, it already has more than 300 views!



We're good to go from Park to Park in the Dark!! Before the pandemic, we reached out to a public/private partnership of dedicated volunteers and now, after a lot of hard work, we're ready to encourage visitors and locals alike to travel from Death Valley to Great Basin National Parks... in the dark! There's a new website ([parktoparkinthedark.org](http://parktoparkinthedark.org)) that has everything travelers need to know about safe and responsible recreation, the best places to stargaze along the route, and of course where to stay and eat while they enjoy the trip between the two amazing and very different Parks. The idea is to slow down, look up and be awestruck by some of the starry-est skies in the country. Plan your trip now!



Kirk Peterson joined KNPB's "Wild Nevada" host Chris Orr for one of two pledge breaks during the rebroadcast of the Massacre Rim episode of "Wild Nevada," a program distributed nationally. Kirk discussed the importance of backcountry safety, the uniqueness of Nevada's Dark Skies, and introduced KNPB viewers to Travel Nevada's new Park to Park in the Dark route across the center of the state.



Our intrepid dark sky ambassador also gave presentations at the Nevada Museum of Art and to a long-established local chapter of the Rotary Club.



Meg Tait, Board member Lou Bubala and our NEW N. NV Program Coordinator Olivia Wolff spread the good word about Friends at the NV Museum of Art as author Michael Branch launched his latest book *"On the Trail of the Jackelope,"* a truly fascinating and surprising read! Thanks Michael, for donating proceeds of the book launch to Friends.



Our good friend Michael Branch



# WE ARE COMMUNITY

*We Tip Our Hardhats To Our Volunteers*

Thousands of invasive weeds were yanked  
and graffiti scrubbed from rocks high up in the hills.

Damaging roads were blocked off  
and bags of native seeds were spread.

Volunteer crews accomplished those feats and much more in 2021,  
led by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness Staff.

## NORTHERN NV PICNIC

Those volunteers were honored late last year with celebratory picnics and award presentations. Nearly 40 volunteers achieved "Blue Helmet" status, meaning they put in 30 hours or more during the 2021 season. For many, it was a repeat achievement. Kirk Hastings of Berkeley, CA, was the Volunteer of the Year in the north.

Northern Nevada Blue  
Helmet Picnic



## WAHOO FOR THE WILD!



We appreciate our volunteers every single day, but once a year we get together to say Wahoo for Wilderness to thank everyone in style! The latest Wahoo recognized dozens of volunteers who gave it their all in 2021. The Volunteer of the Year Award went to Stephanie Merrill who donated 94 hours of her valuable time!

Wahoo for Wilderness in  
Southern Nevada!

## AGENCY PARTNERS AND OTHER AWARDS

**NORTH:** **Kevin Wilmot of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest** - Agency Partner of the Year

**Vikki and Danny Riddle** - Above and Beyond Award for providing their pack of mules to haul volunteer crews and their gear into roadless areas

**Bart Koehler** - for his special mix of knowledge and skills in Wilderness advocacy

**SOUTH:** **Curtis Walker with the Bureau of Land Management** - Agency Partner of the Year

**THANK YOU**  
VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERS!



# WE REBUILD AND RESTORE



Emmett Gartner in Arc Dome Wilderness, 2021

## HITTING THE TRAILS

The trail season is approaching fast and we are very excited to send two professional crews out into the field to maintain trails in Central and Eastern Nevada. This season we'll work on some of our favorite trails in High Schells, Mt. Moriah, Arc Dome, Alta Toquima, and Table Mountain Wilderness Areas.

We're thrilled to announce our former crew member, Emmett Gartner, will be joining us as a crew lead this year. Prior to his season in Nevada wilderness, Emmett worked on multiple trail crews in Mt. Hood National Forest. He's the guy you want around when it comes time to clear trees! When Emmett's not working on trails, he's pursuing his Masters in Journalism at the University of Maryland, College Park.

We're also looking forward to welcoming some eager new faces to the hard-working crew! We have a full training week planned including Wilderness First Aid certification, proper tool care, warehouse and trail safety, Leave No Trace, and in-the-field trail maintenance basics. There are a few volunteer trail projects coming up this summer, so if you'd like to live the life of a trail crew member for a weekend, be sure to sign up on our Calendar of Events!

side of the Refuge volunteers and staff removed fence debris and trash and winterized the house at "Little Sheldon." They worked right up until snow and freezing temps ended the season.

In total our Trail Crew removed four tons of metal in 2021. A special thanks to Louis Bubala for sticking with it when times got tough.

We just received confirmation that the GHSCF has agreed to fund our work on the Sheldon Refuge again this year! **That will allow us to finally remove all of the remaining fencing the US Fish and Wildlife Service wants out of there.** To all who have supported this effort, **THANK YOU! BE PROUD!** Wildlife are moving freely across the Sheldon Refuge because of you!

Sheldon crew members hauling out old posts and fence on their backs, making it safer for wildlife to roam.

Photo by Meg Tait



AND THEN THERE WAS NONE  
*Fence removal project almost complete at Sheldon Refuge*

The Trail Crew did double duty in 2021, filling in on the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. Thanks to them and a select group of stalwart volunteers, we met the deliverables outlined in our grant from the Greater Hart Sheldon Conservation Fund.

These rock stars were able to remove a significant section of barbed wire fence. At the same time, on the west



## SNAKE RANGE RECREATION MAP

*Our newest map invites exploration of the North and South Snake Range Complex*

There is not a more unique wilderness complex than that protected by the Mount Moriah Wilderness, Great Basin National Park, and Highland Ridge Wilderness. This area has been a conservation priority since the formation of the Osceola Forest Reserve in 1906. In 1986, Great Basin National Park was carved out of the South Snake Range and in 1989 the Mount Moriah Wilderness area was created. Finally in 2006, the Highland Ridge Wilderness Area was created and transferred to the BLM. Today, years after the transfer of these lands, many print and digital maps still misidentify South Snake lands as under USFS management.

But Friends has set the record straight and at the same time provided outdoor enthusiasts with an exciting new tool by producing the brand new Snake Range Recreation Map. It is now for sale at [nevadawilderness.org/shop](http://nevadawilderness.org/shop). Even folks who don't necessarily plan to hike the Snake Range will learn a lot about this unique and beautiful landscape by studying our new map.

The Snake Range Complex features a variety of recreational experiences for a wide diversity of visitors interested in wild and scenic public lands. Great Basin National Park (GBNP) provides ADA accessibility to exhibits, a visitor center, programs, picnic areas and campgrounds. Visitors can drive up over 10,000 feet on a paved road to experience the pleasures and vistas of Nevada's most accessible sub alpine environment. For more adventurous visitors, GBNP offers a well-developed trail system, from short paved interpretive walks, to the long, challenging 3,000 foot climb to the 13,060-foot summit of Wheeler Peak.

# WE EXPLORE

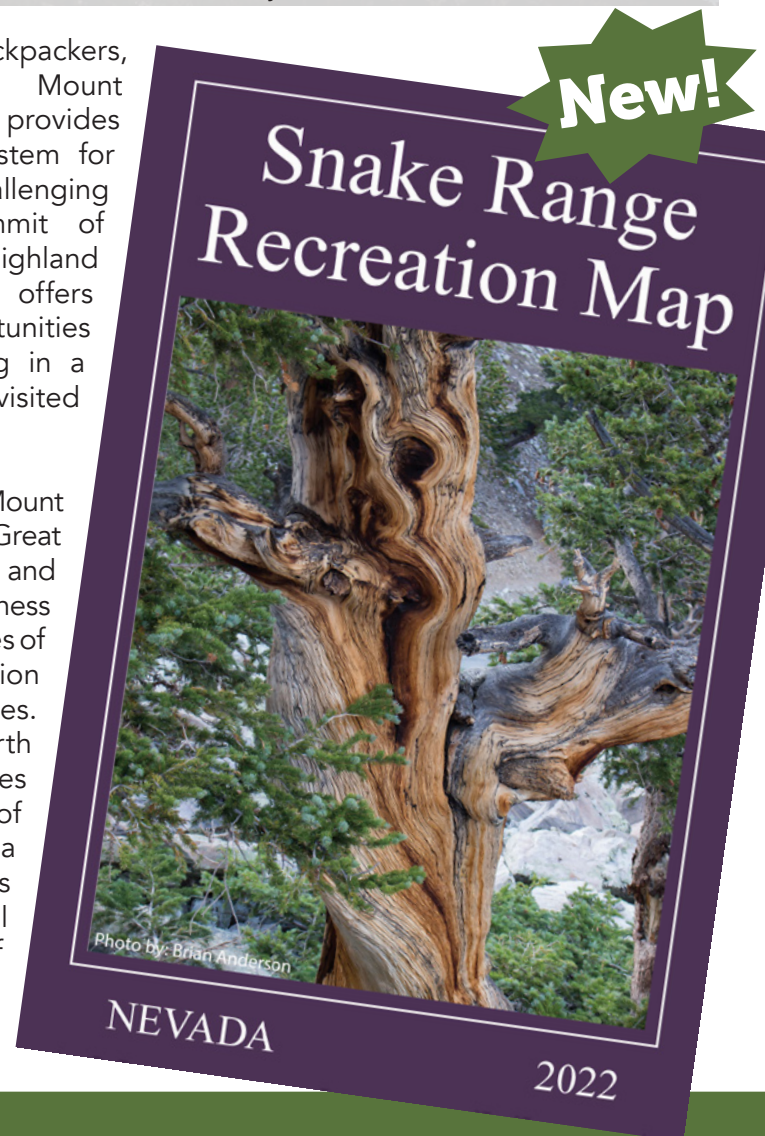


Mount Moriah - Photo by Kirk Peterson

For skilled hikers, backpackers, and horse riders, Mount Moriah Wilderness provides an extensive trail system for multi-day trips, or challenging climbs to the summit of Mount Moriah. The Highland Ridge Wilderness offers outstanding opportunities for exploration hiking in a truly remote and little visited part of Nevada.

Taken together, Mount Moriah Wilderness, Great Basin National Park, and Highland Ridge Wilderness offer more than 50 miles of protected conservation lands, as the raven flies. For humans, the North and South Snake Ranges present a multitude of outstanding Nevada Mountain experiences limited only by the skill and imagination of wild country visitors.

Get ready to explore!



Our newest map can be purchased at  
[nevadawilderness.org/shop](http://nevadawilderness.org/shop)



## 2021 FIELD PROGRAMS *By the Numbers*

Total Stewardship Projects	<b>45</b>
Springs surveyed	<b>313</b>
Wilderness monitoring sessions	<b>52</b>
Miles of trail maintained	<b>58.7</b>
Invasive weeds pulled	<b>25,000</b>
Barb wire fence removed	<b>1.1 mi</b>
Native seed spread	<b>12 lbs</b>
Total volunteers	<b>737</b>
Total volunteer hours	<b>6937</b>
Volunteer in-kind	<b>\$266,865</b>
AmeriCorps in-kind	<b>\$86,754</b>
Total In-kind	<b>\$352,460</b>

## THIS LAND IS THEIR LAND

Nevada is a land rich in human history, and is the ancestral and current home of the Northern Paiute, Southern Paiute, Washoe, Goshute, Chemehuevi, Mojave, Western Shoshone, and Shoshone-Bannock people who have cared for this land for hundreds of generations before us. It is important to understand the complex and sometimes violent history that has created our country and our public lands preservation system. It is also important to seek a better understanding of our place within that history.

To better educate ourselves, our supporters, and the general public, we are committed to telling the full story of public lands in Nevada. To further that goal, as we update the Explore tab on our website, each updated Wilderness Area page will have details on the area's Indigenous and cultural history. Check out the 'What's Out There' section to find information on 'Honoring Native Land' on updated Wilderness pages. The future of conservation relies on the meaningful involvement of many diverse voices.

## COMING UP!

- Stop by the Friends Booth on April 24th at Idewild Park in Reno to help us celebrate Earth Day!
- Get some friends and family together and make the fun trek to Cederville, CA later this summer to help us celebrate the Massacre Rim Dark Sky Sanctuary and our unmatched dark skies at the annual Dark Sky Festival! It is a great educational experience for the whole family! Stand by as we solidify an event date for later this summer. Those on our mailing list will be first to know!

## CONTINUED...

...from page 5



Volunteers from UNLV spend a Service Day improving trails at Sloan Canyon NCA.

Photo by Peter Sbraccia

...from page 6



The Southern Nevada team (including Hayford the bighorn sheep!) connected with hundreds of community members at Lee Canyon's Mountain Fest. It was a full day of mountain activities!



## LUCY MORETON-HALL AND DAVID BOOK INVEST IN FRIENDS' PROGRAMS!



Shaaron Netherton, executive director of Friends of Nevada Wilderness (middle), expressed her heartfelt gratitude to Lucy and David in the Reno Office for their gracious contribution!

For more information about ways to give to Friends, please go to:  
[nevadawilderness.org/contribute](http://nevadawilderness.org/contribute)

Members since the late 1990s, Lucy and David of Reno directed their recent gifts for several specific items that will benefit volunteer, stewardship and outreach programs.

"We wanted the funds to be spent on concrete things," said Lucy. "After the money is gone, you still have the Things." Their five-figure gift will enable the purchase of new heavy duty tires for backcountry truck travel, emergency kits, In Reach units, water jugs, tool sets, a tent for volunteers, and more.

Their contribution will also underwrite an issue of the Newsletter, the printing of Mount Rose Trail Maps and Dark Sky brochures. Lucy added, "We like things that get new people out into Nevada, camping and experiencing the backcountry."

David is a long-time former member of Washoe County Search and Rescue and is hoping the Mt. Rose Wilderness map will help prevent call ups for assistance and rescue! That's also why they wanted the funds to be used for emergency gear. He's also a long time visitor to the Black Rock Desert and backcountry of Northern Nevada.

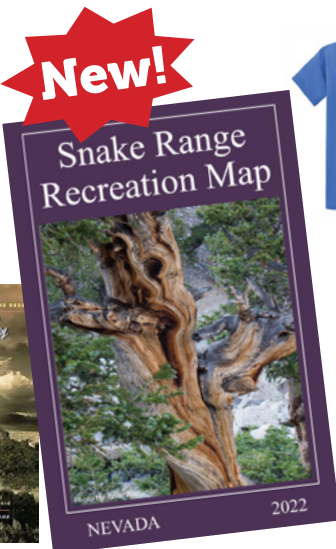
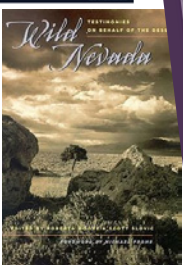


Leave a Legacy: [www.nevadawilderness.org/legacy\\_giving](http://www.nevadawilderness.org/legacy_giving)  
 or call Ralph Phillips, director of development, 775-324-7667 ext. 212  
 or email at [ralph@nevadawilderness.org](mailto:ralph@nevadawilderness.org)

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Transparency  
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Candid.

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You may order and pay for merchandise directly on our website  
 or go to [nevadawilderness.org/merch\\_order\\_form](http://nevadawilderness.org/merch_order_form) and print and mail in your selections with payment.





Friends of Nevada Wilderness is dedicated to preserving all qualified Nevada public lands as Wilderness, protecting all present and potential Wilderness from ongoing threats, educating the public about the values of — and need for — Wilderness, and improving the management and restoration of wild lands.

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RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

## Northern Nevada

**Mt Rose Weed Warriors May 11th, May 28th, May 21st, May 25th, June 15th, June 22nd** - Help us remove invasive Musk Thistle from Mt Rose Wilderness!

**Soldier Meadows Fence Removal ACEC May 13th-15th** - Remove unnecessary barbed-wire fence that trap Sage Grouse and other wildlife in this unique and beautiful ecosystem!

**Black Rock Rendezvous Memorial Day Weekend May 27th -30th** - Join us at this annual event to celebrate, learn, and volunteer in the Black Rock Desert! This fun-filled weekend combines group activities, volunteer opportunities, presentations, and a kids camp for the little ones.

**National Trails Day June 3rd-5th** - Every National Trails Day, volunteers head out to Steven's Camp (north of the Black Rock Desert and High Rock Canyon) to maintain the Upper High Rock Canyon Trail. This is a great opportunity to see a beautiful part of Nevada and give back to the hiking trails you enjoy year-round.

**Santa Rosa Bull Thistle Extravaganza June 17th-19th** - Knock knock --Who's there? Thistle --Thistle who? Thistle make you laugh! We will be hiking and removing the invasive bull thistle as we go. There will be food, fun, beautiful scenery, and meaningful work.

**Volunteers, experienced and brand new ones, can sign up at [nevadawilderness.org/volunteer](https://nevadawilderness.org/volunteer)**

## Southern Nevada

**Wild Speaker Series: Wild Nevada Photography with Kurt Kuznicki May 5th** - Our own Kurt Kuznicki and guests will cover how to capture and submit a great photo to be featured in the 2023 calendar!

**Sloan Canyon NCA Road Restoration with UNLV May 6th** - We'll use hand tools and some artistic license to rehabilitate an old road scar leading into North McCullough Wilderness and define an alternate route around invaluable cultural resources at Sloan Canyon.

**Springs training at Harris Springs May 14th** - Learn how to complete more in-depth spring surveys! We'll practice measuring water quality and flow, and look for rare spring snails! Attendees will be able to survey springs independently whenever they want after the event.

**Wild Speaker Series: Natural History of Tule Springs with Lauren Parry July 7th** - Tule Springs park guide Lauren Parry on a blast to the past as she details what the area looked like thousands of years ago when ancient creatures roamed the land.

**Wild Speaker Series: Jackalopes Abound with Michael Branch September 1st** - University of Nevada Reno professor Michael Branch will discuss his new book: On the Trail of the Jackalope: How a Legend Captured the World's Imagination and Helped Us Cure Cancer.

Follow Us!

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Cover Photo by Kirk Peterson  
Mount Moriah, White Pine County