

STAFF

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Grace Palermo

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Kirk Peterson

Inventory and Research Coordinator

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GIS Specialist

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S. NV Programs Coordinator

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N. NV Stewardship Coordinator

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Box 9754 Reno, NV 89507 (775) 324-7667



FRONTLINES

By Shaaron Netherton / Executive Director

In between snow storms over the long winter, we had some amazing victories

including our new Wilderness and National Conservation Areas signed into law on December 23rd and of course the new Avi Kwa Ame National Monument proclaimed by President Biden on March 21st.

Amongst this good news, however, we have been fighting a variety of projects that threaten wild places, wildlife and recreation opportunities, such as the poorly placed geothermal development in Gerlach and NV Energy's proposed transmission corridors in the Greenlink West and North projects. We've also submitted strong comments on a huge solar energy infrastructure plan, and a nonsensical White Pine Pump Storage Project. As if that's not enough, the Mountain Home Air Force Base is planning to drop their flight operations across northern Nevada to almost ground level and the Air Force at the Nevada Test and Training range is again wanting more operations in the Desert National Wildlife Refuge.

While we fight the bad stuff, we'll continue to work with our Congressional delegation

to secure additional Wilderness and conservation protections across the state. We are so grateful to Senator Jacky Rosen and her staff for introducing the brand new Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act! (See more on the next page.) Moving conservation legislation through the 118th Congress may be challenging, but as always, we will work with a broad range of stakeholders and do the hard work necessary to protect more of wild Nevada for future generations.

It was wonderful to have such a well attended Wild and Scenic Film fest and to celebrate our 2022 volunteers, partners and supporters at the Wilderness WingDing and the Wahoo events. We could not accomplish what we do without all of them.

We have a full season of great projects planned across the state and our trail crews will be especially busy with all the snow and run off. When we get weary from fighting for wild places, it is so important to get back on the ground to remind ourselves of the healing power of Wilderness.

Shaaron

MEET JIM STANGER!

Before his previous position in development with our friends at the Southern Nevada Conservancy, Jim spent over two decades working in the fields of information technology, web & media production, and training for a handful



Our new Community and Development Manager Jim, left, with KNPB Wild Nevada co-host Dave Santina

of companies, including a few internet startups and the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. Soon after moving to Las Vegas, his love of the outdoors and desire to pursue community service got him seeking opportunities to get involved in outdoor conservation and stewardship efforts. This soon led to a volunteer leadership position with Friends of Sloan Canyon in Henderson, and his work to designate Basin & Range National Monument earned him an Advocate of the Year award from Conservation Lands Foundation.

When he's not working, Jim enjoys exploring sandstone canyons, road trips, photography, and stargazing.

Welcome to the team, Jim!

WE ADVOCATE

To Keep Nevada Wild

FRIENDS DEFENDS WILD WASHOE

We just couldn't stand by and watch the iconic town of Gerlach and the surrounding landscape and national historic trail be impacted by exploratory drilling that could lead to a major geothermal plant adjacent to town.

So we joined a lawsuit alleging the BLM illegally approved the drilling operation without addressing significant impacts of a permanent industrial facility so close to people's homes, water supply and historic resources like the Noble Trail.

Of course Friends supports development of alternative energy. But not at the expense of the town of Gerlach and the dispersed outdoor recreation experiences so many others enjoy. After all, it is the gateway to popular wide-open spaces like the Black Rock Desert and some of the darkest, starriest skies in the country.

Stay tuned for more information.



The gateway community of Gerlach and the surrounding landscape are threatened by a proposed industrial-sized project

Photo by Kirk Peterson

TRUCKEE MEADOWS PUBLIC LANDS PLAN RELEASED!

Friends is grateful to Senator Jacky Rosen for the recent release of a draft of the Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act (TMPLMA), a proposal that contains significant new conservation measures for popular recreation areas, ancient cultural sites and wild lands in Washoe County.

HELP ADVOCATE

We **strongly** encourage our supporters to respond to the Senator Rosen's request for public comment. Here's why Friends supports the proposal:

- It would designate Wilderness in the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, the 1st Wilderness proposed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service in Nevada.
- It protects some of the darkest skies in the country by providing permanent protection for the Massacre Rim Dark Sky Sanctuary and the Granite-Banjos.
- It permanently protects the Hays Canyon area with high cultural, wildlife, and recreational values.

PLEASE go to **landsbill.org** before **June 6th** to provide your comments to Senator Rosen's office.

Friends helped develop the proposal by providing detailed area mapping and conducting on-the-ground analysis of concerns expressed by a variety of interests.

Friends Executive Director Shaaron Netherton expressed relief and appreciation that all of the hard work is beginning to pay off, adding that if passed, the proposal will provide much needed conservation of public lands within Washoe County.

The proposal calls for more than 223,000 acres of new Wilderness Area and nearly 540,000 acres of new BLM National Conservation Areas. Nearly 177,000 acres of popular recreation areas would be withdrawn from mining, leasing and other private uses. A new Cultural Heritage Area and a new Special Management Area bring the amount of new conservation lands to nearly a million acres (977,491 acres).

The draft TMPLMA would also allow the transfer of 4,700 acres of public land to local government entities for public uses, the release of nearly 23,000 acres to regional Indigenous communities, and identifies over 14,000 acres for future potential development. Find maps and details at *landsbill.org*.

WE STEWARD

In Southern Nevada

ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

For many city dwellers, wilderness stewardship may not be an obvious pursuit.

Enter Alternative Spring Break (ASB), the week-long program Friends has led for over 10 years that reaches college-aged adults, some that may have little or no experience camping in the outdoors. Volunteers spend their spring break engaging on-the-ground conservation projects while learning about public lands and ethical concepts such as Leave No Trace. ASB fosters the spirit of public lands stewardship by engaging them in beginner-friendly projects and providing training so they feel confident in their outdoors and volunteer abilities.

For 5 days in March, 17 young adults and community members representing a wide spectrum of experiences camped on the grounds of the historic Walking Box Ranch within the newly created Avi Kwa Ame National Monument, pitching tents among the Joshua trees. Some were camping for the very first time. It was an experience! Participants braved chilly temps, gusty winds, and rain all while removing litter and



defunct fencing near the Colorado River. Along the way volunteers learned more about the long-term importance of Wilderness and specifically about the landscape and ecology of Avi Kwa Ame National Monument via explorations of the Wee Thump Wilderness and Grapevine Canyon areas.

A number of experts joined the group, including Ashley Hemmer, Tribal Administrator for the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, who highlighted the sacredness of Avi Kwa Ame; not just Spirit Mountain itself but how the surrounding area is important to the culture of all 10 Yuman-speaking

tribes in the region. Rangers and managers from four federal land management agencies spoke to the group about their own varied paths to managing public lands in southern Nevada.

We were so excited to be able to share the rich story of Avi Kwa Ame with the participants and hope it inspires them as much as it does us. It's through experiences such as these that the next generation of public lands scientists, firefighters, managers, and protectors emerge.

all while removing litter and the culture of all 10 Yuman-speaking WAHOO FOR WILDERNESS

Thank you to everyone that volunteered to keep southern Nevada's wilderness wild in 2022 including our **2022 Wahoo Award** winners:

Volunteer of the Year - *Katja Hermes*

Going Above & Beyond -Terry & Lolly Jones

Corporate/Business Partner of the Year - NV Energy

Nonprofit Partner of the Year -Red Rock Audubon

Agency Partner of the Year -Mandy Royal (BLM Sloan Canyon)





In Northern Nevada

The Northern Nevada Stewardship Team was hard at work over the winter while we waited for the snow to melt. We were busy getting our gear, equipment, and ourselves ready for the upcoming season. No two days are the same, no matter the season. Our winter-season prep focuses on resources; like tools and gear, and human resources, all essential to getting our job done!



Chris Cutshaw keepin' the shovels sharp

A winter day for us can include taking inventory in the warehouse, sharpening shovels and other tools, restocking first aid kits, buying new items for our kitchen kits, and making sure our vehicles are maintained. On other days, we're at our desks reading case studies to refresh our Wilderness First Responder training.

We're also always looking for opportunities to do outreach in our community to recruit volunteers for the season and educate the public about conserving public lands. We prepare presentations about Wilderness and volunteering for UNR classrooms and other events. We also spend a lot of time meeting with our federal land management agency partners about upcoming projects for the field season. A lot of planning goes into each and every project.

Then we're back in the warehouse, fixing tents and making sure our Dutch ovens are in good condition. Just because we'll be out in the backcountry doesn't mean we can't

enjoy gourmet camp food! All labors of love for us - and of course, we'll be rocking out to some tunes while doing it all.



Olivia seasons the Dutch ovens for that gourmet campfire food



In Northern Nevada we held our annual Volunteer Appreciation Wilderness Wingding celebrating our volunteers, donors, sponsors, agency partners and wild Nevada Supporters! We recognized our Blue Helmet Volunteers, who each volunteered 30 or more hours in 2022, which shows a big commitment to keeping Nevada Wild and our stewardship program strong!

Our 2022 Northern Nevada Awardees!

Volunteer of the Year - *Bob Ralston*

Corporate Sponsor of the Year - NV Energy

Agency Partner of the Year -Kathy Torrence, BLM Black Rock Field Office

Marge Sill Wilderness Legacy
Award 2022 -

John Drakulich: Farmers Insurance

Champions of Northern Nevada Stewardship -Lucy Moreton-Hall & David Book

Above and Beyond Awardee -Jason Weiss

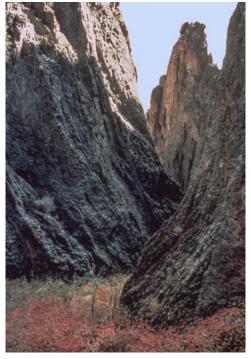
Above and Beyond Awardee - *Dan Johnson*

Friends Celebrates 1st Designation of Nevada Wilderness Areas in <u>Eight Years</u>

Friends was thrilled to end 2022 with the designation of three new Wilderness Areas in Nevada, the first time since 2014 that new Wilderness had been added to the previous statewide inventory of 3.4 million acres.

The legislation also created the new 160,000-acre Numunaa Nobe National Conservation Area (NCA) and the 217,845 Numu Newe Special Management Area specifically for the purposes of protecting, conserving, enhancing the traditional homeland of area Indigenous People. The new NCA encompasses much of what were the Stillwater and Jobs Peak Wilderness Study Areas.

New Wilderness and Conservation Area designations provide greater protection of wildlife habitat and cultural resources and keep these special places open to the public.



The Desatoya Mountains Wilderness



The brand new Desatoya Mountains Wilderness is a great place to get boots on the ground

Photo by L. Ollivier

The new Wilderness Areas are the Clan Alpine Mountains (128,362 in Churchill County), the Desatoya Mountains (40,303 acres in Churchill and Lander Counties), and the Cain Mountain Wilderness Area (14,050 acres in Churchill and Lander Counties).

These newly designated areas provide beautiful scenery, interesting geology, hiking and camping opportunities, as well as valuable wildlife habitat for desert bighorn sheep, Greater Sage-Grouse, Golden Eagles and many other species.

While earlier versions of the measure contained additional conservation designations in other counties, Friends is grateful to Congressman Mark Amodei, and Senators Jacky Rosen and Catherine Cortez Masto for their efforts in navigating a difficult legislative process to get

to the current outcome that also includes provisions long sought by Indigenous communities in Nevada.

It's becoming more and more difficult to move conservationlegislation oriented through Congress and that's why here at Friends we invest so much time and energy reaching out to affected communities and working with our Congressional delegation to reach common sense agreements. We have more work to do in the next Congress and we look forward to it with the same level of commitment we've always had to keeping much of Nevada wild and open to us all.

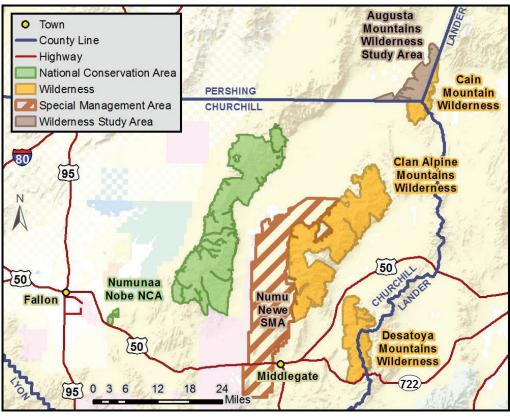
For more information on our new Wilderness areas or the Numuua Nobe National Conservation Area visit the Explorer Section of our website and select the area that interests you.

WE EXPLORE

MEET YOUR NEW DESATOYA WILDERNESS

Desatoya Mountains Wilderness is rugged with peaks and ridges rising above 9,000 feet. Deep-cut canyons on the west side contain fascinating rock formations and riparian communities. East of the ridgeline the terrain is more rolling with many drainages.The range rises up from the 5,400 foot valleys to the 9,973-foot Desatoya Peak (the highest peak in Churchill County). The Big Dens and Willow Creek areas are well known for their scenic quality. Cutthroat trout are present in Edwards and Smith Creeks; and brook trout are found in Big Dens Creek. Desert bighorn sheep were reintroduced in 1986 and the range provides excellent sage-grouse habitat as well.

The Desatoya Mountains Wilderness is part of the traditional homeland and cultural landscape of the Nuumu and Newe People, who have lived in the area for countless generations.



These newly-designated Wilderness and conservation areas are open for the public to explore

Map by Jake Kastner



The Pony Express Route from 1860 to 1861 bypassed the rugged Desatoya Mountains entirely, passing around the northern end while the later Lincoln Highway created a winding route over Carrol Summit and skirted the Desatoyas just to the south. The modern US 50 Highway reverted to the original Pony Express Route, The Cold Springs Pony Express Station is located just outside the Wilderness.

A popular primitive camping area and hike up Big Den to a waterfall can be found in the southwest part of the Wilderness accessible from Highway 722 (old Highway 50). Refer to more detailed maps in the *Explore* section of our website for this Wilderness.

WE REBUILD AND RESTORE

Trail Crew Looks Forward to 2023 Season -

WOW, WHAT A WINTER!

Rapid snow melt is likely to cause plenty of erosion throughout our Wilderness trail system. Luckily, our crews have done ongoing drainage work over the years to help lessen the impact of such dramatic weather.

We'll be assessing the situation this summer when our two trail crews hit the ground running with projects in Arc Dome, Table Mountain, Santa Rosa-Paradise Peak, and Mt. Charleston Wilderness Areas. We're excited to welcome back Ed Ruiz, who's returning as Crew Lead and looking forward to another summer out in the Wilderness.



Heading out for a productive day of work in the Arc Dome Wilderness Photo by Ed Ruiz

We've got new crew members coming from near and far who are eager to learn the ins and outs of Wilderness trail maintenance and become lifelong trail stewards. In addition to the full schedule with our regular crews, we'll be leading volunteers on a project in the Santa Rosa-Paradise Peak Wilderness Area on September 15-18. This is a great chance for anyone who wants to volunteer to experience what it's like to be on a trail crew and give back to your public lands.

IN MEMORIAM

ast year, Wild Nevada lost Tony Leveille, a true trail champion. We'll be joining Tony's family, Forest Service staff (Mountain City-Ruby Mountains-Jarbidge Ranger District), and others in a project to honor his legacy on July 13-16. Tony toiled many hours and untold miles working trails for the Forest Service. He spent much of his time walking or riding through the Ruby Mountains or Jarbidge. As requested in his obituary: "In lieu of flowers or donations, next time you find yourself out in the hills and come across a piece of litter, it would make Tony smile if you were to pack it out for him." In that spirit, we head to the Jarbidge Wilderness Area to work in his name.



Tony Leveille, left. His dedication was appreciated by all who love our public lands

WE REACH OUT



Friends S. NV Stewardship Director Peter Sbraccia out greeting the public

The Friends mission statement says that in addition to advocating for and stewarding our wild public lands, part of our job is "informing the public about the values of and need for Wilderness."

We do that in a number of ways, including through this newsletter, a variety of social media platforms, earned media, postcard campaigns, and others.

But the most effective way to "reach out" is to get out...into the community where the people are and interact face to face. That's something we love to do so we're always looking for opportunities to meet new people and share the good word about "the values of and need for Wilderness."

THANKS, PATAGONIA!

ne notable northern outreach event out of many was "Science in the Wild" at the Patagonia outlet store in Reno, with about 250 people attending. Several presenters from UNR talked about important issues including conservation of wild Lahontan Cutthroat trout and whitebark pines, two projects our stewardship teams have and will work on. Patagonia sponsored a raffle and all proceeds went to Friends! We are so grateful for corporate supporters like Patagonia.



Friends Olivia Wolff, right, sharing information about Friends at Patagonia Photo by Meg Tait



WILD AND SCENIC FILM FEST

Our biggest community event of the year!

The Spring Mountain Ranch State Park provided a stunning backdrop at the 2022 Wild & Scenic Film Festival. The day-long Festival culminating with a series of entertaining and informative films will be held at the same site this year on October 7th. It's always a lot of fun so watch for more info in our monthly E-news or check *nevadawilderness.org*.

Check out more Upcoming Events on the back cover of this newsletter!

ESSENTIAL ALT ENERGY PLANNING NOT HAPPENING, PUTTING PUBLIC LANDS AT RISK

The proposed Gerlach project (see pg 3) underscores a far more widespread challenge to protecting public lands with high conservation and recreation values. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is supposed to rely on its Resource Management Plans (RMPs) when deciding how public lands are used. But most of those plans are so out of date they are effectively expired and do not reflect the challenges public lands in Nevada are facing today.

That's why Friends has submitted extensive comments in response to BLM analyses of the environmental impacts of massive alternative energy projects and associated infrastructure, including the Solar Programmatic EIS and the Greenlink West and North transmission proposals.

Of course we recognize the critical need to develop renewable energy, but citing these facilities and their interconnected transmission lines must be done using up to date resource information and land use planning.

Due to chronic resource restraints, BLM in Nevada has not been able to fulfill its mandate to keep resource inventories and RMPs updated nor effectively plan for multiple and sustainable uses of public lands. As a result, BLM is making irretrievable decisions without good information and is undermining future resource protection on lands with Wilderness characteristics, ACECs, wildlife and cultural and recreational resources. We will continue to monitor these projects and be strong advocates for our wild public lands.

FRIENDS APPLAUDS PROPOSED MAJOR CHANGE IN BLM PLANNING

While all of this plays out, the Department of the Interior (DOI) released a proposal that we hope will allow BLM to place much greater emphasis on recreation, wildlife habitat, and cultural resources when determining the best uses of public lands.

In a press release on March 30th, DOI said the proposed rule "will increase access to outdoor recreation by putting conservation on equal footing with other uses, consistent with the BLM's multiple use and sustained yield mission."

We certainly hope this is the case. "We see this rulemaking as a needed step forward to ensure Nevada's sorely outdated Bureau of Land Management's resource management plans can be updated to reflect the needs of Nevadans," Friends ED Shaaron Netherton said in response. "So much has changed in over the past 20 or 30 years and emphasizing the importance of recreation, visitor services and wildlife habitat conservation on our public lands, as well as balanced land use planning, are critical needs. We urge our supporters to watch for more information on how they can help make this rule permanent."

MEET OUR NEW SPRINGS STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR!

Tyler Morris grew up in the Midwest but was called back to his native city of Reno in 2019 to lead locals and visitors on area hikes as an Americorps volunteer with the local Parks Foundation.

In 2021, Tyler joined Friends as a Mount Rose Wilderness Monitoring Technician where he helped people learn to explore and appreciate Nevada's Wilderness.



We're thrilled that Tyler is back on the team as our new Springs Stewardship Coordinator, where he'll lead volunteers into the field to monitor and help conserve our sensitive life-giving springs. When not working, Tyler likes to hike, camp, read and snap photos of the Nevada landscapes. Welcome, Tyler!

Cars for Stars!

Soon, Nevadans will be able to display their love for our dark, starry skies on their vehicle's license plate! The DMV has approved our application for a brand new Nevada dark skies specialty license plate and we are now in the design approval stage.

Once we receive final approval and the plate is issued, we must secure 1,000 registrations in order for the plate to stay in production. Proceeds from the new plate will allow Friends to continue our program to protect Nevada's unique dark skies from threats of development and artificial lighting on our public lands.

Watch for the announcement and then sign up for your new dark sky license plates for your cars, motorcycles and trailers!

"THANK YOU"
to all the talented artists

who submitted proposed license plate designs.

We appreciate your interest in helping us protect our dark skies!

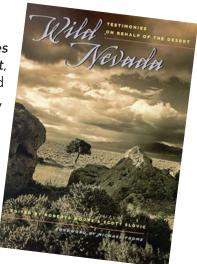
Some of the many ways to support W_{ILD} N_{EVADA} ...

Business Ambassadors Wanted

Priends of Nevada Wilderness is launching a Business Ambassador program to engage businesses about the importance of wilderness conservation and giving back to the public lands they, their employees, and their customers enjoy in the great outdoors. If you would like to learn more about how your business can make a difference call Jim Stanger at 775 324-7667 X202 and ask how your business can get involved.

GET INSPIRED

Wild Nevada: Testimonies on Behalf of the Desert, edited by Scott Slovic and our own Roberta Moore, is a collection of essays, poems, and photographs that highlight the beauty and fragility of the Nevada desert. Purchase the book today at our shop site and get inspired!



WHEELS FOR WILDERNESS

One upgraded, one to go! Thanks to our generous donors who matched a grant from the William N. Pennington Foundation, we were able to buy a safe new truck for our northern Nevada stewardship and trails teams. Now, we need to turn attention to our aging vehicles down south. We'd love your support for a new truck so we can help keep Southern Nevada wild - please go to nevadawilderness.org/truck to help us get some new wheels!



Meet Max, our new Northern NV Stewardship/ Trails team truck. The Dodge Ram 2500 is named for our generous match donor Lucy Moreton-Hall's late, great dog. Thank you, Lucy.



Leave a Legacy: www.nevadawilderness.org/legacy_giving
If you have membership questions, please contact Jim Stanger,
Membership and Outreach Coordinator, jim@nevadawilderness.org
or 775-324-7667 ext 202. Thank you in advance!

Gold Transparency 2022

Candid.

Shop our online store and new items! Proceeds benefit wild places across Nevada!

Informative Trail Maps!







You may order and pay directly on our website, for assistance please contact Jim Stanger: jim@nevadawilderness.org or 775-324-7667 ext 202.







FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS P.O. Box 9754 Reno, NV 89507

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

May 26th — 29th: Black Rock Rendezvous - Join us out in the Black Rock Desert for a full weekend of projects, activities, the famous Dutch oven cook-off, and a lot of fun!

June 2nd — 4th: National Trails Day at Steven's Camp -Give back to hiking trails! This year National Trails Day in northern Nevada will be held at Steven's Camp, north of High Rock Canyon and the Black Rock Desert.

August 18th & 19th: Dark Sky Fest in Cedarville, CA - Join us for a family-friendly weekend filled with "out of this world" fun and unbelievable stargazing!

September 22nd — 24th: National Public Lands Day at Soldier Meadows - Come out and have a blast with a weekend full of projects, fun, and great food! There will be multiple projects for all skill levels, camping in a beautiful location, and a great community of people. You don't want to miss this one!

December 8th: Wilderness Wingding Volunteer Appreciation Celebration in Northern Nevada - The annual end of the year celebration of our volunteers and the entire Friends of Nevada Wilderness community. Join us for dinner, music, silent auction, raffle prizes, and more.

Volunteers, experienced and brand new ones, can sign up at nevadawilderness.org/volunteer

Southern Nevada

May 4th: Wild Speaker Series featuring David Lukas on Bird Nests - Learn from an expert avian naturalist about the strategy that goes into building a bird nest. Join us for the **online Wild Speaker Series** the **1st Thursday** of every month for expert presentations on public lands, wildlife and outdoor recreation. See our online Calendar of Events to sign up or watch the replays on our YouTube page!

June 5th — 9th: Alternative Summer Break - A 5-day long service-learning experience designed for college students and young adults (18-39) to gain hands-on experience collecting data at springs and improving trails while also having the opportunity to meet with local experts in the outdoors community.

October 7th: Wild & Scenic Film Fest Las Vegas at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park - Friends of Nevada Wilderness invites you to join us for the 11th annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival! Festivities begin in the afternoon with a community fair and food trucks, and films will begin at twilight.

June — August: Cathedral Rock Trailwork Projects -Join FNW and USFS on Cathedral Rock Trail this summer. Volunteers will help complete a number of stewardship projects including trail maintenance and building trail elements. Check out our website's Calendar of Events for dates - weekday and weekend projects available.



CONTACT OUR OFFICES

RENO: (775) 324-7667

LAS VEGAS: (702) 515-5417 **NEVADAWILDERNESS.ORG**

Job Peak in the new Numunaa Nobe National Conservation Area Cover Photo by Will Boyer