



# Bill designates biggest amount of Nevada wilderness ever Lincoln County Wilderness!

Together we did it! On November 17, Congress passed the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act of 2004, which designates 14 new wilderness areas totaling 768,294 acres — the greatest acreage ever designation by a single bill in Nevada. *Your support helped make it happen!*

Some of the new wilderness areas include the Mormon, Meadow Valley and Delamar mountains wilderness areas, which are now the second-, third- and fifth-largest wilderness areas in Nevada (at 315,000 acres, the Black Rock Desert wilderness remains the largest). Other wonderful wilderness areas include the Fortification Range,

Clover Mountains, White Rock Range and two citizen-proposed areas (i.e., they weren't Wilderness Study Areas before the bill): the Mt. Irish and Big Rocks wilderness areas.

"We are pleased that the entire Nevada delegation worked so closely together on this legislation," said Shaaron Netherton, Friends' Executive Director. "Many incredible areas were given permanent protection for future generations as a result of the bill."

Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Nevada Wilderness Coalition have been working on this bill since 2001. Three years of meetings, letter writing, phone calls, visits to Congressional staff, mapping, hiking, photographing,

*continued on page 3*

**14 areas and 768,000 acres were given permanent protection for future generations**

See list of new wilderness areas on page 4

## Public may gain 20 thousand acres Jaksick parcels approved for acquisition by BLM

By Brian Beffort

On August 5, Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton approved the public acquisition of more than 20,000 acres of wild and scenic private lands under Round 5 of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA). This is a big step toward protecting wildlands and ensuring that four wilderness study areas are never marred by development and blocked access.

Arguably the most important proposed acquisition will be the Jaksick Parcels, 19,000 acres of parcels scattered across the top of the Granite Mountains, on the western edge of the Black Rock Desert, as well as private land in and around the Wall Canyon, Poodle Mountain, Twin Peaks and Buffalo Hills wilderness study areas. When acquired,

these parcels will assure continued habitat for mule deer, bighorn sheep and other wildlife, continued access for hunters, hikers and other recreationists, and protection from developers' bulldozers.

*continued on page 4*



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<b>Inside:</b>	View from the front lines	Page 2
	New wilderness areas list	Page 3
	Humboldt-Toiyabe NF campaign	Page 4
	Trek the Toiyabe Crest trail	Page 5
	Black Rock power plant	Page 5
	Wilderness heroes honored	Page 6
	Remembering Sally Kabisch	Page 6
Working for wilderness in DC	Page 7	



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## From the front lines

# Next public lands bill contenders: White Pine, Pershing, Lyon counties

Together, we made a difference! Thanks to you, Nevada can celebrate the inclusion of 14 new wilderness areas into the National Wilderness Preservation System. These areas are in Lincoln County.

National politics aside, Nevada is where wilderness protection in this county is happening and *you, the devoted members of Friends of Nevada Wilderness, are making it happen. We couldn't do it without you.*

Wilderness protection for Lincoln County was over three years in the making. Wilderness protection doesn't come easy; it takes a lot of on-the-ground work, meetings, more meetings, building relationships and trust with all players. But there's lots more to do.

### WHERE WILL THE NEXT WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS BE?

Nevada's Congressional delegation has made it clear they want to address public lands issues for every county in Nevada, following the model crafted in the Clark and Lincoln counties bills.

Based on comments from the delegation, we're betting on White Pine, Pershing and Lyon counties as contenders for the next public lands bill. Friends of Nevada Wilderness is laying foundations in all of these places. Pam White, our rural organizer, is hard at work in her White Pine County. Members like you are attending wilderness meetings in Pershing County this month, and

discussions and fieldwork are underway in Lyon County.

### WE'VE HAD SOME GREAT SUCCESSSES THIS YEAR

Fourteen new Wilderness areas were designated. Approval for funding to buy important private land within several wilderness study areas was granted. Illegal vehicle routes were reclaimed in wild places by volunteers on the ground. In short, you make these successes possible

by your efforts on the ground, by your letters, and by your financial support and personal passion.

### THINK ABOUT YOUR VISION FOR WILD NEVADA

When you receive your end-of-year request letter for a donations, think about what we have accomplished together. Think about your vision for Wild Nevada. Then give generously so that we can turn your vision into reality. Together we can give Nevada the wilderness it deserves.

Visit our website for holiday gift ideas. Give a gift memberships to a happening organization. Give wilderness calendars, books, or t-shirts.

Spread the wild word. Give the gift of wilderness!

Happy Holidays

Shaaron Netherton



Shaaron Netherton



# Wilderness bill is largest ever in Nevada

*continued from page 1*

and working together with other stakeholders paid off with 11% of Lincoln County in eastern Nevada forever protected as wilderness!

Although this legislation represents a major step forward for protection of many deserving and threatened areas, some of the wilderness areas are smaller than they should be and the Pahrnagat Range and other areas were not given the wilderness protection they desperately need.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is also disappointed that water pipeline utility corridors were included in the bill, as they may help facilitate the movement of water from rural Nevada to Las Vegas. We stand united with Nevada's larger conservation community in opposing these short-sighted proposals.

With the continued support of you, our members, wilderness protection will move forward in Nevada, to other counties. As long as there are wild places in Nevada needing protection, Friends of Nevada Wilderness will be out there leading the charge.

For more detail on the bill and its history, visit our website: [www.nevadawilderness.org](http://www.nevadawilderness.org). Look for a more detailed tour of Nevada's newest wilderness areas in future newsletters.



## Time to rest on our laurels?

*Not for a minute! There is still lots to do.*

The newly designated wilderness areas need people to be friends of Nevada wilderness. Want to get involved in the office or on the ground? Call (775) 324-7667 to learn more about becoming a wilderness advocate.



*The Lincoln County bill designated two citizen-proposed wilderness areas: Big Rocks and Mt. Irish, which the BLM totally missed in their wilderness inventories. Congress, however, recognized their wilderness values, and included them.*

### New Wilderness in Eastern Nevada

<u>area</u>	<u>acres</u>
Mormon Mountains Wilderness	157,938
Meadow Valley Range Wilderness	123,488
Delamar Mountains Wilderness	111,328
Clover Mountains Wilderness	85,748
South Pahroc Range Wilderness	25,800
Worthington Mountains Wilderness	30,664
Weepah Spring Wilderness	51,480
Parsnip Peak Wilderness	43,693
White Rock Range Wilderness	24,413
Fortification Range Wilderness	30,656
Far South Egans Wilderness	36,384
Tunnel Spring Wilderness	5,371
Big Rocks Wilderness	12,997
Mt. Irish Wilderness	<u>28,334</u>
<b>TOTAL ACRES</b>	<b>768,294</b>

Climb the mountains and get their glad tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees.  
*– John Muir*



## Mission Statement

### Keep Nevada Wild!

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 on the values of – and need for – Wilderness, and improving the management and restoration of these public wild lands.

# Working for more National Forest wilderness 812,000 acres aren't enough

By *Pete Dronkers*

Every visit to the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest rewards me with the realization that I am contributing to a legacy of protection in Nevada. In terms of designating wilderness, Nevada truly is a frontier. My photos and reports about these beautiful, remote, and little-known

The results of this work are invaluable — it may double the 812,000 acres of designated wilderness in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

roadless areas provide a framework for Forest Service wilderness recommendations. The results will be priceless.

In the last half year, as the Friends of Nevada Wilderness Forest Service coordinator, I have spent more than 35 days in the field looking for just the

right place and moment to capture the essence of an area on film and in writing. I don't rest until I've found it. Another world is always waiting on the other side of the ridge, or over the summit, and I can't be satisfied until I know what awaits there. I have spent hundreds of hours navigating the remote corners of these roadless areas – in one instance being forced into a dramatic self-rescue from a freak late-June blizzard high on the Toiyabe Crest.

You can explore these places for yourself online at [www.nevadawilderness.org](http://www.nevadawilderness.org). Follow the "Forest Service" link from the home page, or surf Nevada's regions via the menu icons at the top of the page. Areas featured on the site include the Toiyabe Crest, Bunker Hill, Table Mountain additions, Pearl Peak (southern Rubies), Wildcat Peak (Toquima Range), Highland Ridge (southern Snake Range), Red Mountain, Currant Mountain additions, South Shoshone Peak, and Antelope and Summit Mountain (northern Monitor Range).

The results of this work are invaluable — it may double the 812,000 acres of designated wilderness in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. In the northern Monitor Range, for example, an area of 40,000 acres was bisected into 3 roadless units in the USFS roadless inventory, but the dividing roads didn't exist on the ground. As a result, the Forest Service agreed that this is one contiguous area, and now we will advocate for a wilderness recommendation for the Summit and Antelopemountains.



*Highland Ridge, just south of Great Basin National Park, was left out of the 1989 US Forest Service wilderness bill. Friends of Nevada Wilderness is working to give its extremely high wilderness values the protection they deserve. Another world awaits beyond the far ridge. Photo by Pete Dronkers.*

## Jaksick parcels approved for acquisition by BLM

*continued from page 1*

According to the BLM, the Jaksick Parcels received more public support letters than any other proposal in SNPLMA history. This might explain why the Jaksick Parcels were added back into the mix after failing to make the cut during the first round of public comment. We would like to extend some of the credit to Friends' members for helping. Thanks to all of you for responding to our letter campaign by sending in your letters of support. They worked!

Other parcels approved for acquisition include:

- 1) A 4-acre parcel in Calico Basin, adjacent to the Red Rock Canyon National Recreation Area in Las Vegas.
- 2) White Basin, a 1,200-acre parcel adjacent to the Muddy Mountains Wilderness Area near Las Vegas.
- 3) Clearwater Canyon, 5,000 acres of perennial streams and riparian areas straddling the Pershing-Humboldt county line.

Norton's approval does not, however, assure that these parcels will be acquired. It simply earmarks funds to pursue the purchases. We're hoping negotiations run smoothly with the willing sellers.



# Trek the Toiyabe Crest Trail

By Pete Dronkers

Treking along the Toiyabe Crest Trail at 10,000 feet, with no one in sight, I hiked from rolling ridges to rocky peaks. I was sure the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1989 had missed something. The act designated 13 new wilderness areas, including the 115,000-acre Arc Dome Wilderness 40 miles to the south, but it left out the state's highest, most continuous ridge! The 35-mile Toiyabe Crest Trail meanders around rock towers, past springs, and across meadows while maintaining an average elevation just under 10,000 feet.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is working with the U.S. Forest Service to right this wrong by recognizing the stupendous wilderness values and recommending the Toiyabe Crest for wilderness in the Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest Plan Revision.

## Overwhelming public opposition Black Rock power plant plans move forward

Despite overwhelming public opposition, Sempra Energy's proposed Granite Fox coal-fired power plant on the edge of the Black Rock Desert is one step closer to completion.

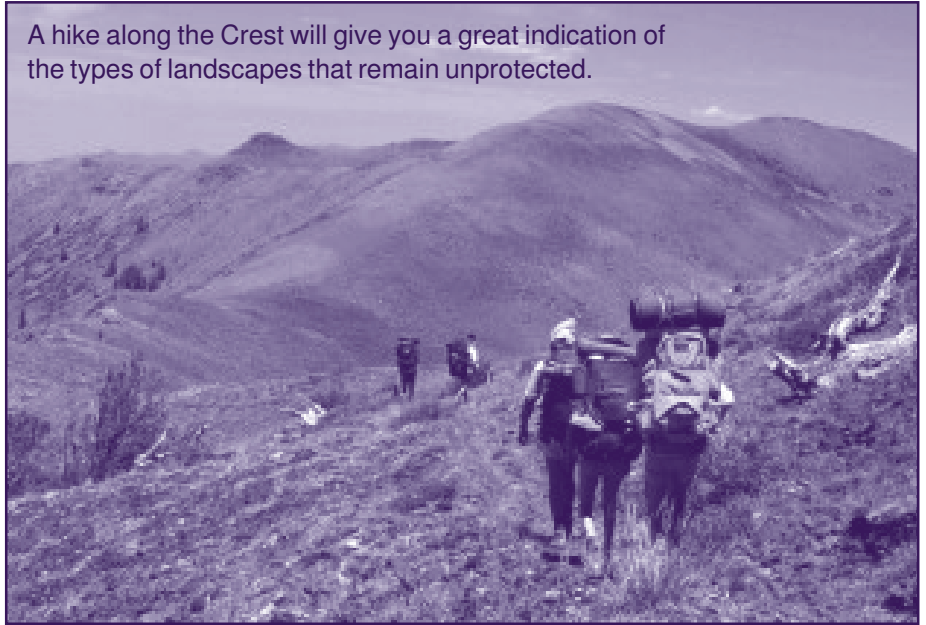
In September, Sempra completed its application to the Nevada Public Utilities Commission to tie into the nearby DC transmission line. Sempra is also completing an application to the BLM for a 10-mile new railroad line across the Smoke Creek Desert from Gerlach to the power plant site to deliver coal to the plant and to construct a 33-mile water pipeline down the west side of the Smoke Creek Desert in order to draw virtually all of the water from the basin for the power plant.

If Granite Fox is built, it will be the largest coal-fired power plant in the country, generating 1450 megawatts of electricity for power consumers in California. It will deplete nearly 15 million gallons of groundwater each day, and spew tons of mercury, nitrogen oxides and other poisons across Black Rock Desert skies, into 10 designated wilderness areas, and to the rest of the nation's air.

**THERE'S STILL TIME TO STOP GRANITE FOX, BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

Send letters of opposition to the Washoe County Commission and to Governor Kenny Guinn. Go to

A hike along the Crest will give you a great indication of the types of landscapes that remain unprotected.



The Toiyabe-Crest National Recreation Trail runs along one of Nevada's longest mountain ranges, in one of its largest unprotected roadless areas. This area needs your help to get wilderness protection. (Photo by Roger Scholl.)

### How to get there

**Directions:** There are many ways to access the Toiyabe Crest Trail. Starting from the north may be the best option if you're planning on a long trek into Arc Dome Wilderness and out the southern end of the range. Shorter, out-and-back hikes are also possible.

A few miles west of Austin on Highway 50, turn south on Big Creek Rd. (FR 002), which will lead to the trailhead in Kingston Canyon (high-clearance required). From Tonopah, take Highway 376 north through Big Smoky Valley to Kingston, then follow FR 002 west to the trailhead, which is marked by an obvious kiosk and map. Plan on four or five days of hiking to reach the south end of Arc Dome Wilderness, where a car should be cached.

A good two-day trip might be to climb Toiyabe Range Peak and return to the Kingston Trailhead. There are no permits, no fees, no parking problems, and you most likely will not see another person, yet be on a trail the entire time if you choose.

For more information, call the USFS Austin Ranger District at (775) 964-2671.

Thanks to all of you for responding to our letter campaign by sending in your letters of support. They worked!

### Help make the Toiyabe Crest wilderness!

If you have hiked this incredible area, please send a letter to Steve Williams, Austin/Tonopah Ranger, PO Box 130, Austin NV, 89310. Describe why the Crest is special to you, and ask the US Forest Service to recommend the Toiyabe Crest as wilderness in the upcoming plan revision. If you haven't visited yet, please make a point to do so when the snow melts next year.

our web site, [www.nevadawilderness.org](http://www.nevadawilderness.org) and follow the Black Rock power plant links to find the latest updates and calls to action.

Call (775) 324-7667 for more information. Sign up for our alert list, so we can let you know when we need your letter or call to oppose the plant.



# Wilderness heroes take home honors

**Senator Harry Reid** received the Ansel Adams Award from the Wilderness Society on September 15 to commemorate his contributions to the stewardship of America's natural treasures.

"Senator Reid has demonstrated outstanding legislative skills on several key environmental issues," said Wilderness Society President Bill Meadows.

"He has proven to be a true wilderness champion, especially in his efforts to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from drilling and to promote sensible energy legislation. As Minority Whip, Senator Reid has applied his knowledge, floor skills, and strong leadership in the Senate to protect our natural legacy."

Reid has also been instrumental in preserving the natural heritage of Nevada, from the Black Rock Desert to Mt. Rose, the Ruby Mountains, Mt. Charleston, and the Muddy Mountains. He most recently helped to protect 768,294 acres as wilderness in Lincoln County. Reid Rocks!

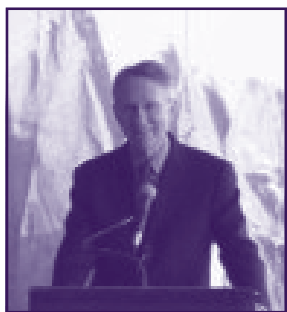
**Friends of Nevada Wilderness board members** Marge Sill, Roger Scholl, Hermi Hiatt and John Hiatt each received "Environmental Hero" awards at the Wilderness Society's Governor's Council Awards Dinner held at the Mount Charleston Hotel on October 1. The awards recognize the knowledge, passion and dedication these people have brought to protecting wild places in Nevada.

Marge Sill is a founding member of Friends who has been working on wilderness in Nevada since the 1950s and who helped pass the Wilderness Act in 1964. Roger Scholl, another founding member, has been intricately involved in almost every bill to designate wilderness in Nevada. John and Hermi Hiatt have shown unwavering dedication to protecting wildlife and landscapes from Nevada's southern tip to the Snake Range in White Pine County.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness extends heartfelt thanks to these wilderness heroes. We're honored and proud to be working with you.



*A heartfelt Thank You to all the Friends of Nevada Wilderness new members, and longtime supporting members.*



*Senator Harry Reid (above). At right, Bill Meadows (on far right) presents Environmental Hero awards to (from left) John Hiatt, Marge Sill, Hermi Hiatt, and Roger Scholl.*



## Remembering Sally Kabisch, wilderness warrior

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is saddened by the loss of one of our great wilderness warriors. Sally Kabisch, a long-time friend and wilderness advocate, died this summer after a long, brave fight with ovarian cancer. More than anyone else, Sally was responsible for passing the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1989, which designate as wilderness such USFS jewels as Mt. Charleston, Mt. Rose, Arc Dome, Table Mtn and Mt. Moriah.

Sally was always optimistic, always positive, and she energized the wilderness community in Nevada.

To honor her wonderful work, Senator *Harry Reid* entered the following eloquent memorial to Sally A. Kabisch in the Congressional Record on Sept. 8, 2004:

"There are times in history when one person can and does make a difference. The recent death of Sally Kabisch reminded me of one such person and one particular period of time.

"Sally Kabisch dedicated herself to a remarkable career of conservation. She worked at various times as a grassroots organizer and advocate for conservation efforts in Nevada, California and Alaska."



## Nevada: a ray of hope in a hostile political climate

# Working for wilderness in D.C.

The support of you, the members of Friends of Nevada Wilderness, allowed staff members Pamela White, Susan Potts and Brian Beffort to join wilderness volunteers

Katie Kleinick, Kurt Kuznicki and Nancy Hall on Capitol Hill to advocate for more wilderness for Nevada.

Their trip coincided with Wilderness Week, a time of celebration and strategy held in September during the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

It was great to collaborate with 350 wilderness activists from across the country, and to know they represent just the tip of the iceberg of people committed to protecting America's wildlife, recreation and watersheds," said Beffort.

### NEVADA MAKING HUGE STRIDES

It's strange to think of Nevada as politically progressive. Compared with New York, California and other powerhouse states, Nevada barely appears on the radar. During the week, it became clear that Nevada is making huge strides in wilderness protection, while wilderness proposals in other states are stuck on the starting line.

"I must be honest," said Kurt Kuznicki, "the thought of being a Washington lobbyist scared the hell out of me. I would rather be in Burbank Canyon WSA facing a mountain lion, but it seemed the wilderness trail had to go through DC."

*"My heart was pierced as I listened to one of the congressmen say how much he dislikes wilderness, especially citizen-proposed wilderness. As I listened, it only strengthened my resolve and deepened my commitment to the wild places of Nevada. I promised myself I would work hard for wilderness."*

Our Congressional delegation's bipartisan cooperation on wilderness, combined with the Nevada Wilderness Coalition's visionary proposals and reasonable negotiations with a full spectrum of stakeholders, has enabled us to designate wilderness in a national political climate that is often hostile to wilderness. Inspired by Nevada's leadership, other states have begun similar approaches to wilderness designation.

### SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION

Pam, Brian and Susan met directly with members of Nevada's Congressional delegation and their staffs to encourage them to strengthen and expand wilderness proposals, and to improve aspects of the water-pipeline and land-disposal proposals in the Lincoln County bill.

### MEETINGS CONSTRUCTIVE BUT INTIMIDATING

The Nevadan wilderness supporters meetings were constructive, but also intimidating. "I must be honest," said volunteer Kurt Kuznicki, "the thought of being a Washington lobbyist scared the hell out of me. I would rather be in Burbank Canyon WSA facing a mountain lion, but it seemed the wilderness trail had to go through DC.

"The defining moment for me occurred at the House Resources subcommittee," Kurt continued. "My heart was pierced as I listened to one of the congressmen say how much he dislikes wilderness, especially citizen-proposed wilderness. As I listened, it only strengthened my resolve and deepened my commitment to the wild places of Nevada. I promised myself I would work hard for wilderness."

Although these activities occurred 3,000 miles from the wild lands of the Silver State, they strengthened the ability of Friends of Nevada Wilderness to designate wilderness in Nevada.

*"Come on in – the earth, like the sun, belongs to everyone and to no one."*

*- Edward Abbey*

### Wilderness goes to Washington



*Brian Beffort, Pam White and Susan Potts work the Washington D.C. circuit.*

*"In wilderness is the salvation of the world."*

*- Henry David Thoreau*