

Call of the WILD

FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS

Keeping Nevada Wild Since 1984

JUNE 2004

Plans for coal-fired power plant loom over Black Rock Desert

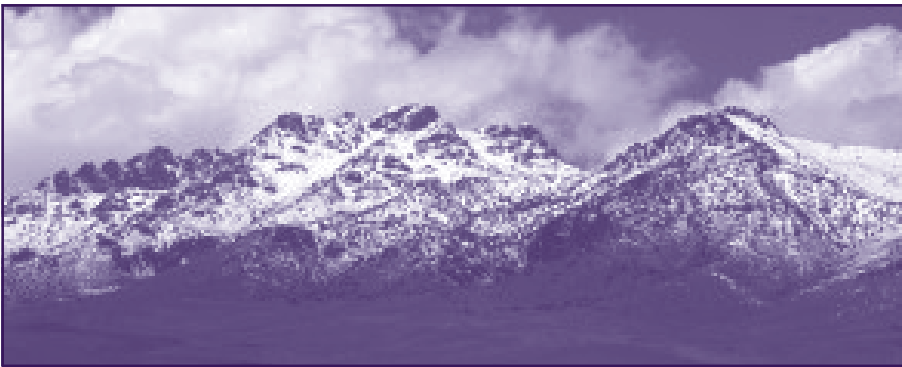
Sempra power has applied for permits from the Nevada Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to construct an electrical substation, supporting facilities, and a tie-in line to the DC Intertie Power Line that runs near the proposed power plant site.

Insane is the best way to describe one of the newest threats to Nevada's wild places.

San Diego-based SEMPR Energy is proposing a huge coal-fired power plant at the base of the Black Rock Desert. Nevadans would get polluted skies and used-up water while southern California would get the power. Ironically, the first

step to approving the coal power plant is proving that the air is clean and clear enough to allow the dirty plant. If built, winds would spew this pollution over the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon-Emigrant Trail National Conservation Area and wilderness areas and forever harm the awesome vistas. This region was given protection in 2000 by Congress for its beauty and nationally significant historic, prehistoric and wilderness values.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is working with citizens to block this project. In April, when the Washoe County Planning Commission and County Commissioners approved a 650-foot air monitoring tower to be built, Shaaron Netherton, Executive Director of Friends of Nevada Wilderness, testified at the County Commissioner hearing and presented 110 letters from folks opposed to the air monitoring tower and power plant. (cont. pg. 10)



Black Rock Desert with Jackson Mountain Wilderness behind. Photo: Brian Beffort

Sloan Canyon NCA threatened

Congress, after working hard to protect Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area and North McCullough Wilderness in 2002, is now working to turn the NCA into a helicopter flight path.

In early May, the Nevada Congressional delegation introduced HR 4285/S2378, a bill to turn 229 acres of southern Nevada's public land over to Clark County to build a heliport for helicopter tour companies. The helicopter companies, unhappy at being forced out of McCarran International Airport due to state and local politics, are caught between a rock and a hard place. While we agree that residents shouldn't have 90 flights a day going over their homes, we also feel equally strongly that forcing these flights over the NCA and wil-

derness is not the answer. In April, Susan Potts of Friends of Nevada Wilderness testified before Senator Reid and other Congressional representatives that forcing concentrated helicopter overflights above our new NCA was a bad idea and an alternative site should be found. She suggested an

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from the front lines By Shaaron Netherton

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Dear Members,

It's hard being a parent now, with all the horrific images of war, abuse and terror inundating us. I struggle with how to explain it all to my daughter. To help me cope, I focus on my work for Nevada wilderness. It makes me feel like I have some control and can make a difference in our lives. It gives me hope. I passionately care about Nevada's wild places, but even they seem more besieged than ever these days.

We've made this issue of *Call of the Wild* bigger than usual to cover some of the outrageous threats to our wild landscapes. It's also bigger to share Friends of Nevada Wilderness's many successes over 20 years.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness has spent this spring fighting numerous attacks on Nevada's wild places. The Department of Energy is proposing to build a **nuclear waste railroad** through several wilderness study areas. SEMPRO Energy wants to pollute the air and deplete the water in the fabulous Black Rock Desert NCA and wilderness areas with a filthy **coal-fired power plant**. Our Congressional delegation is trying to force 90 commercial **helicopter tour flights** a day over the newly created Sloan Canyon NCA and North McCullough Wilderness. BLM's Surprise Field Office is proposing a **60-foot-wide dam** in the Wall Canyon WSA. We are still **fighting in the 10th Circuit Court** to uphold BLM's ability to inventory and recommend wilderness study areas through their planning process. We continue to fight the **Forest Service's attempts to designate roads** in the Mt. Stirling WSA. Friends is also fighting **proposals to siphon water from eastern**

Nevada's rural areas and wildlands to feed thirsty Las Vegas.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness has been proactive in working with our Congressional delegation to **protect wild lands in eastern Nevada**. Staff is working with the Nevada Land Conservancy and the BLM to **acquire sensitive spring and riparian parcels** in northern Washoe County. Many of these private inholdings are within wilderness study areas or other wilderness quality lands. We are **gathering information on wilderness quality**



roadless areas for the Forest Service's upcoming Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest Plan revision and we are **participating in BLM wilderness planning in Clark County**. We're also **building our stewardship programs** to get volunteers on the ground to keep Nevada wild.

For 20 years, we've been successful in getting wild places the Congressional protection they deserve. But so many more areas need protection from growth and greed, and so many areas need champions on the ground.

Let me be blunt, **Friends of Nevada Wilderness needs your support** now more than ever. Staff and volunteers are working hard to keep up, but protecting your wild lands takes even more commitment. We need your help. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please do it today. Consider making a special gift. Support our benefit event—Shakespeare on the Black Rock Playa in July.

And whenever you can, please write letters, make calls, get involved.

Together we can make the world a better place!

Shaaron Netherton



Stop Sloan Canyon over-flights

Visitors to the Sloan Canyon petroglyph sites may soon be bombarded by the noise of over-flights.
Photo: Brian Beffort

(continued from front page)

area near the Sunrise Landfill site that was away from homes, the NCA and wilderness.

Many local residents, bighorn sheep and other wildlife living in the area will also be affected by the flights. Potts said, "I have seen bighorn bedding areas myself around Sutor Peak, which is directly below the flight path."

"If an alternate site is not considered, at the very least, the helicopter flights should be rerouted around the Sloan Canyon NCA," said Bill James, a member of Friends of Sloan Canyon. "A flight path farther to the south would make more sense for residents in Anthem as well as for those enjoying the Sloan Canyon NCA for recreation."

Bill Huggins, a Henderson resident and avid hiker, expressed his concerns. "This area is a superb escape from Las Vegas right in my backyard. I know that having helicopters flying overhead at only 500 to 1,000 feet every 4 to 5 minutes will ruin the experience for me. I hate to think what it will do to the wildlife."

Your membership support allows Friends of Nevada Wilderness to work on this issue. We can't keep Sloan Canyon wild without you.

Friends gone Phishin'

By Brian Beffort

Every time the rock band Phish plays a concert, they invite a local nonprofit organization to join them for public outreach and fundraising. On April 16, Friends of Nevada Wilderness was their guest at Thomas & Mack Stadium in Las Vegas.

Phish helps local groups through their charitable nonprofit Waterwheel Foundation. In exchange for donations to Waterwheel, concert goers received stickers and T-shirts.

Net proceeds from Waterwheel's fundraising are donated to each evening's guest nonprofit group. Pending the final tally, it looks as though Phish and Waterwheel raised around \$5,000 for Friends of Nevada Wilderness.

At the event, people signed more than 100 postcards to the Forest Service to protect National Forest roadless areas.

Thank you Phish and Waterwheel Foundation! Your music and generosity are helping to keep Nevada wild and make the world a better place.



Action alert!

Write or call your Senators and Congressman and tell them to move the helicopter flight path outside of the Sloan Canyon NCA and North McCullough Wilderness. Better yet, tell them to move the proposed heliport to the Sunrise Landfill site.

Hon. John Ensign

333 Las Vegas Blvd. S., Suite 8203
Las Vegas, NV 89101
(702) 388-6605
FAX (702) 388-6501

Hon. Harry Reid

333 Las Vegas Blvd. S., Suite 8016
Vegas, NV 089101
(702) 388-5020
FAX (702) 388-5030

John Porter

2501 N. Green Valley Pkwy #112D
Henderson, NV 89014
(702) 225-3252
FAX (702) 434-1378

Under Yonder Blue Moon



An Evening of Shakespeare on
the Black Rock Playa

a benefit for Friends of Nevada Wilderness
and Nevada Shakespeare Company

Saturday evening, July 31

Cost: \$50 per person

Call 324-4198 for tickets

or go to: www.nevadawilderness.org for event info



Nuclear waste rail line heads for WSAs

By Susan Potts

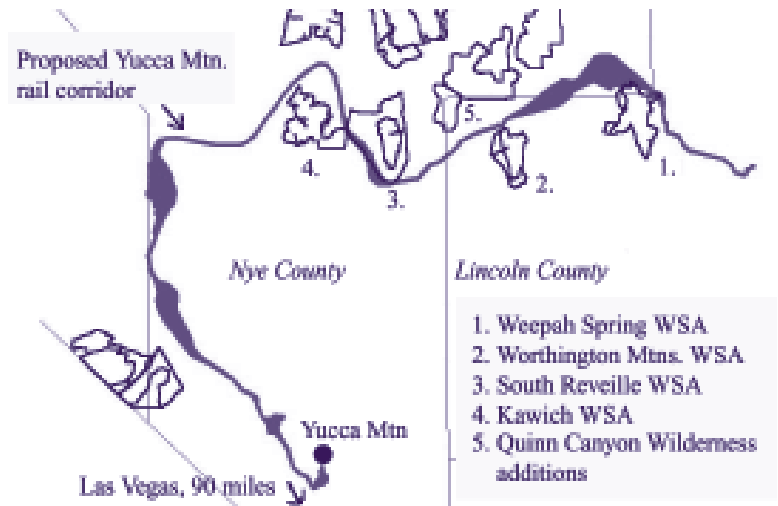
Friends of Nevada Wilderness staff and volunteers have been testifying and providing detailed scoping comments on the Department of Energy's (DOE) plan to ship high level nuclear waste on a proposed new railroad through a number of Nevada wilderness study areas (WSAs).

DOE held a series of meetings in May to gather public input on the proposed Yucca Mountain Rail Corridor as part of their EIS process. This route, called the Caliente Corridor, would enter Nevada near Caliente, cross Lincoln County, go through Nye County north of the Nevada Test site, then south along the western edge of the test site, until it reached Yucca Mountain. It would carry up to 77,000 tons of radioactive nuclear waste through Nevada. The Draft EIS will be available for public comment in early 2005.

DOE asked the BLM to withdraw about 308,600 acres of our public lands along a one-mile-wide corridor for the 'Caliente Corridor' rail route to facilitate building this boondoggle project. DOE's maps show the proposed route crossing Weepah Springs and South Reveille WSAs, our Quinn

Canyon wilderness additions proposal, as well as coming extremely close to the Kawich and Worthington Mountains WSAs. Other WSAs may be at risk as DOE adjusts the route in the upcoming EIS process.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is joining the State of Nevada, local residents and most Nevadans in opposing this rail corridor. Your support and



membership allows us to work on this issue. We can't protect these wild lands without your help. For more detailed information, visit our website at www.nevadawilderness.org.

Earth Day festivals great for outreach

Each year, Earth Day celebrations give Friends of Nevada Wilderness an opportunity to fulfill one of our most important missions—to share with people our love of wilderness and tell them why it's important to keep some places wild.

More than 10,000 people attended the Earth Day celebration at Idlewild Park in Reno on April 25, and Friends' staff and volunteers had our hands full chatting with the hundreds of people who came by our booth. People showed their support for wilderness by signing a tall stack of letters in support of eastern Nevada wilderness designations.

David VonSeggern strolled the festival with a wheelbarrow full of coal and got letters signed and in opposition to the proposed coal-fired power plant in the Black Rock Desert. We then hand delivered these letters to our Congressional delega-

tion and the Washoe County Commission.

Kids of all ages had a chance to win a prize at the "enter the wilderness" beanbag toss game.

In Las Vegas, Friends had a booth at the Summerlin Earth Fair. A steady stream of people came by the booth,

and we generated hundreds of public comments in support of eastern Nevada wilderness and in support of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.



Photo: Kurt Kuznicki



Mission Statement

Keeping Nevada Wild!

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is dedicated to preserving all qualified Nevada public lands as Wilderness, protecting all potential Wilderness from ongoing threats including mining, over-grazing, road construction, and off-road vehicle use, educating the public on the values of – and need for – Wilderness, and improving the management and restoration of these public wild lands.



20th Anniversary celebrations a hit

The cafeteria at Patagonia Outlet Center was packed on March 20 when the northern Nevada members and supporters of Friends of Nevada Wilderness attended the 20th anniversary celebration event.



Folks won prizes for a wilderness trivia quiz. Patagonia donated several packs for a raffle drawing. A festive anniversary cake spread fun and frosting throughout the room.

A lovely buffet table featured tasty buffet foods donated by Trader Joe's and Wild Oats Market. Silver Peak Brewery donated a frosty keg of beer.

A wilderness slide

show presented by Brian Beffort opened the entertainment.

A rousing performance by Jim Eaglesmith and his musical friends closed the evening.

An afternoon event in Las Vegas on March 27 was enjoyed by southern Nevada members and supporters. Susan Potts wowed folks with eastern Nevada slides and Harmi Hiatt reviewed our successes over the years. Raffle items and food were provided by board members.

Many thanks to all who volunteered their time and effort to make these memorable events.

Special thanks to those who generously gave an anniversary gift to Friends of Nevada Wilderness.



Activists at the anniversary party sign letters in support of wilderness (top right). Fabulous food was donated by Trader Joe's and Wild Oats Market (top left). Board member Corey Lewis with son Hunter (left). Volunteer Cynthia Scholl visits with her mother, long-time wilderness supporter and artist Amy Mazza (right). Photos: Brian Beffort



Founding members reflect back on 20 years of work by Friends of Nevada Wilderness



As I look back, we have made huge strides in detoxifying wilderness issues in Nevada. We have moved from hostile crowds and threats to building solid relationships based on a shared love for the land. I used to dream of having one full-time staff person working on Nevada wilderness protection. Now we have six incredibly talented staff, and we are just scratching the surface of what's possible.

— Roger Scholl, founding member

The first 20 years were an exiting beginning for wilderness in Nevada. The next 20 years will see all Nevada wildlands protected.

Every lizard will have its rock to sun on. Every pronghorn will have its space to run. Every child will be able to enjoy his/her own private wilderness.

The wind will have silence enough to speak.

— Marge Sill, founding member



Wheeler Peak



Great Basin National Park — 1987

1984

Nevada wilderness activists, with a grant from the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, form an organization dedicated to informing the public about the grandeur, resources, and vulnerability of Nevada wilderness.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is founded.

As its first executive director, Jean Ford kicks off a community and rural organizing campaign.

1989

We continue to push our 1.4-million-acre Forest Service proposal and publish *Exploring Nevada's Wild Places: A Guide to Nevada Wilderness*.

Congress passes The Nevada Forest Service Protection Act, designating 733,400 acres. It is signed into law by the President on December 5.

1990

Friends of Nevada Wilderness, with John Hiatt in a key role, helps to pass the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Act.

1991

Friends of Nevada Wilderness focuses on BLM Wilderness Study Area (WSA) recommendations.

Ann Kersten summarizes all BLM WSA areas.

Red Rock Canyon NCA is dedicated.

1992

Hermi Hiatt, Mark Saylor and Susan Selby initiate intensive inventory and mapping of BLM wild lands.

1993

Deft map work by John Hiatt helps expand Red Rock Canyon NCA from 83,000 to 195,000 acres.

1996

Friends of Nevada Wilderness keeps Congress involved, taking Senator Reid on a helicopter tour of BLM-managed WSAs in Clark County.

1985

Friends launches the Nevada Forest Service Wilderness campaign with *Project Nevada Wilderness Watch*, a Congressional and media tour using motor homes and helicopters.

This was the first national recognition of Nevada's marvelous wilderness values.

1985-1988

Congress introduces numerous Nevada Wilderness bills. The following hearings, tours and organizing efforts span three Congresses.

Lois Sagel, Marge Sill and Roger Scholl help to spearhead the campaign.

Anti-wilderness passions are fanned by special interest groups, and several wilderness activists receive threats. Undaunted, they continue to testify for wilderness.

1987

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is instrumental in rallying community and business support for the establishment of Great Basin National Park, under the leadership of President Geneva Douglas.

Currant Mountain



Nevada Forest Service Protection Act — 1989

Red Rock Canyon



Red Rock Canyon NCA more than doubled in size — 1993

marks major milestones in the Nevada wilderness movement

The Emigrant Trail



Black Rock Desert - High Rock Canyon - Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area — 2000

Petroglyphs



Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act — 2002

North Pahruc Range



Eastern Nevada wilderness bill — 2004 ?

1998

Conservation Director Tom Myers coordinates wilderness surveys; then computerizes WSA boundaries to create maps for future wilderness campaigns. Survey team includes Howard Booth, John and Hermi Hiatt, and Mark Saylor.

1999

The Black Rock Desert - High Rock Canyon Wilderness campaign gains momentum with the formation of the Nevada Wilderness Coalition. Members include Friends of Nevada Wilderness, the Nevada Wilderness Project, the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association, Red Rock Audubon, and the Wilderness Society.

2000

The Black Rock Desert–High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trail National Conservation Area Act is passed. Signed by President Clinton on December 21, it designates 10 wilderness areas. As the new executive director, Shaaron Netherton ensures that the crucial areas get included.

2001

The Nevada Wilderness Coalition publishes the *Citizen's Proposal: Nevada's Mojave Desert Region*. Jeremy Garncarz, with our members, spearheads the campaign to protect wilderness in southern Nevada. Friends begins work on eastern Nevada Wilderness Campaign, talking with rural residents, to ensure their involvement.

2002

The Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act is signed into law on November 6, It designates 17 wilderness areas, expands the Mt. Charleston Wilderness Area and creates the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area.

2003

The Nevada Wilderness Coalition publishes *The Citizen's Proposal for Wilderness in Lincoln and White Pine Counties*. Our members visit many of the proposed areas.

2004

Work begins to develop wilderness proposals for Forest Service areas left out of the 1989 bill. Friends celebrates 20 years of our three-pronged approach to protecting wilderness: public education on the values of wilderness, pursuing legislation to designate additional wilderness, and working with agencies and volunteers to protect wilderness values on the ground.

2004-2024

The next 20 years? It depends on you. You, the members that make up Friends of Nevada Wilderness, and you, the citizens of Nevada and of the United States of America, are the people who will determine what becomes of the public lands we all hold in common. To protect this splendid heritage for the next generation, we at Friends of Nevada Wilderness, need your support, both financial and volunteer. We can't do it without you.

To all the people
who worked so hard
across the years—
Thank you!



Lincoln County Public Lands Bill

By Shaaron Netherton

So what's up with this eastern Nevada bill for protecting wilderness? Friends of Nevada Wilderness has been working and talking about it for years now—where is it? Good question!

If legislation is to be introduced into Congress and have any expectation of passing this year, it will likely need to be introduced by our Nevada delegation by the end of June. We held this newsletter issue back, hoping we'd have the scoop for you. Rather than hold it any longer, we're going to the printer.

Whenever this bill is introduced, we will immediately put out a special mailing for our members to give you the details and to ask for your help in making whatever improvements it may need. There may well be other public land provisions in this bill that we strongly oppose.

Public lands bills like the Clark County bill and like the upcoming Lincoln County bill tend to be "kitchen sink" legislation. Congress tries to take care of all the public lands issues it is wrestling with in one piece of legislation. We will have to wait and see how this one sorts itself out.

Join in for upcoming volunteer opportunities

Saturday, June 12, Mt. Grafton WSA: vehicle-impact restoration. OK to camp in the area following the project.

Saturday, July 3, Mt. Grafton WSA: vehicle-impact restoration.

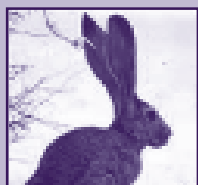
Saturday, August 21st, Park Range WSA: vehicle-impact restoration.

For details on those three projects, please contact Stephen Leslie at (775) 289-1867; Stephen_leslie@nv.blm.gov.

The US Forest Service is looking for volunteers to help monitor the Mt Charleston wilderness boundary. For details, contact Amy Meketi at (702) 515-5428; ameketi@fs.fed.us.



Friends of Nevada Wilderness staff thanks you, our members, for your support of our work for wilderness. Pictured, from left, Pat Patera, Susan Potts, Shaaron Netherton, Brian Beffort, Pam White.



Pristine forever,
now and for the
unborn. Let us
keep these
miracles, these
splendors
pristine forever,
these sources of
man's spirit,
symbols of his
goals,
landscapes
eternally of
freedom.

—Nancy Newhall

The value of planned giving

Long-time members of Friends of Nevada Wilderness have seen 20 years of work to protect Nevada's wild places as designated wilderness areas.

Just as the land endures, so must the constant vigilance required to monitor the federal management of designated wilderness areas.

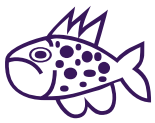
Just as human development increases, so must the ongoing effort to identify and designate the last of the limited and ever-dwindling wild areas.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness plans to endure along with our wild lands.

That's why we need your future support.

If you are over 50 and haven't yet written a will or living trust, all the experts say: delay no longer! If you think that someday you will be leaving behind more money than your beneficiaries need, and you want to feel confident that you will leave Nevada a better place, please seriously consider how your legacy can help Friends of Nevada Wilderness achieve long-range financial stability.

For more information, consult your personal attorney, or speak to the Executive Director at Friends of Nevada Wilderness at (775) 324-7667.



Hike the Burbank Canyons WSA

By Kurt Kuznicki

At 13,395 acres, Burbank Canyons Wilderness Study Area isn't large, but it fits a lot of beauty into a small package. Located about an hour's drive south of Carson City in the southern end of the Pine Nut Range, it's the closest WSA to the Carson-Reno area and is a great destination for a weekend hike this summer.

From an elevation of about 5,500 feet on its east side, Burbank rises nearly 3,500 vertical feet to the top of Eagle Mountain, where views soar in every direction. The aspen stands and perennial streams in the steep eastern canyons are picturesque and nearly pristine.

In April, I was excited to visit Burbank Canyons with Arthur Callan, an outdoor recreation planner with the BLM, and nine hardy wilderness lovers from the Great Basin Group of the Sierra Club.

We were about five miles south of Gardnerville when it began to snow. We raced the storm over Jack Wright Summit, so the weather was fair when we first arrived at the WSA. We entered Rickey Canyon and headed up the rocky road. Rickey Canyon forms the southern boundary of the WSA. We were attempting to drive the boundary road to the top and possibly enjoy the great views from the summit of Eagle Mountain. Mother Nature, as always, had a few things that she wanted to show us first.

When the weather crested the ridge, we pulled over and waited out the storm in lower Rickey Canyon. We witnessed the beautiful contrasts of the seasons, as the blooming desert peach was trimmed with icy flakes of snow. It was as if winter was desperately trying to hang on. The clouds were low and ominous. The rock cliffs veiled in fog looked like ancient warriors standing guard over this beautiful canyon. It was wonderful to enjoy the storm as it passed.

As the spring sun returned, we decided to explore more of the WSA. We drove along the eastern border to Burbank Canyon itself. We finally got a chance to stretch our legs. As we hiked up Burbank Canyon in the sunshine, the towering cliffs now looked warm and friendly.

I noticed that Arthur was very careful where he walked and several times he took a

different route than the rest of us. I asked him about it and he told me it was his "Leave No Trace" style of hiking. It might be easier for us to hike up the sandy slope rather than to stay low and battle the brush, but a bigger party or even a small group like ours would cause some unnecessary erosion. It is only human nature to stay out of the mud and hike along the side of the trail, but by keeping our feet dry we widen the trail. We must always think of how our actions affect the land.



Burbank Canyons is an awesome place, and a land of contrasts. Burbank Canyons is like so many places in Nevada: wild, beautiful, and powerful. It is also a fragile place, a place where man should be a temporary visitor. To be true stewards of the land, we must be visitors that leave no trace. I hope we can keep it wild by designating it as wilderness soon.

*Hikers gather on the trail to Burbank Canyon.
Photo: Kurt Kuznicki*

Getting there

Drive U.S. 395 south from Carson City about an hour. Turn east onto NV-208 for almost 10 miles, then turn north on Lower Colony Road for a little over a mile. To access Rickey Canyon, turn west on Rickey Canyon Road, which is marked by a street sign. Follow this road for a half-mile to the Wilderness Study Area boundary. High-clearance, four-wheel-drive is necessary to reach the top of the WSA. If you drive to the top, please park once you get there. Vehicle tracks travel north into the WSA, but they are trespass tracks.

To access Burbank Canyon, continue driving north on Lower Colony Road for about three miles past Rickey Canyon. After the road winds eastward, look for a WSA sign on west side of the road. Follow that dirt road to Burbank Canyon. The road parallels the ridge then turns west. Two steel poles mark the trailhead. It's a good road except for possible Nevada pin striping.

UTM coordinates:

Intersection of dirt road to Burbank Canyon and Lower Colony road:
11 291357E 4299569N. Trailhead at Burbank Canyon: UTM coordinates
11 290554E 430085N



Volunteers needed to keep it wild

By Brian Beffort

It's not enough to draw a line on a map and call an area wilderness. Real and lasting protection is possible only through work on the ground to keep these areas wild. To this end, Friends of Nevada Wilderness invites members and other caring people to help us keep the "wild" in wilderness areas and wilderness study areas across Nevada. There are several ways you can help:

✦ **Adopt a Wilderness.** Choose a particular area, get to know it by hiking and camping there. Write about and photograph its unique features, speak on behalf of its wild values when they can't speak for themselves. Report illegal activities and help land managers protect wild values.

✦ **Be a Wilderness Steward.** Work with local land managers to conduct boundary surveys, install/replace signs, and join restoration work trips to wild places to restore the landscape—pick up litter, remove old fence lines, eradicate invasive plant species, etc. Good work and good fun.

✦ **Help around town.** We always need people to help write letters, stuff envelopes, staff phone banks and information tables at public events, or host slide shows and wilderness discussions in their homes.

To participate in any of these programs, please call us at (775) 324-7667 or (702) 650-6542.

"The idea of wilderness needs no defense, it only needs defenders."

—Edward Abbey



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

We could not continue our ongoing efforts to protect and preserve Nevada's wilderness areas without you!

Working to uphold the roadless rule

By Pete Dronkers

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is working to uphold the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, a National Forest conservation initiative put in place by the Clinton Administration in January, 2001. This administrative policy protects areas inventoried as roadless by the agency. Of Nevada's 5.8 million US Forest Service acres, 3.2 million are categorized as roadless providing Nevada with a great resource of solitude and wildlife habitat. Sadly, many other states don't enjoy so many roadless areas.

All National Forest units over 5,000 acres without established (constructed and/or maintained) roads are protected from new roads under the Rule, and will remain free from resource extraction and development. This balanced policy closes no existing trails and keeps these areas open to all forms of non-motorized recreation.

This administrative policy, originally supported by more than 2 million public comments (more than any other federal rule in history), is being dismantled by the Bush Administration in places such as the Tongass Rainforest in Alaska. Undersecretary of Agriculture Mark Rey, a former timber industry

lobbyist who oversees the Forest Service, has failed to uphold the Roadless Rule in court cases brought on by logging companies. If the administration is successful, millions of acres of roadless areas across the country could be opened to road-building and extractive activities.

To find out more about the ongoing saga of the Roadless Rule, check out www.ourforests.org.

coal-fired plant (cont. from pg.1)

"We will continue working with other groups and local residents to fight this proposal every step of the way," she vowed.

Your membership support allows Friends of Nevada Wilderness to work on this issue. We can't keep the Black Rock Desert's air clean without you. What can you do? Visit our website at www.nevadawilderness.org to learn more or call us at (775) 324-7667 for more detailed fact sheets.

Write the Washoe County Commission at:
PO Box 11130
Reno, Nevada 89520
FAX: (775) 328-2037

Email: Go to www.co.washoe.nv.us and click on "Contact Us" for an email form.

Let them know you are totally opposed to this proposed Grantite-Fox coal-fired plant.

Millions of acres of roadless areas across the country could be opened to road building and extractive industries



Forest Service wildlands need your support

By Pete Dronkers and staff

Nearly all of Nevada's US Forest Service land is part of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, the second-largest National Forest in the country. Every 10 to 15 years each forest is required to update its management plan. The Humboldt-Toiyabe is beginning revision of the plan. For the Humboldt-Toiyabe, the Forest Service will reassess the status of hundreds of roadless areas in Nevada and make one of three decisions for each unit: 1) which if any areas should be recommended for wilderness 2) which areas should stay roadless 3) which areas should allow development that is not compatible with their roadless nature.

Under the current administration, the Forest Service will recommend wilderness only with strong public support and strong rationale. Friends staff and volunteers will be researching these areas to develop the strongest rationale possible for wilderness recommendations.

Help us! Of the 400 roadless units in Nevada (too many for us to tackle), Friends of Nevada Wilderness is focusing first on these high-priority areas. Let us know if your favorite is NOT on this list.

- ♥ Shellback (northern White Pine Range)
- ♥ Toiyabe Crest / Bunker Hill
- ♥ Excelsior Mountains
- ♥ Mount Rose additions
- ♥ Southern Quinn Canyon Range
- ♥ Alta Toiyabe additions
- ♥ Table Mountain additions
- ♥ Arc Dome additions
- ♥ Bald Mountain
- ♥ Highland Ridge in Snake Range
- ♥ Northern Sweetwater Range
- ♥ Schell Creek Range

We need people out on the ground! If you have ever visited, or would like to visit, any of these areas, please contact us. We need your help to develop the strongest proposals possible.

For details, please contact Pete Dronkers at (775) 324-7667 or pete@nevadawilderness.org.



Hikers traverse the ridgeline of the Schell Creek Range. Photo: Ron Hunter

Pete Dronkers joins staff to work on national forest issues

Friends of Nevada Wilderness recently hired Pete Dronkers to work on Forest Service issues. Pete, 24, has lived in Nevada since 1995 and has seen alarming trends of development.

"I feel that Nevada has a tremendous resource in terms of open space and the potential for experiences of solitude," he said. "We can set an example for the rest of the nation to show that preserving this land, and these experiences, has a much greater benefit to all people than developing it. It's essential to our mental health."

Pete began snowboarding when he was 10, was backpacking throughout the Sierra by 12, and rock-climbing and mountaineering by 18, while attending high school in Reno. As a journalism major at the University of Nevada, Reno, Pete began traveling to Yosemite Valley to explore the vertical world, and later mounted two expeditions to Denali in Alaska and a third near the North Pole. He came back motivated to see more of and protect more of the world's wild-est places.

Welcome, Pete, to the staff.



Pete Dronkers gives thumbs up to protecting America's forest lands.