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# Friends of Nevada Wilderness

SUMMER 2006



**Mail call** / *The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest will use public comment to create draft wilderness recommendations. Find out how you can help on page 8*

## Humboldt-Toiyabe forest needs your help



Toiyabe Crest / Brian Beffort

**Y**our letters supporting wilderness are needed by August 1 to protect millions of acres of Forest Service wilderness-quality roadless areas in Nevada and eastern California.

Officials at the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (the "HT"), which covers 6.2 million acres in Nevada and California (the largest national forest in the Lower 48), have begun revising their forest plan. By law, the HT must consider whether to recommend wilderness designation for



Mount Rose / Brian Beffort

roadless areas in the new plan. At stake are more than 2 million acres of high peaks, deep canyons, lush meadows and old-growth forests, which offer beauty, clean water, wildlife habitat and bountiful opportunities for hiking, backpacking,

*continued on page 8*

## Volunteers keep the 'wild' in wilderness



**Find an update of recent successes and upcoming projects on page 4**

Congressional wilderness designation is just the beginning. Making sure wilderness stays wild requires diligent work on the ground. Friends of Nevada Wilderness works to protect wilderness areas and help them recover from impacts. But we can't do it without volunteers.

Friends would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers, who have worked to protect the health and beauty of Nevada's wildlands. We would also like to invite those of you who have not yet joined us for a volunteer work trip in wilderness. You can help wilderness stay wild by joining one of Friends' three stewardship programs: Adopt-A-Wilderness, Leave No Trace training, and Wilderness restoration projects. They're all free; all we ask is your time and passion for wild places. Whatever your interests and abilities, we have ways for you to become involved in the protection and preservation of Nevada's wilderness legacy. Please join us!

*continued on page 4*



## OUR MISSION

*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 public wild lands.*

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FROM THE FRONTLINES

## White Pine public lands take center stage



**Shaaron Netherton**  
*executive director*

As this newsletter goes to press, the White Pine County Public Lands bill should shortly be introduced into Congress. Once Friends of Nevada Wilderness has carefully reviewed the entire bill, we will publish a special newsletter informing our

members on just what the bill provisions will do.

Statewide, the Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest has just come out with a list of forest lands that they believe have wilderness qualities. While it is a good start, our analysis shows that many important areas have been left off that list. Read more about what you can do in this issue.

I'd like to give thanks to some special volunteers who have really helped out our organization. First, thanks to Sharon Schafer, a fabulous graphic artist, for her

update of the Friends of Nevada Wilderness logo to more accurately represent our beautiful state. Additionally, the new look of the newsletter is the result of awesome design work of volunteer Laura Brigham.

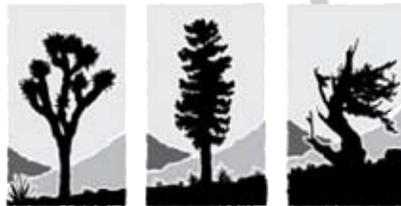
And last but not least, a big welcome and thanks to all our new members that joined us this quarter and to all of our members for getting involved – writing letters, volunteering, etc. Our many successes in protecting wild places in Nevada are because all of you made it so.

Check this newsletter for upcoming wilderness stewardship and monitoring opportunities. These trips are great ways to give back to our state and meet folks who share many of your same interests and values. You can also find out about volunteer opportunities on our website [www.nevadawilderness.org](http://www.nevadawilderness.org).

Get out this summer and explore those wild places, be safe and wear your sunscreen!

*Thank you, Sharon!*

## Fresh look for Friends' logo



We have always loved our Joshua tree logo, even though we understand that it doesn't represent all of Nevada. Thanks to the wonderful talents of Sharon Schafer, our logo now better represents Nevada's wonderful wild diversity. Sharon is the artist of the mural at the new Mt. Charleston visitors' center, and of many T-shirts at Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston. Thank you, Sharon! If you'd like to contact Sharon, and see some of her art, you can email her at [skydancestudio@earthlink.net](mailto:skydancestudio@earthlink.net).



TAKE A HIKE IN THE CURRANT MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS

# Explore, protect, enjoy

Currant Mountain is one of Nevada's great wilderness jewels.



**W**hen Congress designated the 36,000-acre Currant Mountain Wilderness in 1989, they helped protect one of Nevada's great mountains, but they didn't go nearly far enough in protecting all of the land that deserves wilderness in the region.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Nevada Wilderness Coalition have proposed additions to the Currant Mountain Wilderness and additional wilderness areas along the White Pine Range, stretching north toward Highway 50 – all totaling more than 150,000 acres. Together, this wilderness complex will conserve large tracts of wildlife habitat for sage grouse, elk, and other species, as well as ample opportunities to hike, hunt, and camp in big, wild and beautiful country.

Find out for yourself why we think this area is so special. This region is a great place to explore by vehicle or on foot.

*Brian Beffort*

## Getting there

The White Pine Range stretches between Highway 50 east of Eureka, and Highway 6 between Ely and Tonopah.

The most scenic country is on the southern end of the range and is most easily accessed from Highway 6: From Ely, drive 26 miles toward Tonopah on Highway 6. Turn right/west on Forest Service Road 1163 (if driving from Tonopah, turn left/west 22.5 miles past Currant on Highway 6), then drive 8 miles west on 1163 to the White River campground, which is the only designated campground in the area; this beautiful campground has 10 sites, pit toilets, cooking grills and costs \$4 per night.

You can also access this region from Highway 50: About 48 miles east of Eureka (40 miles west of Ely), turn south toward the Illipah Reservoir, then continue south on Forest Service Rd 400. There is a designated campground at Illipah Reservoir, with 14 sites, shelters and grills.

Although there are no designated trailheads in the region, there are numerous opportunities for hiking and exploring; hike to an enticing high point for a view of what makes this area so special.

**Note:** The nearest services are in Ely and Eureka. When traveling in this area, you need to carry all your own food, water and shelter. Watch your gas gauge. High-clearance vehicles are recommended; roads may be impassible from weather or misuse.

### Managing agency

**US Forest Service, Ely Ranger District**

(775) 289-3031; [www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/districts/ely.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/districts/ely.shtml)

**Maps:** Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Ely Ranger District, west half.

## Mail call



*Your letters can protect the White Pine Range*

Additions to the Currant Mountain Wilderness and other proposed wilderness areas in the White Pine Range should be addressed in the upcoming White Pine County public lands bill. Please write Nevada's Congressional delegation; tell them why you support wilderness for the White Pine Range Complex.

**Senator Harry Reid**  
400 So. Virginia Street,  
# 902  
Reno, NV 89501  
Phone: 775-686-5750  
Fax: 775-686-5757

**Senator John Ensign**  
600 East William St.,  
# 304  
Carson City, NV 89701  
Phone: 775-885-9111  
Fax: 775-883-5590

**Representative Jim Gibbons**  
400 S. Virginia Street,  
# 502  
Reno, NV 89501  
Phone: 775-686-5760  
Fax: 775-686-5711



## Volunteer for wilderness

### UPCOMING TRIPS

**August 5, Black Rock Desert.** Join Friends and the BLM for a restoration project in wilderness. Details TBA. For information, call Brian Beffort at (775) 324-7667.

**August 23-27, Pine Forest Range.** Join Friends and the BLM for a restoration project on one of Nevada's great mountain jewels (come for the full trip, or just a couple days). Green grass, high lakes, sweeping views; Nevada doesn't get prettier than this! For information, call Pat Bruce at (775) 324-7667.

**September 30-October 1, National Public Lands Day, Stevens Camp and the High Rock Canyon Wilderness.** Join us for our biggest volunteer event of the year – good work, good food, speakers and stargazing. Details TBA.

**More trips to be announced soon ... Check out our website, [www.nevadawilderness.org](http://www.nevadawilderness.org) for updates.**

# Lend a hand, save a wild sp

*continued from page 1*

### **Saving Nevada's wild forests**

Friends' new Forest Project Coordinator, Angela Dykema, will work with volunteers to provide the Forest Service with monitoring, inventory and restoration work in wilderness areas across Nevada. We're also looking for volunteers to visit and evaluate roadless areas affected by the Forest Service's forest plan revision (see the lead article in this issue).

### **Adopt-A-Wilderness**

Nevada's a big state, with diverse, rugged and remote wildlands. Funding to manage these areas is limited. Adopting a wilderness will let you explore wilderness and play a vital role in keeping it wild. By visiting your adopted wilderness a few times a year, you can get to know the area's beauty and report damage to the area's managing agency.

If you have a favorite place, or if you'd like to find a new favorite, take the next step and adopt it. Friends of Nevada Wilderness will provide you with all the information you need to monitor and protect your adopted wilderness.

### **Leave No Trace**

Leave No Trace camping and hiking techniques will help you enjoy your wilderness experience while reducing your backcountry footprint. These trainings are provided with the help of the BLM and the Forest Service during backpacking and car-camping trips in Nevada's wilderness areas. There are several courses offered this year. Check the schedule on our website.

### **Adopt-A-Guzzler**

Without healthy wildlife populations, wilderness is a lonely landscape. To provide quality habitat for Nevada's



struggling wildlife populations, Friends of Nevada Wilderness is joining the BLM, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and the Fraternity of Desert Bighorn.

In March, volunteers met at the Arrow Canyon Range in northern Clark County to learn how to inspect and repair big-game water developments (guzzlers).

Trained volunteer guzzlers in wilderness areas. Friends of Nevada Wilderness (FOW) is joining the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) with information obtained from their website. Consider adopting a guzzler in wilderness in Nevada. It's no excuse to explore wilderness and protect the wildlife before it's too late.

**Find out more about Friends' stewardship programs at our website, [www.nevadawilderness.org](http://www.nevadawilderness.org). To get more details or sign up for a trip, contact Pat Bruce at (775) 324-7667 or**



# pace



ers can now monitor  
ess areas, providing  
ation that cannot be  
fly-over inspections.  
a guzzler somewhere  
vada. It's a great  
ild Nevada and help  
heir water runs dry.



Clockwise from left:

Our man Louis shows how much fun working in the Black Rock Desert can be.

A proud crew relaxes after work well done in the Mormon Mountains.

Shaaron Netherton working on the Thomas Creek Trail.



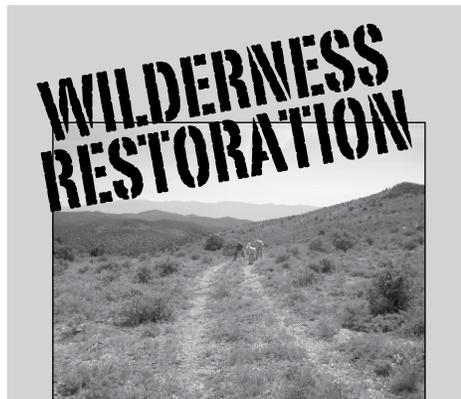
### Mormon Mission

On March 25, 2006, Friends of Nevada Wilderness volunteers and BLM staff completed a series of projects in the Mormon Mountains Wilderness near Mesquite, Nev. While one team restored a sensitive ecological area from illegal vehicle damage, another removed overgrown bushes from a sensitive archaeological site, helping to reduce wildfire damage to the artifacts.

### Mt. Grafton Goodness

Up the North Creek drainage in the Mt. Grafton WSA, illegal vehicle use is creating "hill climbs" in the heart of the wilderness. In June, Friends teamed up with the BLM to disguise two illegal vehicle routes with boulders and downed material, then rehabilitated the stream zone by transplanting wild rose and native bunch-grasses, erasing both routes in a couple of hours.

With the work out of the way, we headed back to the campsite for chicken stew, black forest cake, stargazing and storytelling around the campfire.



A few hours and volunteers can make a big difference, as you can tell from these before and after shots from Mount Grafton WSA.



Friends of Nevada Wilderness coordinates with land management agencies to identify areas in wilderness that need some TLC—areas that have been impacted by irresponsible off-road vehicle use, invasive species, and/or vandalism. Join us and other like-minded volunteers as we work to help these scars heal. Restoration projects are a fun and rewarding way for people to truly experience Nevada wilderness. We work hard, camp under the stars, and take time to enjoy the area while we're out there.

*Thank you  
to everyone  
who has ever  
volunteered to  
keep  
Nevada  
wild.  
Not only are you  
keeping wildness  
alive on Nevada's  
landscapes,  
perhaps more  
importantly,  
you're keeping  
it alive in our  
hearts!*



## Friends Summer activities

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Join Friends of Nevada Wilderness staff, board, fellow members and coalition partners for the following events in Reno and Las Vegas:

**July 25, White Pine County legislation party,** Great Basin Brewery, Sparks. Join Friends and other Wilderness Coalition partners from 6 to 8 p.m. as we examine the wilderness proposals in the White Pine public-lands bill. Call (775) 324-7667 for details.

**August 5, Festival In the Pines, Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort, Lee Canyon.** Join Friends from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in this celebration of the Spring Mountains. Call (702) 650-6542 for more information.

**August 19, Galena Creek Park (south/2nd entrance).** Join us for a hike to Church's Pond in the Mt. Rose Wilderness, followed by a picnic among the pines. To RSVP or for more information call (775) 324-7667.

**August 27, Cathedral Rock picnic area, Upper Kyle Canyon, Mt. Charleston.** Join us for a hike into the wilderness, followed by a picnic in the cool, high-elevation forest. To RSVP (so we know how many burgers to buy) or for more information, call (702) 650-6542.

## Why I Love Wilderness / KURT KUZNICKI



Brian Beffort

# W

ilderness is about going back. Back to a simpler time, when I carried my youngest on my shoulders while the oldest held my hand as we hiked down the trail. Back to when I first met my wife and fell in love on a hiking trip long ago. Back to a time, spent climbing peaks, and month-long backpacks with the best of friends. Back to a time when the greatest hero any boy could know, my father, showed me how to catch a wild trout. Back to a time when the entire world was Wild and full of adventure.

## VOLUNTEER *heroes*

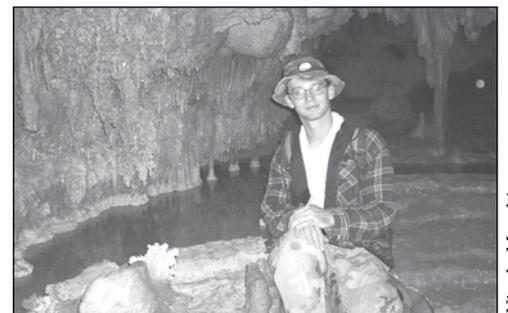
Without dedicated people, wilderness designation wouldn't be possible. We'd like to say a big THANK YOU to a couple people who have made a difference in our efforts to conserve wilderness in White Pine County.



Pete Drinkers

**Peter Druschke** is a student of geosciences at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, doing field work for his dissertation in the Egan Range Wilderness Study Area in southern White Pine County. As a critical resource of information to congressional delegation staff and to our coalition, Peter has been the most active in promoting the Egan Range. He's spent so many weeks hiking around the area, he's lost count. Keep it up, Peter!

**Neil Marchington**, of Ely, has been to nearly every proposed wilderness area in the county in the last two years, looking for undiscovered caves. Providing photos, trip reports, and writing letters to support wilderness designation for these areas, Neil has been a widely heard voice – not only in Ely but in Washington DC as well. Living near the Heusser Mountain proposed wilderness, Neil was instrumental during the county commission hearings that led to its official recommendation for wilderness. Thanks Neil!



Nicole Marchington



DEDICATED TO WILDERNESS

# Remembering Mark Saylor

**W**e at Friends of Nevada Wilderness mourn the passing of Mark Saylor. He was a longtime supporter of wilderness and served on Friends' Board of Directors and then as State Chair from 1991 to 2000.

Mark, who traveled all over the world, strongly felt that Nevada's wild places were worth saving. He enjoyed the desert, hiking, camping and exploring with his Jeep many areas in southern Nevada.

Mark loved maps, and his work with the Technical Committee on an intensive inventory of BLM wildlands resulted in wonderfully marked-up maps to show more-suitable wilderness boundaries.

He was a man of wide-ranging interests, from bluegrass to equal rights. He provided free dentistry to deserving communities in the United States, Mexico and Africa through Doctors without Borders.



Howard Booth

Mark in the Meadow Valley Range WSA in 1996.

Mark named Friends of Nevada Wilderness as a beneficiary of his estate, helping us to continue his passion

for wildlands protection into the future. "When you see your time on Earth coming to an end, you think about what matters to you," he told Friends of Nevada Wilderness a few months before his death. "Wilderness is fun and inspiring, and I like the idea of leaving something to a group I believe in."

Mark, thank you for everything you've done for Nevada. We miss you. Your memory, passion and generosity will live on in our work to protect Nevada's wildlands.

*Hermi Hiatt*

### Leaving a legacy of wilderess

If you would like to include Friends of Nevada Wilderness in your estate plans, your attorney or retirement plan administrator will need the following information:

**Name:** Friends of Nevada Wilderness

**Address:** 1 Booth St., Reno, NV 89509

**Tax ID #:** 88-0211763

**For additional information, please call (775) 324-7667**

**BECOME A MEMBER**

# Yes!

I want to keep Nevada wild by joining Friends of Nevada Wilderness!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Supporter \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Friend \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Superfriend

\_\_\_\_\_ \$500 Benefactor \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly, charge my credit card

Payment by: \_\_\_\_\_ check \_\_\_\_\_ charge (*Visa & Mastercard only*)

Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to learn more about:

\_\_\_\_\_ Volunteering

\_\_\_\_\_ A slide show at my company or club

\_\_\_\_\_ Leaving a legacy with a bequest

# Thank you!

**Make checks and mail to: Friends of Nevada Wilderness, PO Box 9754, Reno, NV 89507**



## Humboldt-Toiyabe

*continued from page 1*

hunting, skiing, fishing and solitude.

In May, the HT released a preliminary list highlighting roughly 1.5 million acres with "high" wilderness capability. Unfortunately, the HT also listed many other wilderness-quality lands as having "low" wilderness capability. The HT will use public comment collected on these areas to create draft wilderness recommendations. Your strong support will be necessary to help both high-capability areas, and deserving low-capability areas receive the recommendations they deserve.

Here are a few of the remaining, unprotected wild jewels:

●**The Toiyabe Crest.** 100,000 acres adjacent to the Arc Dome wilderness area; home to the Toiyabe Crest National Recreation Trail.

●**Hoover Additions.** 26,000 acres adjacent to the Hoover Wilderness in California; on the eastern boundary of

Yosemite National Park.

●**Pearl Peak.** 60,000 wild acres in the southern Ruby Mountains; home to bighorn sheep, ancient bristlecone pines, bountiful hiking and backcountry skiing.

●**Job's Peak.** 21,000 acres of gorgeous roadless mountains between Lake Tahoe and Nevada's Carson Valley.

●**George's Canyon.** 98,000 acres in the southern Monitor Range, near Tonopah.

●**Pine Grove South.** 88,000 acres in southern Lyon County.

●**Wilderness additions.** The HT has identified roughly 250,000 acres of high-quality additions to currently designated wilderness areas. Expanding wilderness areas to include these deserving lands will significantly enhance Nevada's legacy for people and wildlife.

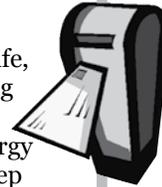
Despite their beauty and value to recreationists, communities and wildlife, these unprotected lands face increasing threats from off-road vehicle use, mining, development, and unwise energy exploration. Your support will help keep them wild for future generations.

## Mail call

### What you can do to keep Nevada's forests wild

Please write a letter to the Humboldt-Toiyabe's Forest Supervisor by August 1. Urge him to recommend for wilderness all roadless areas identified as having "high" wilderness capability in the HT's revised forest plan. Please mention areas you have visited.

For a list of roadless areas the Forest Service is considering for wilderness recommendations, go to [www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/projects/forestplan/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/projects/forestplan/index.shtml); or [www.nevadawilderness.org](http://www.nevadawilderness.org) and click on the "Forest Service" link.



### Send your comments to:

Forest Supervisor  
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest  
1200 Franklin Way  
Sparks, NV 89431



Friends of Nevada Wilderness  
PO Box 9754  
Reno, NV 89507

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