

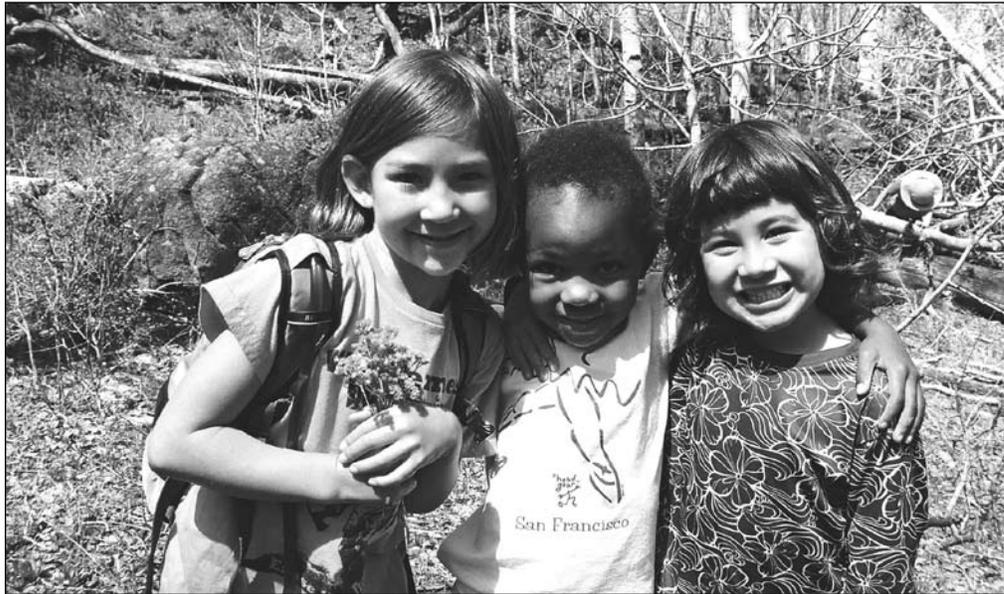


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Friends of Nevada Wilderness

SPRING 2007



Kilala, Angelina and Zoe, the next generation of wilderness advocates. Photo by Brian Beffort

Preserving the past: Volunteers protect ancient rock art

By Pat Bruce

On May 12 Friends of Nevada Wilderness volunteers joined forces with the Ely BLM District to protect ancient rock art from off-road vehicle trespass in the Weepah Springs Wilderness, about 90 minutes north of Las Vegas. The tracks crossed the wilderness boundary, entered a wash, and led to rock art panels that are believed to be over 4,000 years old.



Our 10 volunteers made the tracks disappear in only a few hours. We then spent some time exploring this magical place and the pecked images left by people living here so long ago. We can only guess at the meaning behind the images we saw—bighorns, concentric circles, parallel lines, and human figures that look to be waving their hands. These images have survived for thousands of years, and we hope that the work we did that Saturday will help to preserve them even longer.

It is a great feeling to work for an organization whose staff and members

Born to be wild

*Away from TVs, computers and DVDs,
kids can just be kids*

By Brian Beffort

Zoe and Kilala spent hours at the water, hopping from rock to rock across the creek, inevitably getting their shoes and pants wet when they slipped. Logan was nearby in the shade, arms and legs covered with dirt, hammering tent stakes into the ground—not because a tent needed to be staked down, but because he liked hammering. Next to him, Angelina planted a grove of

sticks into a mound of dirt. “It’s a spider house,” she said, for the spider she saw crawling there earlier. Here at Columbine Campground, on the western border of Arc Dome Wilderness in Central Nevada’s Toiyabe Range, five families with kids between two and six years old were discovering wilderness—learning, growing and exploring in the best classroom available, the great outdoors. I confess my intentions

were partly selfish in organizing this “Families in the Wild” trip in May. I want my son, Logan, to grow, play and explore untrammelled by television, computer screens, traffic and the season’s must-have toys. I want wilderness to get under his skin. I want him to need wilderness as much as it needs him. I also want to meet other parents who wish the same things for their children. What I didn’t expect was how many other parents are looking for the same thing. “I don’t want Angelina sitting at home watching

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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 wild lands.

Northern Nevada Office
PO Box 9754
Reno, NV 89507
(775) 324-7667

Shaaron Netherton
Executive Director
shaaron@nevadawilderness.org

Brian Beffort
Associate Director
brian@nevadawilderness.org

Pat Bruce
Field Project Coordinator
pbruce@nevadawilderness.org

Angie Dykema
Forest Project Coordinator
angie@nevadawilderness.org

Richard Knox
Membership Coordinator
richard@nevadawilderness.org

Rose Demoret
Administrative Director
rose@nevadawilderness.org

Board of Directors

Hermi Hiatt,
State Chair
Karen Boeger,
Rural Vice-Chair
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Ron Hunter
Kurt Kuznicki
Marge Sill

fnw@nevadawilderness.org
www.nevadawilderness.org
http://nevadawild.blogspot.com



FROM THE FRONTLINES

Giving back to the land is a beautiful feeling



Shaaron Netherton
executive director

My daughter graduates from High School this June and will be heading for American University in August. Her diploma carries a certificate recognizing her four years of volunteer service. I'd like to think as a mom, I helped inspire her to give

back to the land and our community. As part of Friends of Nevada Wilderness, you have helped create a legacy of wilderness, which we will leave to our young people to carry on and nurture. I am heartened by the talented and caring young people, like my daughter and your kids and grandkids, who are willing to take on that responsibility.

I am also heartened by the youngsters

featured in this newsletter, who will undoubtedly grow up to be champions of our wild places.

Learning about the pleasures and challenges waiting outdoors is a huge part of growing to cherish wild places. I love the fact that wilderness offers something to the very young, the very old and everyone in between. Wild nature teaches and inspires everyone. Whether you're a four-year-old splashing in a creek, a young buck climbing a peak, or an elder walking a wilderness trail with your hiking sticks, it is a place for wonder and wisdom.

Take the time this summer to become re-inspired. Bring yourself and your family to a restoration trip, camp out, have fun and reconnect with the land. I promise you'll feel better, more connected, and more committed to our beautiful wild places.

Attention all Washoe County residents: Action needed!

Washoe County is updating their Open Space Plan, which needs to include places like the Petersen Mountain, the Virginia Mountains, the Pah Rah Range and many others. Please come and support your wild open spaces.

Two workshops (attend either one)
Saturday, June 16

9:00-11:30 AM
Sun Valley Neighborhood Center
115 W. 6th Avenue, Sun Valley

2:00-4:30 PM
South Valley Libraries
15650A Wedge Parkway

For more information, contact:
Lynda Nelson, Washoe County Parks, 823-6511
Bill Whitney, Open Space Program, 328-3617
Susan Juetten, Sierra Club, 849-9377

You need Nevada wilderness! And it needs you.

Wilderness helps us remember the past and preserve it for the future. Leave a legacy of wilderness by including Friends of Nevada Wilderness in your estate plans.

The most common estate or legacy gift is a simple bequest. To include Friends of Nevada Wilderness as a beneficiary of your mutual fund, retirement account, life insurance policy or will, you and your professional advisors will need the following information:

Friends of Nevada Wilderness
1 Booth Street
Reno, NV 89509
Tax ID #: 88-0211763

For additional information, please call
Shaaron Netherton, Executive Director,
at (775) 324-7667.

Join the team! Make a difference!

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is looking for a Southern NV Outreach Coordinator. If you are someone who loves people, wilderness and making a difference to Nevada's special places, contact us. If you know someone who would love to inspire others about Nevada's wild places, please pass this on to them. For a copy of the job announcement, visit www.nevadawilderness.org, call (775) 324-7667 or email Rose (rose@nevadawilderness.org) in our Reno office.

Saving all the parts: *The science of wilderness*

By Peter Bradley
and Brian Beffort

More and more, wilderness is becoming a laboratory, a crucible, where we can observe the intricate turning of the springs and gears of what Aldo Leopold called the “natural clock.” Large wilderness areas connected to other diverse wildlands can function as well-oiled, finely-tuned ecosystems, when all their parts are saved and in proper order and function.

Take Yellowstone for example. After Yellowstone lost the wolf—one of its top carnivores—in the 19th and 20th centuries, no one expected, and few even noticed the simultaneous disappearance of vast riparian woodlands—the willow, cottonwood, ash and mountain alder that grew along the creeks and rivers. But when land was protected as wild, and the gray wolf was reintroduced, all matter of ecological hell broke loose. Or, was it heaven? Reinserting the wolf gear into Yellowstone’s ecological clock provided an incentive for elk not to dally in the river bottoms after getting a drink, but rather to return quickly to the security of the deep woods. Willow and other trees and shrubs returned, which expanded the range and influence of beaver, which in turn expanded riparian areas, which provided habitat for river otters; yellow warblers, Wilson’s warblers, American redstarts and white-crowned sparrows once again had nesting canopy, and accipiter hawks returned to feed on the small birds, and so on. More wolves meant fewer coyotes, which let foxes and weasels return, which allowed grasses and forbs to recover,



All creatures have roles to play, but they need wild places to survive.
Photo by Mike McCurry



Sage grouse. Photo by Scott Smith

which led to improved breeding in elk and deer, which led to more wolves, which...shall I go on?

Nevada’s wildland clock ticks similarly, even if some of “the gears” are different. As elsewhere, our wild species need large complexes of wildlands, and migration corridors connecting these wildlands, to roam, hide, hunt and breed in. But in Nevada, we have the added challenge of sky-island habitats; many of our species live high in the mountains separated by dry valleys and alkali playas that might as well be mile-deep blue oceans. The isolation leaves high-elevation species vulnerable to inbreeding, genetic isolation and catastrophic collapse from fire, global warming and disease.

In fact, the Great Basin’s sky-island wilderness areas are

known by scientists all over the world as some of the best places to study island biogeography; right up there with the Galapagos and Indonesian archipelagos (read David Quammen’s book, *The Song of the Dodo*, to learn more about this).

As elsewhere, the complexity of Nevada’s natural systems stretches far beyond the borders of our sky island wilderness areas, and each cog plays a role—from the soil enrichment activities of our gopher and ant species, to the seasonal migrations of our deer, elk, bighorn and pronghorn, to the beaver’s key role in preserving riparian corridors for myriad migrators (songbirds, waterfowl and bats) and year-round residents (otters, mink, muskrat, and western jumping mouse). The health and proper functioning of Nevada’s ecological systems are as dependant on the connections between wilderness areas as on the wilderness areas themselves.

Here we can learn a lesson from Yellowstone. If we are to preserve the beautifully intricate ticking of Nevada’s natural clock, we must all work together to preserve all cogs and wheels of Nevada’s ecological systems wherever they occur.

Pete Bradley works for the Nevada Department of Wildlife and serves on the board of Friends of Nevada Wilderness Nevada Wilderness.

Mail call

Eastern Nevada Travel Planning comments due

The Forest Service is developing a transportation management plan for the Ely Ranger District in Eastern Nevada.



The comment period ends June 21, 2007. Visit the FS website for maps and more details at: www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/projects/ely/2007/ely_travel/ely_travel.shtml

Copies of the transportation maps are available by calling the Ely Ranger District at (775) 289-3031. Electronic comments can be emailed to: comments-intermthumboldt-toiyabe-ely@fs.fed.us

The Forest Service proposes to add about 254 miles of motorized routes to the Ely Ranger District’s transportation system. This also includes a proposal to restrict motor vehicles to a designated route system. With the proposed changes, the Ely Ranger District Transportation system would include 1,062 miles of roads and trails open to motorized use. Snowmobile use would be closed in the Murry Watershed above Ely.

Tell the Forest Service how important it is to keep vehicle use to designated routes in order to protect wildlife habitat and non-motorized recreational opportunities. The impact of proposed new routes on wildlife habitat, riparian areas, historical and cultural resources, and nonmotorized recreation must also be evaluated.



Working on important outdoor skills, hammering stakes and building spider houses.

Family camp

continued from page 1

videos,” said her mother, Jackie Green. “I love being outside, hiking and exploring, and I want to do these things with her. When I hike, I feel healthier, I gain perspective, and life seems better. I want her to have that same connection.”

“I was watching the kids play, how well they were intermingling,” said Zoe’s mom, Ting Hammond. “Kids don’t need toys. They make their own. Kids can play with rocks or sticks. It’s amazing what they come up with.” They also learned to pick up garbage when they found it, even if it came from someone else.

“These children are going to be the guardians of wilderness in the future,” said founding Friends board member Marge Sill, Mother of Nevada Wilderness, who also attended the campout. “But to be guardians, first they have to love what is there. And how to you learn to love something? By playing, by immersing yourself in it, and by having fun. They had so much fun.”

Marge, who worked to designate Arc Dome and other Forest Service wilderness areas in 1989, enjoyed

the opportunity to hike the Toiyabe Crest Trail behind the campground. “I wasn’t sure if I was ever going to see it again. It was wonderful to hike through the aspen.”

While Marge was enjoying her hike in nature, the children were nearby, having a wilderness adventure of their own. In less than a mile hiking into Arc Dome, the kids looked at bluebells and watched hawks soar overhead. A couple of them experienced the fear of being off-trail in the underbrush without mommy—a taste of the inspiration and challenge that wilderness has to offer.

“I took an Outward Bound trip when I was younger, and our guide talked about ‘feeling your edges,’ said Jackie. “Pushing yourself beyond your comfort level to meet challenges. I want Angelina to challenge herself, to feel her edges. If she knows she can do things and be self-sufficient, she’ll be stronger and feel better about herself.”

“We want Zoe to grow up in nature,” Ting said. “To see it, touch it, breathe the fresh air, and appreciate what she sees. Maybe she’ll take some of that back and share the experience with her playmates—let other kids know that there are other things in this world besides toys and television.”



Angelina works on her log-crossing skills. Photo by Laura Brigham

Want to learn more about camping with kids?

- gorp.away.com/gorp/publishers/foghorn/camp_
- www.lovetheoutdoors.com/camping/Tips/Kids
- www.lnt.org/programs/lnt7/index.html
- *Sharing Nature with Children*, by Joseph Corn



Shoki, Lina and Tanner get ready to play in the creek. Photo by Brian E



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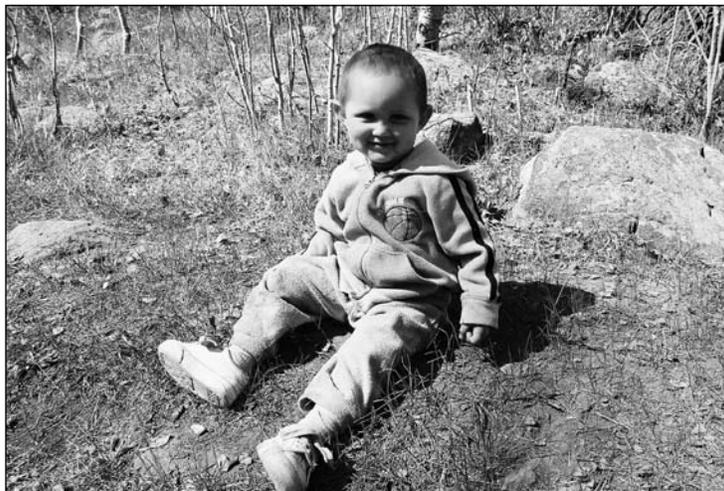
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Beffort



Mother of Nevada Wilderness Marge Sill walks with Tanner Jensen, grandson of Friends' board member, Karen Boeger. *Photo by Brian Beffort*



Shoki soaks in the sun. *Photo by Brian Beffort*



Scrambled eggs and bacon over an open fire. Yum.
Photo by Brian Beffort



Logan learns another valuable backcountry skill, splashing!
Photo by Brian Beffort



TAKE A HIKE IN FISH LAKE VALLEY

Getting there

Fish Lake Valley straddles the California line, about an hour southwest of Tonopah, just east of the White Mountains. To access Trail Canyon and the Boundary Peak Wilderness, take the dirt road heading west from route 264 toward Chiatovich Creek (watch out for the subdivision being built there) and follow the signs to Trail Canyon. To access Icehouse Canyon, follow the unnamed dirt road south from the Crossing. Just north of Dyer Ranch, turn east-northeast onto a fainter dirt road that skirts the northwest alluvium of the Silver Peak Range. Look for an unsigned route that climbs to the mouth of Icehouse Canyon, where you should see signs marking the boundary of the WSA (call us if there are no signs; we'll get some volunteers out there to replace them). All dirt roads in the region are well graded and passable to all cars with at least moderate clearance. All water, food, gas and other services are in Mina, Tonopah, Silver Peak and Dyer.



Exploring the colorful geology of the Silver Peak Wilderness Study Area. Photo by Brian Beffort

It's a geologic wonderland

By Brian Beffort

Fish Lake Valley in Esmeralda County offers wild beauty, solitude and adventure.

To the west, straddling the California-Nevada line, the White Mountains rise 9,300 feet above the valley—their northern-most point capped by 13,140-foot Boundary Peak, Nevada's highest point. Stout hikers can climb the peak via Trail Canyon in the Boundary Peak Wilderness.

For sere desert beauty, head east into the strawberry-fudge-ripple geology of the Silver Peak Range. Capped by 9,450-foot Piper Peak, the range is home to the Silver Peak Range Wilderness Study Area. Rocks here date between 4 million and 500 million years old. The palette of geologic color found in this range—spectacular bands and splotches of red, white, brown, black, buff, tan and green—are a treat for the eyes and tell of the region's tumultuous volcanic past.

Icehouse Canyon cuts into the WSA from the northwest, following a wash past multi-colored canyon walls, punctuated with cottonwood and willow.

A well-maintained dirt road climbs southeast from the Crossing over Coyote Pass to the town of Silver Peak, offering a windshield tour of what the region has to offer. Although the WSA does not extend north of the Coyote Pass Road, the colors and hills stretching north to Emigrant Peak are wild, beautiful and deserving of protection. Perhaps one day it will become the Cherry Garcia Wilderness—an apt description of the geologic wonderland awaiting visitors.

Make your basecamp at Fish Lake Valley Hot Springs, about 10 miles south of the junction of Highway 6 and State Route 773, and about 10 miles east of State Route 264 in northern Fish Lake Valley, just south of the Crossing. This pool, resulting from an exploratory geothermal well in 1970, has been improved to include a restroom, picnic benches and room for undeveloped camping. The water is deliciously warm, the view of the White Mountains and Silver Peak is sweeping, and you might find the company of numerous bird species—including warblers, killdeer and white-faced ibis.

Silver Peak Range WSA

Size: 33,900 acres
Bureau of Land Management,
Tonopah, (775) 482-7800

Boundary Peak Wilderness

Size: 10,000 acres
Inyo National Forest,
Lone Pine, Calif., (760) 876-6231

Give back to Boundary Peak.

Join Friends, Friends of the Inyo, and the Forest Service to restore the Trail Canyon trail in the Boundary Peak Wilderness. September 28-30. Includes and optional hike Sunday.

The Silver Peak Range needs your eyes. You can help keep track of off-road vehicles trespass into the WSA, simply by taking a hike and some pictures (a GPS helps, too). Your observations help protect your public lands. And it's fun! Plus, we get to leverage your volunteer time for future funding, and you may get to deduct your miles from your taxes.

For more information on these projects, or wilderness stewardship in general, call Pat or Angie at (775) 324-7667.



Volunteer

continued from page 1

are committed to protecting and preserving wilderness and all the precious resources that these special areas hold, knowing that we are able to help preserve valuable and irreplaceable resources and pass them on for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

It makes me proud to live in Nevada, and to work for Friends of Nevada Wilderness. To all the great people who support us, thank you all.

Don't let the thought of hard work scare you away from volunteering. Join us on a restoration trip and help how you can. We're more interested in helping people experience Wild Nevada than working you too hard. See scheduled trips on page 8.

STEWARDSHIP 2007

We're off to a great start

By Pat Bruce

The Friends of Nevada Wilderness restoration team (Pat, Angie and Skye the dog) got the field season off to a great start this year, working with dedicated volunteers and agency partners on four projects in southern Nevada.

On February 20, Friends volunteers worked with the Forest Service and the Great Basin Institute to eliminate two areas of illegal trespass through archaeological sites near Mountain Springs in the Rainbow Mountain Wilderness.

On February 23 and 24, Friends joined the Ely BLM staff in the Mormon Mountains Wilderness. On hills that had been severely damaged by off-road vehicles, we built check-dams and covered the ground with slash to slow erosion, allowing the area to heal naturally.

On March 3, Friends



Proud of a good day's work in the Black Canyon Wilderness.

teamed up with the National Park Service to try to stop the constant onslaught of ATV and motorcycle trespass into the sensitive washes and canyons of the Black Canyon Wilderness.

On March 10, the Friends crew joined Las Vegas BLM staff to stem off-road vehicle trespass into the Arrow Canyon

Wilderness. The finished product will help protect the rich environmental and cultural resources there.

Special thanks go to Bill James for his friendship and all his hard work, and to Wally and Lee for opening Mudd Ranch to us and making our trip to Southern Nevada truly memorable.

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 presentation at my company or club

_____ Leaving a legacy with a bequest

Thank you!

BECOME A MEMBER

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



2007 volunteer trips ... *Mark your calendar!*

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is the only organization with a state-wide stewardship program, and we're proud to team up with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) to restore wildlife habitat in eastern Nevada this year. Join us in Wild Nevada!

Weekly beginning June 19, Mt. Rose Wilderness. Weekly trips to inventory invasive weeds, campsite and recreational use impacts.

June 9-10, Mt. Grafton Wilderness (south of Ely, NV). Friends and RMEF join forces to enhance elk habitat.

June 9-10, South Fork Berry Creek in High Schells Wilderness (East of Ely). Friends and RMEF restore elk habitat.

June 23-24, Mt. Grafton Wilderness (south of Ely, NV). Friends and RMEF working on more elk habitat restoration.

July 7-8, North Black Rock Range (4 hours north of Reno). Habitat restoration

above the aspen. Potluck dinner that night; hike the next day.

July 14-15, Timber Creek in High Schells Wilderness (East of Ely). Friends and RMEF work together for elk habitat.

June 14-15, Goshute Canyon Wilderness (north of Ely). Help Friends clean up this newly designated Wilderness.

July 28-29, Alta Toquima Wilderness (southeast of Austin). Friends and the Great Basin Trails Alliance work to restore trails.

August 11-12, Calico Wilderness (3 hours north of Reno). Wilderness restoration and the Perseids meteor shower!

August 4-5, 11-12, 18-19, Quinn Canyon Wilderness (2 hours southwest of Ely). Help inventory the wilderness for invasive weeds, campsites and recreational use impacts.

September 28-30, National Public Lands Day, Boundary Peak Wilderness (4 hours south of Reno). Friends teams with Friends of the Inyo and the Forest Service to restore trails and bag Nevada's highest peak.

September 29th-30th, National Public Lands Day, High Rock Canyon (4 hours north of Reno). Friends and the BLM team up to clean up High Rock Canyon.

NOTE: Trips will be added throughout the season! Please check the Friends website at <http://www.nevadawilderness.org> or our blogspot at <http://nevadawild.blogspot.com> for updates!

To sign up for a trip, contact Friends of Nevada Wilderness at (775) 324-7667 or info@nevadawilderness.org

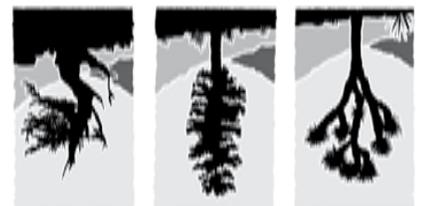
All trips are free. Get to know Nevada's wild beauty and other great people who care about the land. Come join us!

Return Service Requested

Reno, NV 89507

PO Box 9754

Friends of Nevada Wilderness



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