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# Friends of Nevada Wilderness

Winter-Spring 2011-2012

## Pine Forest Wild!

### Bill Introduced to Designate Wilderness



Brian Beffort

The proposed Pine Forest Range Wilderness enjoys broad support.

**O**n November 2, Nevada’s Congressional delegation unanimously introduced the Pine Forest Recreation Enhancement Act, which would designate 26,000 acres of the Blue Lakes and Alder Creek Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) as the Pine Forest Range Wilderness.

The bill is the result of strong local support and involvement from the Humboldt County Commission and diverse stakeholders.

This remarkable action is in part due to the tremendous efforts by Trout Unlimited’s employee and retired Nevada Department of Wildlife biologist, Jim Jeffress.

“Jim was an excellent facilitator

for the process with the Pine Forest Working Group,” said Friends’ Executive Director Shaaron Netherton. “He was able to encourage people to step back and look at new, fresh ideas that made sense.”

Both Shaaron and Pat Bruce from Friends played key roles in shaping the wilderness boundary through field work, research—and along with everyone else—lots and lots of meetings and field trips.

The Nevada State Legislature and the Secretary of the Interior have praised the robust and inclusive local process used to produce this bill as the gold standard for community-based wilderness proposals.

## FRIENDS WINS NATIONAL AWARD



**T**he US Department Interior awarded Friends of Nevada Wilderness the prestigious “Partners in Conservation Award” for outstanding achievements attained through inter-agency partnerships, as well as the continued involvement of communities and individuals.

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar (center) presented the award to Executive Director Shaaron Netherton. On the left are Stewardship Coordinator Jose Witt and Youth Project Coordinator Sheena Britschgi. Also present were USFWS partner Angelina Yost and BLM partner Sendi Kalcic.

“It was an honor to be recognized nationally for all the great work that our volunteers do in Nevada. They make Nevada a wilder, more beautiful place. This award is for all of you!” said Shaaron.



# FRONTLINES

## 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.*

### Friends of Nevada Wilderness

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

Shaaron Netherton  
Executive Director  
shaaron@nevadawilderness.org

Kurt Kuznicki  
Southern Nevada Director  
Kurt@nevadawilderness.org

Brian Beffort  
Associate Director  
brian@nevadawilderness.org

Pat Bruce  
Stewardship Program Director  
pbruce@nevadawilderness.org

Wes Hoskins  
Forest Project Coordinator  
wes@nevadawilderness.org

Jose Witt  
Stewardship Coordinator  
jose@nevadawilderness.org

Katie LaCroix  
Stewardship Coordinator  
katie@nevadawilderness.org

Darcy Shepard  
Administrative Director  
darcy@nevadawilderness.org

Richard Knox  
Membership Coordinator  
richard@nevadawilderness.org

Sheena Britschgi  
Youth Coordinator  
sheena@nevadawilderness.org

#### Board of Directors

Roger Scholl, State Chair  
Hermi Hiatt, Southern Vice-Chair  
Karen Boeger, Rural Vice-Chair  
Larry Dwyer, Treasurer  
Meghan Wolf, Secretary  
Bart Patterson  
Peter Bradley  
John Hiatt  
Marge Sill

fnw@nevadawilderness.org  
www.nevadawilderness.org  
nevadawild.blogspot.com  
volunteer4wild@blogspot.com

www.facebook.com/  
nevada.wilderness

By Shaaron Netherton

It has been a busy autumn. Some of us traveled to Washington DC to meet with other western conservation leaders about how to best protect the large landscape of the Great Basin.

While there, we spoke directly with our Nevada Congressional delegation about the need to designate places like the Pine Forest Range and Gold Butte and why these areas are so important to everyone in Nevada.

We also had the great honor of accepting on your behalf the Interior Department's Partners in Conservation Award. It is directly because of your support that Friends of Nevada Wilderness has been able to achieve so much on-the-ground wilderness protection. Give yourself a pat on the back, dear reader, because you helped earn this national award.

You should have all received the special edition Sheldon Newsletter we prepared, along with other conservation groups, to

help explain the importance of the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge and its wilderness and wildlife wonders.

A special thanks goes out to our four-person Sheldon fence crew and every volunteer who pulled 75 miles of unneeded barbed wire fence from the refuge this summer making it a wilder and safer place for wildlife. It was indeed the "Summer of Sheldon."

A big thanks to the southern Nevada staff and their Student Conservation Association crew that spent the entire year out monitoring the 18 wilderness areas in Clark County and outlining an ambitious restoration schedule for next year!

Please also join me in thanking the 2011 Friends of Nevada Wilderness award winners listed on page 4. Hope to see you at our Wild Winter Wingding at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

*Shaaron*

## Southern Nevada Update

By Kurt Kuznicki, Southern Nevada Director

Wow, where did the year go? It seems like only a few months ago we started monitoring the 18 outstanding wilderness areas of southern Nevada with our Student Conservation Association Crew.

During that time we've traveled through breathtaking places like Bridge Canyon and the matchless landscape of the North Shore of Lake Mead. We hiked in downpours, 100-degree temperatures, and camped out in a rather memorable electrical storm in Pinto Valley.

What stands out for me is how rugged and challenging southern Nevada wilderness can be, while at the same time how delicate and fleeting is the wilderness character. The land will always remain, but how long will it remain wild?

What is this thing we call the Wild? It's

*Continued on page 7*

## Thanks, Rose! Welcome, Darcy!

After years of exceptional service, Rose Demoret is moving on to write the next illustrious chapter of her life. Rose, thanks for all the great work, and we wish you the best of luck.

Lucky for us, Darcy Shepard, our Americorps Stewardship Volunteer, has a serious administrative streak ("I love Excel spreadsheets!") and has taken the reins with panache. Thanks, Darcy, for being here when we need you.

## Tithe to the Land

Make 2012 a great year for Nevada's wild places by making a year-end gift to Friends of Nevada Wilderness.



# LUSH

## Loves Gold Butte

Gold Butte is going international, thanks to Canada-based Lush Cosmetics. Not only is Lush one of the cooler and more conscientious companies on the planet—minimal packaging, no animal testing, and socially responsible ingredient sourcing, etc.—but they have also adopted Friends of Nevada Wilderness and our campaign to designate Gold Butte as a NCA with wilderness.

Lush joins a growing list of prominent support for Gold Butte; recently Caesar's and the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce announced their support.

Lush is raising awareness and money for the campaign through their Charity Pot hand and body crème. Charity Pot lids across North America display Friends' logo and a message praising Gold Butte.

Visit the Lush Cosmetics store in Mandalay Bay, or visit [www.lushusa.com](http://www.lushusa.com), to buy your Charity Pots for the holidays. You'll end up with soft skin and a warm heart...as well as happy tortoises and bighorn.



Friends Executive Director Shaaron Netherton (right) enjoys a chocolate mask with Vanessa, at the Lush Cosmetics Store in Mandalay Bay Casino in Las Vegas.  
Photo: Kurt Kuznicki

## 10 Months in the Desert

By Mike Doyle

The Student Conservation Association Wilderness Team has had an exciting year of exploration and education. Coming to Nevada from as far away as Ohio, Illinois and Georgia, our six young volunteers have enjoyed opportunities to give back to our public lands, make new friends and explore the Mojave Desert.

Our main task was to establish a baseline for the health of 18 wilderness areas in southern Nevada. Other opportunities allowed us to share wilderness with Boys and Girls Club members, build trails with volunteers, rub elbows with wilderness managers from across the country, and enjoy rare moments of beauty.

"We found an unexpected desert oasis in the canyons of the Rainbow Mountain Wilderness," said Chris Hensley. "It was incredible to see hundreds of tree frogs in the middle of the Mojave."

There have also been exceptional opportunities for recreation. I have been a climber most of my life, but being from Georgia, climbing in Red Rock NCA was a real treat. Chris went snowboarding for the first time on Mt. Charleston. Paul spent nights escaping the city in the solitude of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. Keith visited southern Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. And Jesy relaxed in the hot springs deep in the canyons of the Colorado River.



Thanks, SCA crew, for your great work. Dan Rudin, Keith Chan, Paul Wood, Chris Hensley, Jesy Simons, Mike Doyle.  
Photo: Jose Witt

Every day we spent with ancient creosote, yucca, bristlecone and ponderosa made each return to the 'convenience' of city life a bitter one. And whenever we were in town, the peaks glowing orange and purple in the evening sun, called us back to the wild.

Giving a year to serve, learn and work has given us more than we expected to find. We spent time in beautiful landscapes, met unique desert wildlife, and developed new skills. As this internship draws to a close, we're reflecting on our experiences here and finding new ways to share them with our friends, families and future employers. If I had the chance to do it all over again, I wouldn't hesitate.



# Volunteers

## Sheldon Success!



*Diane McAllister*

**T**his summer, your support, hard-working volunteers and four full-time crew members removed 75 miles of barbed wire fence from the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge in northwestern Nevada. The Sheldon is now safer for pronghorn, sage grouse and other wildlife.

Volunteers from Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Oregon Natural Desert Association donated more than 1,200 hours of time, worth \$34,400 to benefit wildlife.

Friends is working with the USFWS to remove the final 59 miles of fence. Together, we're returning freedom to this corner of Nevada.

### Sheldon Refuge Planning

November 8th was the deadline for comments on the Sheldon Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), which will guide Sheldon management for the next 15 years.

Friends has been working hard with other conservation organizations to get strong comments in to support wilderness and wildlife. We will continue to work with the USFWS on your behalf to ensure a strong final plan late next year.



*Darcy Shepard*

Above left: Together, we're making the Sheldon Refuge safer for pronghorn, sage grouse and other wildlife. Above: *Uber*-volunteers Larry Dwyer (a Friends board member) and Dick Ross practice No Fence Left Behind on the Sheldon.



Crosscut crazy: Wes Hoskins and Dave Kiel clear downed trees from the Summit Trail. *Larry Dwyer*

## Summit Trail

*By Wes Hoskins*

**T**he 32-mile Summit Trail takes hikers, hunters and backpackers on a sublime tour of the Santa Rosa-Paradise Peak Wilderness north of Winnemucca.

This year, Friends teamed up with the Forest Service to care for this wonderful backcountry trail. In 2011, Friends' volunteers and a part-time trail crew cut back 22 miles of encroaching brush, fixed three criti-

cally eroded areas that were hammered by our last big winter, logged out 200 downed trees and documented campsites along the trail.

And the work continues. In 2012, Friends will continue working with the Forest Service, as well as the Nevada Outdoor School, to provide additional volunteer projects and kids' education programming in this unique and beautiful corner of Nevada.



## in the Field

### Griffith Peak

**T**he hike to the summit of Griffith Peak in the Mt. Charleston Wilderness got a bit easier thanks to Friends of Nevada Wilderness, volunteers, REI and the Forest Service.

Camping above 10,000 feet for two weeks in August, Friends and volunteers re-routed the user-created route to the summit, easing the grade, avoiding sensitive habitat and making it more resistant to erosion. The new trail benefits hikers, endemic plants, animals and especially the rare Mt. Charleston Blue butterfly.



Mt. Charleston is better off now, thanks to these dedicated volunteers.

*Jose Witt*

## 2011 Award Winners

Congratulations and thank you to the following volunteers, businesses and agency partners. You exemplify the heart, hands and spirit of conservation. Your leadership helps make good things happen for people, places and critters in Wild Nevada.

#### **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

Scott Hall

#### **AGENCY PARTNER OF THE YEAR**

US Fish & Wildlife Service

#### **AGENCY TEAM PLAYER, INDIVIDUAL**

Carol Hotchkiss

#### **CORPORATE PARTNER OF THE YEAR**

REI

#### **"RULER OF THE SPOOLER" AWARD**

Bill James

#### **GROUP PARTNER OF THE YEAR**

Nevada Outdoor School

### Kids in the Wild



*Mike Doyle*

**I**n July, our SCA interns spent a day on Mt. Charleston with kids from a local Boys & Girls Club many of whom kids had never seen the Spring Mountains. It clearly made an impression.

"These trees are so beautiful."

"I used to shove sticks in holes in the ground, but now I know that is someone's home and we need to protect it."

"It makes me mad that people left trash here."

"The air smells so much better here than at home."

These future stewards had a wonderful time learning why it's important to protect nature. It was an honor spending time with them.

## Quantifying Results

Whether you join us in the field, or support Wild Nevada financially, the difference you make can be seen in deer, butterflies, pronghorn and big-horn living in habitat free of fences, litter, weeds and vehicle scars; in the smiles of kids watching a lizard do push-ups on a sunny rock; in trails that are well-signed and easy to follow.

For the bean counters, here's another measure of our accomplishments in 2011:

- Number of projects: 108
- Number of volunteers: 829
- Total volunteer hours: 9,554
- Value of volunteer work: \$223,236

These numbers are just one way we can demonstrate results and quantify our accomplishments. We can also use these data to leverage support for future work. Thank you to all our volunteers and donors for making them possible!!



# Tracking Silver-Haired Bats in Northeast Nevada

“Tug on anything at all and you will find it connected to everything else in the universe.” ~John Muir

By Peter Bradley, wildlife biologist,  
Nevada Department of Wildlife, and  
Friends board member

Often new discoveries tell us how much we don't know, how much we still have to learn about how wild things are connected to one another and to the environments on which they depend.

We used to know that about 24 bat species spent at least part of their year in Nevada. We knew most of our bats are cave-dwelling species, roosting in warm caves in summer and hibernating in cold caves in winter. We knew some species migrated south for the winter.

Why should we care? Try to imagine North America without insectivorous bats. Some scientists suggest we would be drowning in night-flying insects and insect exoskeletons before the first bat-free summer was out.

But we knew little about forest-dwelling bat species in Nevada; the hoary bat, western red bat, western yellow bat, long-eared myotis, silver-haired bat and so on. Most research suggested silver-haired bats (*Lasiurus noctivagans*, aka LANOs) only migrated through Nevada, from breeding areas to the north to wintering grounds in the south.

A few years ago, several lactating and post-lactating female LANOs were found in August in northeast Nevada, raising the possibility that breeding was occurring in the state.

In order to make wise forest-management decisions, we need to know the habits and needs of wildlife, so we designed a study to capture roosting and foraging habitat information for the silver-haired bat in Elko County, Nevada.



One of the test subjects, before being equipped with a transmitter.

Peter Bradley

In 2009, in the wild headwaters of the Bruneau River, just west of the Jarbidge Wilderness, we equipped LANOs with radio transmitters and monitored them on a nightly basis until batteries expired (about 17 days). During the day, we'd use these data to track down roosts and foraging locations. Sleep? We'd do that later.

Nine bats led us to six maternity roosts. Every roost was in a large, dead, standing, broken-top aspen tree riddled with red-naped sapsucker (woodpecker) cavities. Vast stands of old-age aspen, fir, alder, willow, mountain mahogany and limber pine surrounded the roosts.

Telemetry data showed us the bats foraged within a 4.4-kilometer radius of their roosts and preferred high-altitude, old-growth aspen and

fir stands for their foraging, even though these forests made up only a small part of the study area.

This study taught us several things: silver-haired bats do breed in Nevada; they need old-growth aspen to roost in; they are dependent on red-naped sapsucker holes for roosting; their maternity colonies can contain at least 26 adult females in one abandoned woodpecker cavity; and they prefer to forage in high-altitude aspen-fir forests. These data should help forest managers consider the relationships between bats, woodpeckers, old-growth aspen and mature forest stands before making any decisions that might impact these species and their inter-relationships.

What other connections will we find when we look closer at wildlife and their habitat needs in Nevada?





### Southern NV update

*Continued from page 2*

when a stunning view takes your breath away, when a rattler near your feet makes your hair stand on end, or when it feels like you're first person to wander through a wild valley.

Wilderness is free, but it comes with a cost—hard work by folks like you to keep the wild in wilderness.

Nobody can do it alone. We need to work together as a team.

I'm looking forward to working with you in 2012, whether it's in the field, getting wilderness for Gold Butte, or discussing how your legacy gift can make a difference to the future. Together we can keep wild in wilderness for generations to come.

## What's your Legacy?



### What kind of world will you leave for future generations?

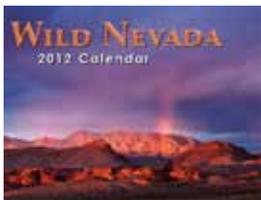
You have the power to leave a legacy of wilderness. Name Friends of Nevada Wilderness a beneficiary of your:

- 401K • IRA • Life insurance
- Bank accounts • Real estate

Talk to your advisor, contact Shaaron at (775) 324-7667, or visit our informative website at: [nevadawilderness.org/fnw/bequest.asp](http://nevadawilderness.org/fnw/bequest.asp)

Friends' nonprofit ID is 88-0211763

## Keep Nevada Wild! Buy Stuff!



Wild Nevada Calendar

Various colors and sizes. Call for availability.



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Afoot & Afield Las Vegas  
By Brian Beffort

Signed by the author

Order today at [www.NevadaWilderness.org](http://www.NevadaWilderness.org) (click the "Books, Calendars, T's" link lower left)

Or by calling (775) 324-7667

Or send this form with your check to Friends of Nevada Wilderness, PO Box 9754, Reno, NV 89507

2012 Calendar \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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(Prices include tax + shipping)

Donations (not purchases) are tax-deductible! Proceeds benefit wild places across Nevada!

## Upcoming events and restoration trips

**Celebrate Gold Butte. Celebrate Wild Nevada. Nevada's Big Give.** November 17, 5 to 7pm, at our Reno office. Stop by our open house for some holiday cheer with your friends at Friends, support wilderness proposals for Gold Butte, the Pine Forest range and elsewhere, and buy your holiday calendars and T-shirts while you're here. Details, call 324-7667.

**REI Calendar Party. REI Henderson.** November 17, 6 to 8pm. Be there or be without the best calendar in town.

**Friends' Wilderness Wingding.** December 16, 6-10pm, in the Tahoe Room of the Grand Sierra Resort. Our volunteers have worked hard this year, and this is our chance to say thanks. Please join us for fun, food,

drinks, live music and silent auctions as we ring in the holidays and celebrate the wonderful people who love the wild. Details: (775) 324-7667.

**Desert National Wildlife Refuge, Native Plant Reseeding.** November 19, from 8am to 3pm. Help desert wildlife by planting the native plants they need. Call (702) 839-5569.

**Lovell Canyon Trail Work.** November 20, from 8am to 3pm. Get great exercise while building a trail for visitors in this pretty part of the Spring Mountains. Call (702) 839-5569.

**Mud Spring Trail Work.** November 27, from 8am to 3pm. Get more great exercise building another trail in another beautiful part of the Spring Mountains. Call (702) 839-5569.

## Support Wilderness. Write your leaders.

Take a few minutes right now to write your Congressional leaders.

Thank and encourage them to protect Nevada's wild places. Your support is their mandate to continue working on conservation.

**SENATOR HARRY REID**  
**SENATOR DEAN HELLER**  
**CONGRESSWOMAN SHELLEY BERKLEY**  
**CONGRESSMAN JOE HECK**  
**CONGRESSMAN MARK AMODEI**

You will find the complete contact information for these elected leaders on our website:

[www.nevadawilderness.org/visitor/contact\\_congress.asp](http://www.nevadawilderness.org/visitor/contact_congress.asp)

To RSVP or sign up for alerts, send an email to [fnw@nevadawilderness.org](mailto:fnw@nevadawilderness.org), or call (775) 324-7667.  
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