



An Interagency Volunteer Program

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Thank you for your continued support of the Southern Nevada Interagency Volunteer Program.
The following newsletter contains information about upcoming events, current positions,
highlights of your volunteer community and interesting information on our desert ecosystem.



Upcoming Events

National Public Lands Day Clean Up at Sloan

Date: Saturday, September 8

Time: 7:30 am - 12:00 pm

Audience: All welcome. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Location: West of Sloan Canyon National Recreation Area

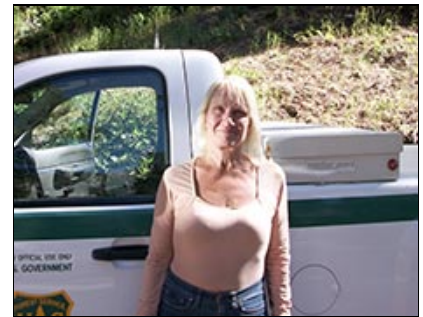
Agency: Bureau of Land Management

Volunteer Work Type: Clean-Up

There is nothing like the satisfaction of helping someone or something- especially when one contribution can benefit so many people! Public lands are places that can be enjoyed and appreciated by all. Unfortunately, many of these lands can collect garbage or are illegally used as dumping grounds. You can be a part of the solution - and help the environment, the animals who call the lands home, and the people who appreciate these lands- by joining in on the clean-up and helping to restore these lands.

[Click here to register](#)

Volunteer Spotlight



At the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, volunteers are truly valued for their time, effort, and passion they put behind their service. Volunteers help a limited staff accomplish projects that wouldn't be done otherwise. One volunteer who is truly cherished for her commitment to serve is Lyndi Ronka Owens. Lyndi used to live up on the mountain and really enjoyed her time living in a small community. Then she had to move to Henderson for a new job. "I like to go back to the mountain so I still feel like a part of it." How does Lyndi give back to her former community? She volunteers once a week to assist Litter Coordinator Patty Conant to collect trash and keep the Spring Mountains clean for visitors and safe for wildlife.

Like many other volunteers, Lyndi found out about Forest Service volunteer opportunities from visiting the Spring Mountains Visitor Center and seeing a Go Mt. Charleston volunteer poster. She hadn't volunteered for any other agencies or places before but was eager to help keep the mountain clean.

When asked about what she finds best about her service, Lyndi replied, "I enjoy chatting with Patty, seeing the mountain and the scenery, and helping to keep it clean. I feel like I do my part when I help keep it nice." Lyndi plans to

continue volunteering for the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area.

If you are interested in participating in the Litter Pick Up program, visit www.GoMtCharleston.com or call 702-515-5408. Individuals like Lyndi are welcomed and so are groups.

● Upcoming Trainings

interagency volunteers



Please note: Training sessions are open to those who have volunteered in the last year.

[Click here to view the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area training schedule.](#)

Current volunteer positions

Bureau of Land Management

Landscaping Team -Red Rock Canyon NCA (Las Vegas, NV)

Time Commitment & Duration: 2 days (12 to 14 hours total) per month. This is an ongoing position.

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Loop Ambassador -Red Rock Canyon NCA (Las Vegas, NV)

Time Commitment & Duration: 9/10/2011–9/30/2012

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Natural Resource Team -Red Rock Canyon NCA (Las Vegas, NV)

Time Commitment & Duration: One or two days per month, generally weekends. This is an ongoing position.

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Trail Monitor -Red Rock Canyon NCA (Las Vegas, NV)

Time Commitment & Duration: 4 hours per month preferred. This is an ongoing position.

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Hummingbird Banding in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area

Date: Saturday, May 16 - May 2013

Time: will vary

Audience: 16 and up Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and must have a signed BLM Parental Consent form.

Location: Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Visitor Center

Come help staff gather important information on hummingbirds in Nevada. BLM will be starting a banding station at RRCNCA to gather information on migration, demographics, longevity, and pollination of local hummingbirds. Primary volunteer duties would fall into two categories feeder maintenance and banding activities. Feeder maintenance includes mixing nectar for

Volunteer Accomplishments

interagency volunteers



Bonanza Extravaganza

July 4, 2012- Bonanza Trail from Cold Creek- USFS

13 volunteers spent their morning maintain the Bonanza Trail near Cold Creek, NV. In total 14 water bars were maintained and about 120 ft of switchback cuts were removed. This is all with the first 2 miles from the trailhead.

Stewardship Saturday Cattail

feeders, filling feeders and cleaning feeders on an as needed basis. Banding activities would include, trapping hummingbirds, recording data, feeding and weighing hummingbirds. Banding sessions will be every other week for five hours. For more information about volunteering, please contact Amelia Savage at 702-515-5278 or asavage@blm.gov.

USFWS

Maintenance Assistant - Desert National Wildlife Refuge
Time Commitment & Duration: 3/1/2012 – 5/9/2013, Ongoing need, No housing available, 1 – 2 days per week, 2 month minimum commitment
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Naturalist/Interpreter - Pahrnatagat National Wildlife Refuge
Time Commitment & Duration:- 6/4/2012 – 6/4/2013
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

RV Couple Interpretive / Maintenance Couple –Moapa Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Time Commitment & Duration: 9/1/12 – 5/27/2013; RV pad and hook-up available.
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Administrative Assistant -Pahrnatagat National Wildlife Refuge
Time Commitment & Duration: 2/1/12 – 6/28/201.
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

NPS

Katherine Landing Information Center Volunteer - Lake Mead National Recreation Area
Time Commitment & Duration: 3/5/2012--3/5/2013
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Administrative Assistant - Lake Mead National Recreation Area
Time Commitment & Duration: 3/5/2012--12/31/2012
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Cactus Garden Volunteer - Lake Mead National Recreation Area
Time Commitment & Duration: 3/5/2012--3/5/2013
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Visitor Center Volunteer - Lake Mead National Recreation Area
Time Commitment & Duration: 3/5/2012--3/5/2013
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

USFS

Trail Hosts Needed

It is summertime and the temperatures are starting to heat up in Las Vegas. Head up to the mountain to cooler temperatures to volunteer in the Mt. Charleston area. Help out at the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area Visitor Center and on the hiking trails. Enjoy being in this beautiful landscape while helping visitors learn about and protect the forest. Meet and work with other volunteers that have similar interests and contribute to a team focused on providing service to their community. Through this, develop a greater understanding of the mountain environment.

This is our first year of having Volunteer Trail Hosts. These volunteers provide assistance to hikers to help them have a positive, safe hiking experience. They communicate with hikers in a friendly manner to promote safety, forest protection, learning about the forest ecosystem and geography, and trail user courtesy. They also monitor and report information about trail conditions, forest ecosystem happenings, and visitor use and provide light trail maintenance including picking up litter and clearing trails of rocks, branches, etc.

Trail Host

Cutting

July 7, 2012- Ash Meadows NWR- USFWS

Members of the Las Vegas Hiking & Outdoors Meet-up, UNLV Service Club Omega Delta Phi, and citizens from Las Vegas, Henderson, Amargosa Valley, Pahrump and Olympia, WA(!) joined together on a beautiful day for habitat improvement work. The event began as 2 refuge staff members welcomed the 32 volunteers who participated. After a refuge orientation and captivating safety briefing led by volunteer event assistants, the attendees split into teams and then gingerly eased into various points along the Crystal Springs outwash channel. Once in the water, these intrepid souls safely used hedge clippers and carpet knives to trim cattails down to about an inch above their base. In total about 18 cubic yards of cattail clippings were removed from 440 linear feet of channel.



Trail Host



Conservation Project Spotlight

Trail Host Volunteer Program Spring Mountains National Recreation Area

The Spring Mountains National Recreation Area has over 50 miles of hiking trails that attract thousands of visitors each year. This year the Forest Service has started the Trail Host volunteer program to act as the link between hikers and the Forest Service. This first year program helps to provide education about the mountain ecosystem, promote safety, and encourage respect for the forest environment. Information gathered along the trails by volunteers gets reported so that visitors can stay up to date on all trail matters such as current conditions, regulations, or even a nesting population of rare birds. Information that Trail Hosts report today may be used to help hikers, forest management, and even other Trail Hosts tomorrow.

Summer is the hiking season and so far visitors have shown appreciation for the program. "Hikers seem to enjoy having people on the mountain that they can turn to for information about the area" says volunteer coordinator, Justin Ebert, who added "volunteers are constantly being thanked for donating their time and efforts towards making the Spring Mountains a better place". The Trail Host program is currently seeking additional assistance for the summer. Volunteers do not need to have much hiking experience but must be outgoing, physically fit, and willing to learn about the area. "Trail Host volunteers have enjoyed this program because it provides them with a great opportunity to learn and share information about Spring Mountains, help protect the forest, and keep visitors safe, all while doing something they really love to do, hike!" For more information, go to www.gomtcharleston.com. Volunteer Programs at the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area are made possible through a partnership between the U.S. Forest Service, the Great Basin Institute, and the Southern Nevada Conservancy.

Desert Ecosystem Spotlight



Butterflies at Spring Mountains National Recreation Area

When one imagines wildlife within a National Forest, often images of deer, mountain lions, cottontails, chipmunks, and birds of prey come first to mind. This is no surprise; charismatic megafauna and their associated friends have always been popular animals. However, one subtle yet beautiful and important creature to forests is the butterfly. These insects provide essential benefits to an ecosystem by pollinating plants and playing a role in the food web. And one cannot deny the vibrant and brilliant colors they provide for visitors to enjoy!

With the help of The University of Las Vegas, Nevada, the U.S. Forest Service has been surveying the Spring Mountain National Recreation Area to learn more about endemic species of butterflies that are identified as priorities for conservation. These species include the Mt. Charleston blue, Spring Mountains dark blue (two different sub species), Morand's checkerspot, and Spring Mountains Acasta checkerspot. Researchers have spent over 3000 hours on the ground in the forest searching for these butterflies and recording information about their life histories, habitat preferences, and overall presence on the mountain. Scientists also counted the number of larvae and the number of adults they saw in the forest and recorded challenges to current butterfly populations.

Researchers were able to spot adults for four of the species (only one of the sub species of Spring Mountains dark blue was spotted) and observed competition between the species when two or more shared the same habitat. Predator-prey relationships were also noted along with how different disturbances (recreation, fire, disease, etc.) impact the butterflies. Information collected throughout this ongoing study will be used to guide the Forest Service on conserving and protecting crucial habitat for these butterflies.

Thank you again for supporting our public lands.