



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

Eldorado Canyon Graffiti Removal

Date: Saturday, February 4

Time: 9:00am – 1:30pm

Audience: Adults, Seniors, Groups, must be at least 14 yrs. old. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Location: Nelson's Landing/Placer Cove

Agency: National Park Service

Volunteer Work Type: Graffiti Removal

Volunteers will assist resource management by removing graffiti in the area. Everyone will meet at the Nelson's Landing area where they will be instructed on how to safely remove graffiti without damaging the environment. All equipment will be provided. Please dress in layers and wear closed toed shoes. Bring a lunch and plenty of water. Only volunteers 14 and older can register for this event.

Kellogg and Money Clean-up

Date: Saturday, February 11

Time: 8am – 2pm

Audience: Adults, Seniors, Groups, must be at least 12 yrs. old. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Location: In Pahrump, at the intersection of Kellogg road and Money street

Agency: Bureau of Land Management

Volunteer Work Type: Clean-up

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be hosting a clean-up at the intersection of Kellogg road and Money street in Pahrump on Saturday, February 11th. Please join us! This is a great way to get some heart-healthy exercise and make new friends, all-the-while promoting a healthy environment for residents of Southern Nevada.

[Click here to register.](#)

Enclosure Ridge Fence Removal Project

Date: Tuesday, February 28 through Friday, March 2

Time: 8am – 5pm

Audience: Adults, Seniors, Groups, must be at least 16. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Location: Desert National Wildlife Refuge

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Volunteer Work Type: Restoration

Help the Fish and Wildlife Service & the Friends of Nevada Wilderness to remove pieces and parts of a fence formerly used to study bighorn

Volunteer Spotlight



Sue & Roger Kolar

Sue and Roger have been instrumental in establishing the new tortoise habitat volunteer program at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (RRCNCA). They have dedicated over 300 hours each to the tortoise habitat. In April of 2010 when the RRCNCA visitor center reopened, the 9 Red Rock tortoises were returned to us, and we needed help taking care of them.

Sue and Roger recruited volunteers and trained over 100 of those volunteers. They buy food and supplies for the tortoises, write weekly tortoise update emails, answer numerous tortoise questions, help make improvements in the tortoise habitat, fill in for other volunteers when needed, and buy supplies and equipment that make the volunteer duties easier.

They follow all the protocols that have been set for the tortoise care and help to enforce these protocols, including safety procedures; wearing the gloves and foot covers needed to prevent exposure to germs. Sue and Roger educate the public about desert

sheep in the wild. The study has been completed and now the fence is inhibiting wildlife from roaming freely. Under the supervision of experienced wilderness professionals, volunteers will help take out the fencing and t-posts which are about 2 miles away from any road. Participation for every day of event is not required, but multiple-day über-volunteers may camp at Pahranaagat NWR campground if they have their own gear. A light breakfast and dinner will be provided for those who camp. Since it involves a 2 mile hike, picking up fencing material and hiking it out, work on this project is very strenuous and should only be attempted by healthy individuals. Proper attire includes a long sleeve shirt, pants and sturdy hiking shoes. Other personal protective gear will be provided.

[Click here to register](#)

National Wildlife Week: Habitat Planting

Date: Saturday, March 10

Time: 8am – 3pm

Audience: Adults, Seniors, Groups, must be at least 8. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Location: Desert National Wildlife Refuge

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Volunteer Work Type: Planting

Celebrate National Wildlife Week by making a difference in your community! Join a team of volunteers to plant native willow trees at Corn Creek. Native plants help prevent erosion, keep down dust, and provide important habitat for wildlife. Individuals need to be in fairly good physical condition as planting requires the ability to bend, kneel, get a little dirty, and lift 1 gallon potted plants. Plan to be outside in cool, sunny conditions with no shade - a hat and sunscreen are recommended. Work gloves, water, snacks, and a good time will be provided. If volunteers stay past noon for second session, they should bring a lunch.

[Click here to register](#)

Save the Desert Eco-walk

Date: Saturday, March 10

Time: 9 am ♦ 12:30 pm

Audience: Adults, Seniors, Groups, youth. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Location: Cottonwood Cove

Agency: National Park Service

Volunteer Work Type: Clean-up

Forever Resorts at Cottonwood Cove Marina and the National Park Service are co-sponsoring a eco walk to clean-up the desert and roads in the Cottonwood Cove area on March 10, 2012. Individuals, families and groups are welcome to participate in this desert clean-up. Eco-Walk registration begins at 8:00 am, with the event beginning at 9:00 am. Volunteers will be cleaning up the area from the park boundary along the roadway to the Cottonwood Cove Marina. Cottonwood Cove Marina is located 15 miles east of Searchlight Nevada. We will have room for more than 100 volunteers to participate. Lunch will be provided following the clean-up for all volunteers helping out with the Eco-Walk. For more information about volunteering call Christopher Pietrafeso at 702-293-8711.

Great American Cleanup

Date: Friday, March 23

Time: 9 am ♦ 12 pm

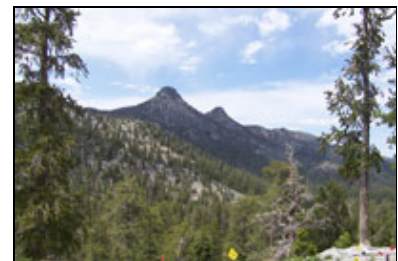
Audience: Adults, Seniors, Groups, youth. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

tortoises and how to protect these amazing animals. They provide support and aid to other volunteers in the program. If asked, they would be able to take charge of the program.

In addition to their work at RRCNCA, Sue and Roger have volunteered over 100 hours as site stewards for the Clark County Site Steward Program. They not only monitor two archeological sites themselves, but help coordinate other volunteers to monitor other sites. They visit two archeological sites each month, monitor the site for damage, and report any findings. They have also volunteered for Lake Mead National Recreation Area, where they were tasked to find openings from abandoned mines. They documented these openings using GPS and photography. They dedicated over 100 hours to this project as well.

Sue and Roger have contributed countless hours of their own time to BLM and NPS, always with great attitudes and inspiring other volunteers, the public and federal employees.

Upcoming Trainings



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

First Aid/CPR Training
Saturday, February, 18th
9 AM – 1 PM

Audience: all volunteers

Location: Lake Mead

[Register for this training](#)

[Click here for more information](#)

First Aid/CPR Training
Saturday, February, 24th
9 AM – 1 PM

Audience: all volunteers

Location: Lake Mead

[Register for this training](#)

[Click here for more information](#)

First Aid/CPR Training

accompanied by an adult.

Location: TBA

Agency: National Park Service

Volunteer Work Type: Clean-up

Come take part in Great American Cleanup 2012 at Lake Mead National Recreation Area by participating in a litter cleanup. In 2011 over 4 million volunteers and participants in 30,000+ communities from coast to coast participated in Great American Cleanup volunteer events. Join people across America in cleaning, beautifying and improving our quality of life! Contact Nancy Bernard at 702-293-8714 or Nancy.Bernard@nps.gov for more information. Registration through Get Outdoors Nevada. Volunteers will receive a code for free park entrance on the day of the event.

First Aid/CPR Training

Saturday, March, 3rd

9 AM – 1 PM

Audience: all volunteers

Location: Lake Mead

[Register for this training](#)

[Click here for more information](#)



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.](#)

USFWS

Volunteer Naturalist(s) (Birder): Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge is seeking up to 4 volunteer naturalists

Time Commitment & Duration: Once a month on Saturday, 2-3 hrs; October – May

If you are interested in this position please contact the FWS volunteer coordinator, Harry Konwin (702)515-5494

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

Resident Campground Host / Light Maintenance - Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge

Time Commitment & Duration - 4/1/2011 – 4/1/2012; 3 month minimum; RV pad and hook-up available.

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

Maintenance Assistant - Desert National Wildlife Refuge

Time Commitment & Duration: 5/9/2010 – 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.](#)



Volunteer Accomplishments



Christmas Bird Count

December 28, 2012-

Red Rock Canyon- BLM

24 BLM staff members and volunteers broke into teams covering six different areas within a count circle measuring 15 miles in diameter. 1,611 individual birds of

63 species were identified and counted.

Resident Volunteer Couple - Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge

Time Commitment & Duration: 1/2/2012 – 5/19/2013; RV pad and hook-up available.

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

Naturalist/Interpreter - Pahranaagat National Wildlife Refuge

Time Commitment & Duration:- 6/4/2011 – 6/4/2012

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

USFS

Snow Play Host - Spring Mountains National Recreation Area

Time Commitment & Duration - Mid December through the end of March

Please contact Suzanne Hicks at smhicks@fs.fed.us or 702-839-5566 for information on how to apply.

[Click for a complete job description](#)



Conservation Project Spotlight

Christmas Bird Count (Photo by Fran Byers, Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association.)

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Christmas Bird Count

On a delightful Wednesday between the Christmas and New Year's holidays, 24 BLM staff members and volunteers participated in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This project was coordinated by Park Ranger Jim Cribbs and Management Assistant Jeanne Tinsman. Teams covered six different areas within a count circle measuring 15 miles in diameter. 1,611 individual birds of 63 species were identified and counted.

Some of the highlights included the sighting of a beautiful male Merlin, a winter-visiting falcon at Ash Spring in the Calico Basin; a variety of diving ducks on a golf course pond; a Hermit Thrush in Pine Creek Canyon; and three Marsh Wrens at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, a neighbor to Red Rock Canyon NCA.

This count circle is one of over 2,200 areas surveyed at this time of year. Count circles can be found in the United States, Canada and throughout Central and South America. Data is submitted to the National Audubon Society, and is used for a variety of population studies.

A year-round resident of the Red Rock Canyon NCA, Cactus Wrens can be found close to the Visitor Center.



Desert Ecosystem Spotlight



Ecosystem Spotlight Dino Dreams

The Story of the Dinosaur Track Discoveries in Red Rock Canyon in a Nutshell

Last August I offered geology training to the BLM volunteers. During the training, I mentioned that "it was just a matter of time" before we found dinosaur tracks at Red Rock. After class, a volunteer mentioned he and some fellow hikers may have already found some.

A few weeks later we went to investigate. On the way there I found a beautiful single dinosaur footprint and a small animal trackway. Further along, the team discovered a series of 'dino' track paths.

We went back with paleontologist Professor Steve Rowland of the Geoscience Department at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He identified the *Grallator* footprints and the *Octopodichnus* trackway. *Grallator* footprints were made by small bipedal (two-footed) theropod (meat-eating) dinosaurs. The *Octopodichnus* tracks were made by a small arachnid such as a tarantula or scorpion. A BLM verification team was dispatched, which included BLM regional paleontologists Scott Foss and Brent Breithaupt. The tracks were officially verified and a new dinosaur exhibit is expected to open in the Visitor Center in late January.

This is the first set of dinosaur tracks confirmed on federal land in the state of Nevada. Access to these prints and the knowledge of their location will be limited for their protection.

A volunteer training will be conducted in February. Please contact Red Rock Canyon NCA Visitor Center at 702-515-5350 to register. If you can't get into this training, another will be offered in March.

Written by Ranger James Cribbs.

Thank you again for supporting our public lands.