



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

Restoring the Desert: Cottonwood Cove East

Date: Saturday, January 28

Time: 7:30am – 2:30pm

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

Location: Meet at Park Headquarters in Boulder City, 601 Nevada Way, to carpool to the area

Agency: National Park Service

Volunteer Work Type: Restoration

Join the Lake Mead Resource Management team for a day of restoration at beautiful, remote Cottonwood Cove East. We'll work together to remove a berm along the road, and then distribute seedballs to spur native plant growth. Meet at park headquarters in Boulder City to carpool in park vehicles – the site is only accessible by 4WD – and bring along your favorite sack lunch. Questions, please contact Nancy at 702-293-8714.

[Click here to register.](#)

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.

Volunteer Spotlight



Scott Meyer at Lake Mead National Recreation Area

How does a park like Lake Mead remove litter at remote coves and islands? With the help of volunteers, of course! Scott Meyer has been active in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area volunteer program since 2009, and has steadily taken more responsibility and a leadership role in park projects. He is a key participant in the Operation Zero (OZ) program.

OZ is a unique program that brings small groups of volunteers on the park's pontoon boat to remote coves for trash cleanups. OZ gives individuals and groups – some who have never been on a boat before – the opportunity to experience Lake Mead in a unique way while caring for the park's resources.

Scott first served as an OZ deckhand, an assistant to the boat operator. Deckhands help with passenger safety, managing the on-shore cleanup, and maintaining the boat. Because of his reliability and enthusiasm, the park sent him to the Department of the Interior's Motorboat Operator Certification Course, and he became a certified

boat operator. Since then, Scott has led dozens of OZ voyages, and been an integral part of the program.

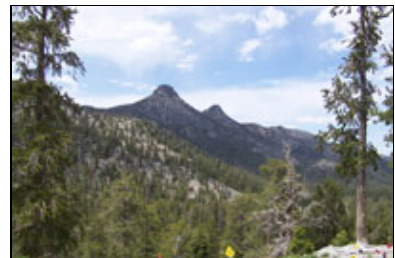
In the spring of 2011, Lake Mead hosted ten OZ cleanups. Scott was the captain for each OZ voyage, and helped serve as a friendly, knowledgeable host to 84 volunteers who participated. Together, these volunteers removed about 3000 pounds of trash and glass. Because of rising lake levels, removing litter from shorelines was especially critical this year. Areas of shore that were enjoyed by visitors a few months ago are now underwater.

While the cleanup is the most important feature of an OZ trip, the OZ trip also offers an educational opportunity to see Lake Mead. If time and weather permit, volunteers are treated to what Scott likes to call "dessert" – a trip to see the Hoover Dam and O'Callaghan-Tillman Memorial Bridge from the water.

Scott is a reliable, friendly volunteer who has been of great benefit to Lake Mead. His leadership and initiative in bringing up new ideas, issues to consider and safety information is both welcome and valued.

Lake Mead would love to have you and your group of up to nine friends or co-workers come and join Scott for a one-day volunteer project on OZ. For more information, contact Chris at Christopher.Pietrafeso@nps.gov, or 702-293-8711. Dates are currently available for the spring season.

● Upcoming Trainings



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

**First Aid/CPR Training
Saturday, January, 14th
9 AM – 1 PM**

Audience: all volunteers
Location: Lake Mead
[Register for this training](#)
[Click here for more information](#)

First Aid/CPR Training
Saturday, January, 21st
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, 18th
9 AM – 1 PM
Audience: all volunteers
Location: Lake Mead
[Register for this training](#)
[Click here for more information](#)

Current volunteer positions

National Park Service

Trail Watch Volunteers: Lake Mead National Recreation Area (Boulder City, NV)
Time Commitment & Duration: 9/12/2011—5/31/2012
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Bureau of Land Management

Campground Host – Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area
Time Commitment & Duration – ASAP, The campground is open year round with busy periods from February to May and mid September to November, fees are charged year round. A minimum commitment of Six months is expected.
Contact/Project Supervisor: Kathy August, Outdoor Recreation Planner 702-515-5138, James "Lee" Kirk, Outdoor Recreation Planner 702-515-5227.
[Click here for more information](#)

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](#)

Volunteer Accomplishments



Wetland Wonderland
November 19, 2011-
Desert NWR- USFWS
66 Volunteers spent a beautiful Saturday morning contributing to the restoration of wetland habitat on Desert NWR at Corn Creek Station. Participants included as many youths as parents and expertly planted a total of 632 - 1 and 2 gallon, and 3" pots, of wetland vegetation that included willows shrubs and grasses.

National Family Day
November 19, 2011-
Lake Mead NRA- Boulder Beach- NPS
Twenty-seven volunteers worked for 4 hours each donating a total of 108 hours to the park. Volunteers raked, shoveled and bagged debris from two loops in the Boulder Beach Campground. Approximately 32 cubic yards of debris was removed.

Gardening Gone Wild

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

USFWS

Volunteer Naturalist(s) (Birder): Pahrnat 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 - Pahrnat 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.](#)

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 - Pahrnat 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](#)



Photo: *Muddy Day at Katherine Landing*

Nearly 100 people from four different organizations celebrated National Public Lands Day by getting muddy at Katherine Landing in Lake Mead National Recreation Area. These volunteers, including 34 adults and 61 kids, produced about 1400 "seedballs" – small mud balls embedded with native plant seeds. The seedballs were created for planting at the Laughlin North Reach section of the Colorado River Heritage Greenway trail.

This new multi-million dollar trail system and day use area, located on the Nevada shore of the Colorado River south of Davis Dam, will provide recreation opportunities for adventurers and families. With three developed trailheads, picnic grounds, restrooms, viewing areas, and places for fishing along the

Surrounding some time

November 19, 2011-

Moapa NWR- USFWS

4 Volunteers planted a total of 140

1-gallon pots of native trees

bushes and grasses

Steward Saturday

December 3, 2011-

Ash Meadows- USFWS

42 volunteers strategically

removed cattails (bulrush was left

uncut along the outflow). The

volunteer group was composed of

volunteers from the UNLV Sigma

Alpha Epsilon fraternity and citizens

from Las Vegas, Henderson,

Amargosa Valley, Shoshone, and

Pahrump. During the event, 27

cubic yards of cattail were removed

from approximately 117 linear

meters (384 feet) of Crystal Spring

outflow.

North East Lamb Clean-Up

December 10, 2011-

North East Lamb and Centennial-

BLM

29 volunteers removed 50 cubic

yards of trash.

Foothill Eagle Scout Project

December 17, 2011-

College Drive- BLM

35 volunteers removed 60 cubic

yards of trash.

Conservation Project Spotlight

developed trails, picnic areas, restrooms, equestrian access, and places for fishing along the river's edge this new site has something for everyone. The project area includes portions of Lake Mead National Recreation area, as well as Bureau of Reclamation lands, and the new public park will be managed by Clark County Parks and Recreation Department.

Volunteers have worked with National Park Service biologists for the past two years to prepare for the new recreation site. First they collected seeds from various native plants as they entered their seeding phase. These seeds were used to make the seedballs. Using native, locally collected seed helps increase young plants chances of survival in the extremes of our desert environment. Native plants also provide food and habitat for wildlife.

Four groups of volunteers have participated in the first two phases of the volunteer project: Girl Scout troops from the Bullhead City, Fort Mohave, Mohave Valley, and Topock areas; the environmental science class at the Fort Mohave Academy of Building Industries; the Nevada Naturalists from Nevada Cooperative Extension Service; and the participants of the now ended Family to Family pre-school program.

Only one step remains: each group of volunteers who participated in the past will be invited to return to distribute the seedballs during the Laughlin North Reach grand opening in February.



Desert Ecosystem Spotlight

Photo: Desert Bighorn Sheep at Lake Mead

Most people think of the bison when they think of the National Park Service. However, the bighorn sheep has become an icon of public lands in the west, particularly the southwest. Because of the efforts of biologists at Lake Mead National Recreation Area and the help of other agencies, chances of seeing one of these once-rare animals on a ridgeline is becoming more common.

It has been estimated that over two million bighorn sheep inhabited the American West. With the migration of settlers, the increase of people and other domestic animals by the expansion of the railroad, the bighorn sheep population declined to fewer than 15,000 by the late 1800's. Reasons for this included unregulated hunting, habitat loss and, more importantly, the introduction of exotic diseases carried by domestic livestock.

Restoration efforts began in the late 1950's with strict hunting regulations and domestic livestock control. It is also at this time that bighorn sheep transplanting efforts began. By transporting a few bighorns from healthy populations to suitable areas, wildlife managers have been able to greatly expand the range and numbers of bighorn sheep to a larger portion of what once was.

Desert bighorn sheep, to be exact, have made their home at Lake Mead NRA and its outlying areas. In the River Mountains, located to the west of Lake Mead, the population is not hunted, and the proximity of Boulder City and other urban developments and activities has disrupted normal behavior patterns and migratory corridors. Bighorn sheep have learned to come into Boulder City to graze in parks and yards where food and water is abundant. Unfortunately, these sheep are vulnerable to diseases as

they congregate in high densities. They cause property damage and are a danger not only to themselves but motorists as they cross roadways. Because of this, Lake Mead National Recreation area has partnered with other agencies to conduct bighorn sheep transplants. A trained team of professionals is contracted to capture the sheep with a net gun. The sheep are transported, by helicopter, to another team of biologists who make sure the sheep are not injured and healthy to be transplanted. Once they are confirmed and documented, they are transported by a special sheep trailer to the release site.

These capture efforts have augmented several ranges in Nevada as well as Utah and Colorado. Bighorn sheep from the River Mountains have also gone to two other National Park Service areas, Colorado National Monument and Zion National Park. By removing some of these bighorn and transplanting them to more natural habitats, these problems are mitigated while helping the effort to restore bighorn populations throughout their range.

The next time you visit Lake Mead NRA, take the time to look at the hills and mountains. You may spot a bighorn sheep, standing majestically on a ridgeline.

Thank you again for supporting our public lands.