



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 on upcoming events, current positions, highlights of your volunteer community and interesting information on our desert ecosystem.

Upcoming Events

Day of Service: Remove Invasive Plants

Date: January 21, 2013

Time: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Audience: Must be at least 8 years old. If volunteer is under 18, they must be accompanied by a parent at all times

Location: Desert National Wildlife Refuge

Agency: USFWS

Volunteer Work Type: Restoration On this Day of Service, remove invasive plants! Invasive exotic plant species thwart the growth of healthy native habitat important for wildlife. Join a team of volunteers to hand-pull the invasive plants species at Corn Creek. There are several areas that will be addressed at this event. Individuals need to be in fairly good physical condition as weed-pulling requires the ability to bend, kneel, and get a little dirty. Plan to be outside in cool, sunny conditions with no shade – a hat and sunscreen are recommended. Adult-sized work gloves, water, snacks, and a good time will be provided.

[Click here to register](#)

• Volunteer Spotlight

2012 Award Winners On October 13, 2012 outstanding volunteers and volunteer supervisors were recognized and honored at the eighth annual Southern Nevada Interagency Volunteer Recognition Event. A big thank you to Southern Nevada Conservancy, Red Rock Canyon, Flightlinez Bootleg Canyon, Desert Adventures, Las Vegas Wranglers, The Resort on Mt. Charleston, and UNLV Compliance Office for the wonderful gifts and services they donated to our volunteers. Congratulations to this year's award winners and thank you!

Volunteer of the Year -
Sue and Roger Kolar
Lifetime Achievement Award –
Bill James

Supervisor of the Year -
Amanda Rowland

Volunteer Group of the Year -
SNAP Cultural Site Stewards

Sponsor of the Year -
Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Southern Nevada Program

• Upcoming Trainings



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

Snow Host Volunteer Orientation
Lend a hand this winter at Mt. Charleston!

Date: December 3, 2012

and December 18, 2012

Time: 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Location: REI Las Vegas- Boca Park

Audience: All Volunteers 18 years of age and older

If you enjoy helping others and having fun in the snow, the US Forest Service has a great volunteer opportunity for you. The US Forest Service is looking for volunteers to be Snow Hosts this winter in the Mt Charleston area of the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area. Every weekend in the winter, hundreds of people flock to the mountains to play in the snow. Many times they lack the knowledge of where to go, what they can do, and how to be safe. Snow play hosts provide roadside information about snow play opportunities, and take part in the fun while engaging visitors at snow play sites. Snow hosts will also help visitors have a fun snow play experience while reducing impacts to the forest environment.

Snow Host Volunteer Orientations will be held for interested volunteers to attend and learn more about the program. They will be held on Monday, December 3 at 7:00pm and Tuesday, December 18 at 7:00pm at REI in Boca Park on 710 S. Rampart Boulevard at 7:00pm. Information about the program will be presented and your questions will be answered. Interested volunteers need to attend one orientation.

For more details on this volunteer position, visit:

<http://gomtcharleston.com/volunteer.html>
Please contact Cody Dix at volunteer@gomtcharleston.com or 702.515.5408 for more info or to register.

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.](#)

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

Volunteer Accomplishment



MADD- Red Rock

October 27, 2012- Red Rock Canyon NCA- BLM

21 volunteers and 24 staff members and team leads accomplished many tasks. The volunteers completed a paver walkway, planted four mesquite trees,

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 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 – Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge

Time Commitment & Duration:- 6/4/2012 – 6/4/2013

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

Administrative Assistant -Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge

Time Commitment & Duration: 2/1/12 – 6/28/201.

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

Trail Rover / Interpreter – Desert National Wildlife Refuge

Time Commitment & Duration: 6/4/2012 – 6/4/2013, 3 – 5 hours per month

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

NPS

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.](#)

Field Trip Educator – Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Time Commitment & Duration: 10/1/12 – 4/30/13

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

Desert Princess floating Classroom Educator- Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Time Commitment & Duration: 10/1/12 – 5/15/13

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

Water Safety Educator in Schools – Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Time Commitment & Duration: 10/1/12 – 5/15/13

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

one Joshua tree was planted in front of the visitor center, a post and rail fence was placed in the desert landscape area of the lower level parking lot, and some tree pruning, and maintenance on the Moenkopi trail.

Make A Difference Day- Saltgrass Salvage

October 27, 2012- Desert NWR- FWS

19 Volunteers spent a lovely day in the outdoors. Many folks participated in feeding and creating the planting medium. Others worked diligently to salvage healthy salt grass. Including a couple youths, members of the GBI Nevada Conservation Corps and other local citizens, 19 volunteers donated 81 hours to amass 109 1-gallon pots and 12 2x3' trays of salt grass. This salt grass will be stored and nourished at the Lake Mead nursery until replanted at Corn Creek after the new Visitor's Center is constructed.

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

Lake Mead Native Plant Nursery – Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Time Commitment & Duration: 10/1/12 – 10/1/13

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

Hike Leader or Hike Assistants – Lake Mead National Recreation Area

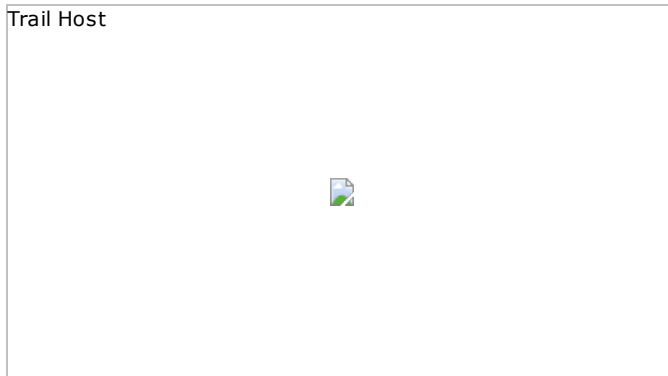
Time Commitment & Duration: 10/1/12 – 5/1/13

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

USFS

Snow Hosts Needed

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Conservation Project Spotlight

Lake Mead Native Plant Nursery Continues to Grow

Cooler temperatures make this an excellent time to volunteer at the Lake Mead Native Plant Nursery. Because of funding through the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) initiative, the newly renovated nursery complex includes a new office building with a refrigerated seed storage facility, work stations, and of course, the three greenhouses and plant beds. The nursery supplies native plants for Lake Mead and several federal and state lands, such as Red Rock, Ash Meadows, Valley of Fire and several other agencies when restoration efforts are needed. With the renovations of the new complex, the Native Plant Nursery staff will be relying more heavily on volunteers to assist with restoration projects on an interagency level. During the last several months, volunteer groups have helped out staff to get the nursery going. On "Make A Difference Day", Lake Mead held two events to encourage volunteers to make a difference. In the morning, volunteers dismantled a 40 foot by 10 foot plant bed and worked as a team and relocated over 50 potted plants. Once the plants were removed, they removed approximately 30 railroad ties weighing between 60 to 80 pounds each and up to eight feet in length. The railroad ties will be recycled and re-used for future plant bed projects done by volunteers. In the afternoon, for the second project, MGM Resorts, families and individuals removed weeds from the nursery grounds. These weeds sprouted due to the rains in September and are a major threat to the native plants in the nursery. In November, Eagle Scout M. Marin utilized his troop to complete his Eagle Scout Project. Eagle Scout M. Marin and his volunteers constructed three sifting racks for the nursery compost bins to be used to sift soil for the plant beds. He also organized over 30 youth to perform other duties around the nursery, such as, assemble 80 linear feet of new irrigation lines, clean native seeds for future projects, and rake leaves from the nursery grounds.

The nursery supervisor could not have accomplished these projects without the help of volunteers like these two groups; however, there is still a lot of work that needs to be done. The Lake Mead Native Plant Nursery has many opportunities for

volunteers to help out on a regular basis. Projects that need to be done regularly are watering plants, irrigation assembly, plant propagation, mixing soil, transplanting and seed cleaning. The nursery also needs volunteers to help with the Lake Mead Compost Program, part of a nationwide initiative to reduce waste in National Parks going into landfills.

If you have a few hours to spare, love to garden or want to learn how, you might consider volunteering at the Lake Mead Native Plant Nursery. Volunteers are asked to come in weekly or bi-weekly to assist with some of these duties. If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more about and helping with native plants, please call the Lake Mead NRA Volunteer Office at 702-293-8714.



Desert Ecosystem Spotlight

Peregrine Falcons at Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Very little is more intimidating than seeing a crow-sized bird dive from the sky at more than 200 miles per hour and then hearing the “thud” as it hits and catches its prey, a dove, in mid-flight. This “speeding bullet” is a peregrine falcon, the world’s fastest animal. Lake Mead National Recreation Area is an exciting place to be for those interested in experiencing this top species of avian conservation. These predators can be identified by their black head, blue-grey back and whitish breast with vertical black bars. The park represents an important regional breeding area and exhibits the proper conditions that allow the majority of these raptors to live year round amongst the cliffs enveloping Lake Mead, the Black Canyon, and Lake Mohave. If you visit these areas, you may be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of these swift predators dive bombing their avian prey at breakneck speeds. Lake Mead saw the falcon temporarily disappear from the skies when the species was pushed to near extinction during the 1950s, 60s, and early 70s, despite having the largest worldwide distribution of any species of bird by occupying every continent except Antarctica. The peregrine was listed as endangered in 1969 as a result of the widespread use of DDT and other organochlorine pesticides. In the United States, the species began to recover after DDT use was banned, and the first breeding pair of the falcons was re-discovered at Lake Mead in 1985. Since then, more and more peregrines have been documented living in Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and the species was successfully removed from the Endangered Species List in 1999. Peregrines have also been expanding throughout areas of Clark County, possibly as a result of the rapid growth of the peregrine population throughout Lake Mead National Recreation Area. The falcon continues to be considered a sensitive species by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Nevada.

Peregrines are an integral part of the ecosystem at Lake Mead National Recreation Area because they are a key identifier of environmental health. If peregrine health is threatened, it could mean that the problem persists all the way down the food chain. This is known as biomagnification, which is the amplification of a certain substance as it moves up a food chain. Monitoring peregrines is a means to track the health of an entire ecosystem where falcons are an umbrella species. Multiple organizations, including the National Park Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Nevada Department of Wildlife, UNLV, and the Public Lands Institute have performed monitoring within the park since the species began re-establishing territories. Monitoring occurs every 3 years and will continue until 2015. Because of this research, we know that there are more than 30 peregrine falcon territories scattered throughout Lake Mead National Recreation Area today. The next time you come visit Lake Mead National Recreation Area, keep your eyes open for these stealthy hunters of the sky!

Thank you again for supporting our public lands.

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