



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

Cache In - Trash Out

Date: Saturday, May 19

Time: 8:00 am – 1pm

Audience: All are welcome. Children must be under parental supervision

Location: Desert National Wildlife Refuge: Corn Creek Station

Agency: FWS

Volunteer Work Type: Clean-up

Come help clean up the treasure that is Desert National Wildlife Refuge. Cache In Trash Out is an ongoing environmental initiative supported by the worldwide geocaching community. Since 2002, geocachers around the world have been dedicated to preserving the natural beauty of our outdoor resources. But you don't have to be a geocacher to help with this event. Come mingle and learn about geocaching and help protect southern Nevada's natural resources at the same time. Trash pick-up ranges from small litter to large dump sites. Travel on rugged unpaved roads is required but worth it! Make sure your tires are in good condition; high clearance vehicles are recommended. Water and snacks will be provided; bring a lunch, gloves and grabbers if you have them.

Registration is closed for this event.

National Trails Day 2012

Date: Saturday, June 2

Time: 8:30 am - 3pm

Audience: Adults, Seniors, Groups, must be at least 12 years of age. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Location: Cliff Rose Trail – Kyle Canyon

Agency: U.S. Forest Service

Volunteer Work Type: Trail Work

Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Forest Service will celebrate National Trails Day by working on the Cliff Rose Trail in Kyle Canyon in the beautiful Spring Mountain NRA. Participants should wear pants and a long sleeve shirt and sturdy closed toe boots. They should

also bring sunscreen, snacks and water.

Registration is closed for this event.

Stewardship Saturday Cattail Cutting at Ash Meadows NWR

Date: Saturday, July 7

Volunteer Spotlight

interagency volunteers



Graffiti Team

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area is one of the most visited areas outside of Las Vegas with over one million annual visitors. These visitors come to Red Rock for many reasons. Most come to experience the wonders and beauty of the Mojave Desert. Unfortunately, some come to leave their mark on the land. This is not the same as leaving your mark in history. They scar the landscape with paint, markers, stickers or they scratch their message into the rocks or carve it into the trees.

Even though the messages may express their feeling for somebody, this is not the right gesture. The best gesture for these kinds of messages would be a card or some form of stationary that can be framed and hung on a wall for that person to enjoy daily.

But when people cannot control themselves and we find their messages in the conservation

Date: Saturday, July 7

Time: 8 am - 12pm

Audience: Must be at least 12 years old. If volunteer is under 18, the individuals must be accompanied by a parent.

Location: Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Volunteer Work Type: Restoration

Removing cattails is an important part of the restoration process as they slow stream flow and promote the existence of exotic crayfish.

These crayfish, among other exotic species, eat and compete with the endangered Ash Meadows Amargosa pupfish. Overgrown cattails and reeds will be cut along Crystal Springs outflow stream channel. Warning: you WILL get wet. Most places the water is knee-deep. However, in some places may be up to four feet deep.

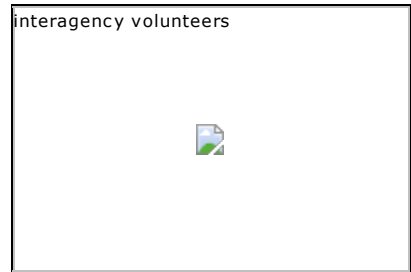
All participants should be comfortable swimming or wading in water. Though the water is warm, it will seem cool and refreshing in the summer heat. Bring a hat and water-proof sunscreen. It is recommended to bring shoes and clothes that can get wet and dirty, as well as a change of clothes for afterwards. Water, snacks, tools, and a good time will be provided for everyone!

[Click here to register](#)

area, we remove it. We are the Graffiti Team. At this point, the team is made up of three volunteers and one Ranger. Skip, Ed, and Dee have taken on the job of coming out once a week to hike into the surrounding canyons and trails to remove the graffiti that has been reported. The ultimate goal is to be able to respond to graffiti issues' within 24 hours of being reported. With more volunteers on the team we will get to that point.

If you would like to get involved, contact Ranger Jim Cribbs at: 702-515-5234 or jcribbs@blm.gov

● Upcoming Trainings



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)

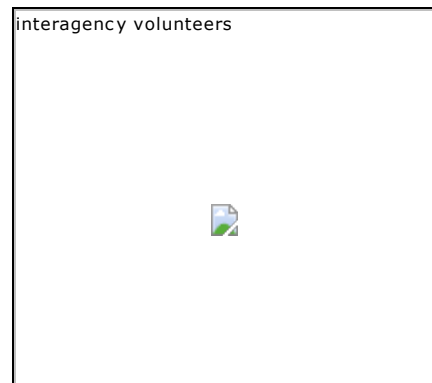
Time Commitment & Duration: 9/10/2011—9/30/2012

[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, occasionally weekends. This is an ongoing position.

👏 Volunteer Accomplishments



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

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.](#)

Resident Volunteer Couple - Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
Time Commitment & Duration:4/9/2012 – 5/19/2013; 3 month minimum commitment; RV pad and hook-up available.
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

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

Resident Volunteer Couple – Desert National Wildlife Refuge
Time Commitment & Duration: 1/2/2012 4/9/12 – 5/19/2013; RV pad and hook-up available.
[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 -Pahranaagat National Wildlife Refuge
Time Commitment & Duration: 2/1/12 – 6/28/201.
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

NPS

Water Safety Volunteer - Lake Mead National Recreation Area
Time Commitment & Duration: 3/5/2012–5/25/2012
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

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.](#)

From Road to Wild: Lovell Canyon Road Restoration

April 5, 2012- Lovell Canyon- USFS
On March 31st and April 5th a total of 23 volunteers helped the crew restore an old vehicle disturbance. Volunteers and crew restored 414 linear feet of old road bed by decompacting and installing vertical mulching. They also reinforced the rock barricade that prevents vehicles from entering wilderness. In addition 3 campfire rings were removed and 3 bags of trash hauled out.

Red Rock Days

April 14, 2012- Red Rock Canyon NCA- BLM
40 volunteers arrived and removed 1 mile of dangerous overgrowth from the Scenic Drive.

National Wildlife Week: Habitat Restoration Weed Pull

April 14, 2012- Desert NWR- USFWS
On a drizzly day perfect for removing invasive species on the Desert NWR, 28 volunteers led by FWS staff and SNAP SCAs enthusiastically cleared 2 species of intruding weeds from 2.23 acres of newly created wetland near Corn Creek Station Headquarters. The groups consisted of volunteers from Nevada Conservation Corps, Boy Scout Pack 132, Cub Scout Pack 204 and local citizens.
[Photos:](#)

Celebrate Earth Day

April 21 and 22, 2012- Lovell Canyon- USFS
What better way to celebrate Earth Day than to get boots on the ground and do some restoration work. That's what our southern Nevada crew did with the help of 6 volunteers over Earth Day weekend. On Saturday they worked in the La Madre Wilderness naturalizing an illegal road by decompacting and vertical mulching. The afternoon was spent in picking up nearly 500 pounds of trash that mostly consisted of glass, shell casings and long left targets. The next morning more restoration work was to be done on yet another illegal road. In all 872 feet of two-track road was actively restored not to mention the passively restored road that will return to nature on its own due to the lack of new trespass.
[Photos:](#)

Carp Rodeo

April 28, 2012- Pahranaagat NWR- USFWS

UJ1 WJ3

On an excellent day for fishing, Volunteers helped stage and staff the 2nd Annual Pahranaagat Carp Rodeo. Southern Nevada family anglers removed 47 carp from Upper Pahranaagat Lake. Volunteers included members of the Nevada Naturalists and local Alamo and Las Vegas citizens.

Great American Clean-Up

April 28, 2012- La Madre Area- BLM
62 volunteers removed 60 cubic yards of trash.

Joing Hands Seed Collection

May 5, 2012- Lake Mead NRA- NPS
Eight volunteers showed up to collect approximately three gallons of seeds near the Boulder Beach Picnic Area. Volunteers worked for 3 hours each using either a racket or their hands to collect seeds. Seeds were collected from brittlebush and the sweetbush. High winds made seed collection very difficult as the seeds would blow out of the containers.

South McCullough Trash Rodeo

May 5, 2012- South McCullough Wilderness- BLM
On Saturday May 5th a group of 23 hardworking volunteers from southern Nevada generously donated their Saturday to improve the wilderness character in the South McCullough Wilderness. By the end of the day the volunteers had picked over 85 cubic yards of trash not to mention 20 old tires that someone thoughtlessly dumped in the desert.

[Photos:](#)

Pick Up Nevada

May 6, 2012- Sunrise Manor- BLM
23 volunteers, including 5 Pick Up America artists
<http://pickupamerica.org/#/about/tour>, removed 40 cubic yards of trash and debris from Sunrise Manor.

Spring Cleaning 2012

May 12, 2012- Spring Mountains NRA- USFS
169 volunteers removed 2,230 pounds from Lee and Kyle Canyons and Deer Creek Hwy in the Spring Mountains NRA.

Conservation Spotlight



Conservation Project Spotlight

Mojave Max

Every year on February 2nd, the countries attention is directed towards a small hamlet in the hill country of Pennsylvania known as Punxsutawney. They go there to see and hear...

Here ye, Here ye, Here ye... Punxsutawney Phil, Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators, and Weather Prophet Extraordinary has definitely seen his shadow; thus dooming the northern hemisphere to another six weeks of winter. Which happens to be correct since the Spring Equinox is just six weeks away. So they bring out the groundhog just to let people know they have reached the halfway mark of winter.

But here in the west, we have Mojave Max. Max has been around since 1995 when he became the educational symbol of the Clark County Desert Conservation Program. Max has been educating people about native species, what they can do to protect their local environments, and how to safely enjoy nature in the Mojave Desert.

He has been hosting the annual Mojave Max Emergence Contest since 2000, and has become the Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators, and Weather Prophet Extraordinary for the west coast.

When Max emerges from his winter siesta, it is spring, no waiting, no passing go, and no shadows, it is spring! Max came out on 17 April 2012, at 12:41pm, ending the guessing game and producing the winner of the 2012 Mojave Max Emergence contest. A first grader from Nate Mackes Elementary school guessed 12:30 pm and won the contest.

The winner's class will be rewarded with a field trip, pizza party, Olympic-style medals and T-shirts May 10 at Red Rock National Conservation Area. The winner will also receive an outdoor adventure backpack, a digital camera, a year-long pass to federally managed fee areas and a laptop computer. The class teacher will receive a laptop computer as well.



Desert Ecosystem Spotlight

Why are the rocks red?

Why are the rocks red? That seems to be the question most people ask when they find the Information Desk at the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area's Visitor Center. This is a question that has

troubled the geological world from the origins of science. The answer is simple. The rocks are red due to the iron elements in the sandstone rusting and infusing the surrounding rock with its oxidized remains.

At this point we know the sand started to accumulate in the area, forming layers of sand over a period of time. The loose sand was removed by tectonic activity, wind, and rain. The exposed sandstone and the crosshatching in the sandstone, caused by the different layers of sand, created the dune. When it rains, the minerals leach down into the core, calcifying the sand. This combined with the pressure put on the core of the dune by the weight of the sand dune turns the core into sandstone.

We know how sandstone is formed and we know where the red comes from. We are still trying to nail down the reason for the specific patterns of color in the sandstone. Some say that it was different colored sands blown in vast periods of time that created the Calico Hills. Others believe that the sand was made up of the cream colored granules, forming the sand dune. Then over time the sand dune got wet and the iron elements in the sand rusted, which created the colored monoliths of sandstone we see today. The latest theory is just the opposite. The sand was originally red in color and water flowing through the sandstone is washing out the color and turning the sandstone the cream color that is visible today.

All of these theories are works in progress and may have viable points that will contribute to our knowledge of the area. The continuous learning process is what makes science so much fun.

Thank you again for supporting our public lands.