



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

Celebrate Earth Day in the Wild

Date: Saturday, April 21 and Sunday, April 22

Time: 8:00am – 3pm

Audience: All welcome, 18 and under must be accompanied by adults

Location: Mt. Charleston Wilderness

Agency: U.S. Forest Service

Volunteer Work Type: Road restoration, vertical mulching, raking and moving rocks

On day 1 we will be doing litter removal in the area. Day 2 we will be restoring a decommissioned road so that it blends into the natural environment. There are many different tasks to be done to accomplish this task. Beginners are welcomed. We will be having a BBQ Saturday and camping in the area. Come out for a day or weekend of fun, doing some good for local wildlife and helping keep Nevada wild! Participants should wear pants and a long sleeve shirt and sturdy closed toe shoes. They should also bring sunscreen, snacks and water.

Registration is closed for this event

Great American Clean Up

Date: Saturday, April 28

Time: 8:00am – 12pm

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

Location: La Madre Area

Agency: BLM

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. From the staging area to the area where we will actually be picking up trash will require that you walk approximately one mile. Please come prepared accordingly.

[Click here to register](#)

Volunteer Spotlight

interagency volunteers



University of Virginia

Spring Break can be a time to get catch up on the homework, term papers or begin cramming for those exams. Although, it can also be a time to put school work aside and just have fun. A group of 11 students from the University of Virginia did something a little different for their spring break. They decided to take a trip out west and volunteer for three different National Parks – Death Valley National Park, Zion National Park and Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

After landing at McCarran International Airport, the University of Virginia students didn't come to Las Vegas to be a tourist or to even gamble. They headed away from the Strip and traveled to the town of Pahrump, Nevada where they gathered six shopping carts full of supplies into their 15 passenger van. Then off to Death Valley National Park where they would set up camp and watch a majestic sunset of different hues

Carp Rodeo at Pahrnagat Lake

Date: Saturday, April 28

Time: 8am – 1pm

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

Location: Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Volunteer Work Type: Logistical

Come assist local families get oriented and have a good time. The first Carp Rodeo held in June 2010 at Pahrnagat NWR was a resounding success as it was attended by more than 300 people. This year temperatures promises to be more comfortable. Attendees originated from all over southern Nevada, even a few from other states and other countries came to participate. We're aiming for a smaller crowd this year, but volunteer logistical help is needed in a variety of assignments. And it is planned that assignments will rotate among volunteers so they won't be stuck doing one thing all morning. Positions include Greeters, Information Booth Attendants, Fishing Mentors, Food Services Assistants, and Roustabouts for set up, take down and end of event clean up. If you're an angler, or just like being useful, we can use your help! Plan to be outside in comfortable, but sunny conditions with no shade - a hat and sunscreen are recommended. Water, snacks, lunch and a good time will be provided!

[Click here to register](#)

WASP Seed Collection

Date: Saturday, April 28

Time: 8:30 am – 11am

Audience: 10 and up. Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and must have a signed Lake Mead Parental Consent form.

Location: Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Agency: National Park Service

Volunteer Work Type: Clean-up

Come enjoy a day at the lake while helping the Lake Mead Nursery collect native seeds around the park! We'll use a variety of methods to collect seeds from plants that are in seeding phase – hand picking, rackets, and buckets. The seeds will be used in projects around the park to replant disturbed areas, and to help ensure that native plants establish themselves before invasive species move in. Be part of this important project and become a Nevada native plant steward. Register by contacting Chris Pietrafeso at 702-293-8711, or christopher.pietrafeso@nps.gov.

Joining Hands Day Seed Collection

Date: Saturday, May 5

Time: 8:30 am – 11am

Audience: 10 and up. Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and must have a signed Lake Mead Parental Consent form.

Location: Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Agency: National Park Service

Volunteer Work Type: Clean-up

Come enjoy a day at the lake while helping the Lake Mead Nursery collect native seeds around the park! We'll use a variety of methods

across the desert sky.

The group worked together to remove illegal off-road vehicle tracks and removed litter from sensitive areas of the park. In addition to the work accomplished, they visited some unique places in the park like Artist's Palette, Dante's View, Badwater Basin, and Golden Canyon. Their stay ended abruptly when a huge storm came through the area and they decided to head to Zion National Park. With tents no longer a safe option and a traveling on a low budget, they stayed in one hotel room in Mesquite, Nevada.

The weather was chilly, but beautiful the next morning as they entered Zion National Park. Though the group did not perform any service, they hiked Angel's Landing, Emerald Pools, Scout's Lookout and the Grotto during their stay. This part of their trip was more educational rather than service based. After two days, it was time to head to their final destination, Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

They arrived late into the evening and camped at the Boulder Beach Campground. In the morning, the University of Virginia students went to the Las Vegas Boat Harbor where they were welcomed to Lake Mead and thanked for their dedication. The group embarked on the OZ boat, a voyage that would take them to a distant cove to pick up litter and enjoy the scenery of Lake Mead. A certified volunteer boat operator, Scott Meyer, said that they "picked up more trash than any group this season." They removed well over 300 pounds of trash from the shoreline, a record for this spring on OZ. After their hard work, they took a hike on the Historic Railroad Tunnel trail to enjoy the beautiful overlooks of Lake Mead.

The group said that they enjoyed their overall experience. In addition to enjoying and appreciating our public lands, Robertson said "The park rangers were really enthusiastic and wanted us to see as much of the parks as possible." Along with Death Valley and Zion National Parks, she said "Lake Mead really added to our overall awesome experience! Definitely something I will look back on fondly after graduation in May."

to collect seeds from plants that are in seeding phase – hand picking, rackets, and buckets. The seeds will be used in projects around the park to replant disturbed areas, and to help ensure that native plants establish themselves before invasive species move in. Be part of this important project and become a Nevada native plant steward. Register by contacting Chris Pietrafeso at 702-293-8711, or christopher_pietrafeso@nps.gov.

South McCullough Trash Rodeo

Date: Saturday, May 5

Time: 9 am – 3 pm

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

Location: McClanahan Well in South McCullough Wilderness

Agency: Bureau of Land Management

Volunteer Work Type: Clean-up

Come join us in picking up trash including used shotgun shell cases, bags, cans, and other miscellaneous trash. We will be working near a historic corral just outside South McCullough Wilderness. All volunteers must be pre registered with Get Outdoor Nevada. If registering a family member please have them register or contact Jose Witt at 702-203-1720.

[Click here to register](#)

Pick Up Nevada

Date: Saturday, May 6

Time: 8 am – 1 pm

Audience: All welcome, 18 and under must be accompanied by adults

Location: Lake Mead Blvd and Los Feliz: Sunrise Manor

Agency: Bureau of Land Management

Volunteer Work Type: Clean-up

Join [Pick Up America](#), in preserving the environment and promoting a zero waste lifestyle. Pick up America has been traveling on their vegetable oil powered bus for nearly 300 days picking up over 150,000 pounds of trash between the coast of Maryland and Utah since March 2010! The nonprofit organization has already walked 2,300 miles. They will be to Las Vegas shortly. They only have 5 more months until arriving at the San Francisco Bay! Join this crew for a clean-up from 8 am to 11:30 am and then gather around at Shadow Rock Park for a potluck and hear stories of their journey. You do not want to miss out on this adventure.

[Click here to register](#)

Spring Cleaning 2012

Date: Saturday, May 12

Time: 10 am – 3 pm

Audience: Adults, Seniors, Groups, must be at least 5 years of age. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Location: Lee Meadow

Agency: U.S. Forest Service

Volunteer Work Type: Clean-up

Litter clean-up events through Get Outdoors Nevada are a great way to get exercise and make new friends, while promoting a healthy environment for residents of Southern Nevada. Uncover the unique beauty of Mt. Charleston and its canyons by removing the trash that's accumulated this winter. A lunch for the Spring Cleaning volunteers immediately follows the litter pick up.

[Click here to register](#)

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.](#)

First Aid/CPR Training

Saturday, May, 19th

9 AM – 1 PM

Audience: all volunteers

Location: Lake Mead

[Register for this training](#)

[Click here for more information](#)

TBar Campground Irrigation**Date:** Saturday, May 12**Time:** 9:00 am – 1pm**Audience:** 12 and up. Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and must have a signed Lake Mead Parental Consent form.**Location:** Temple Bar Campground**Agency:** National Park Service**Volunteer Work Type:** Restoration

Come help staff restore water to Temple Bar's campground, so vegetation can get watered during the summer. Lake Mead is looking for volunteers, 12 and older, to relocate sprinklers closer to the vegetation. If you do not mind getting dirty and possibly wet, come help connect PVC pipe extenders to the existing watering system. You will need to be able to bend over to connect small pipes and tubes, possibly kneel, and dig small trenches for short periods of time. The weather should be warm and beautiful for this event, so come on out bring your lunch and enjoy the day at Temple Bar. All tools will be provided. Sign up today and help keep this campground beautiful! For more information about volunteering and to register, please contact Chris Pietrafeso at 702-293-8711 or christopher_pietrafeso@nps.gov.

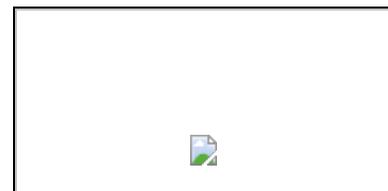
Cache In - Trash Out**Date:** Saturday, May 19**Time:** 8:00 am – 1pm**Audience:** All are welcome. Children must be under parental supervision**Location:** Desert National Wildlife Refuge: Corn Creek Station**Agency:** FWS**Volunteer Work Type:** Clean-up

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.

[Click here 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.](#)

 **Volunteer Accomplishments**

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

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 - Pahrnagat 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 -Pahrnagat 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.](#)

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

Shine the Silver State

March 31, 2012- South Hollywood and Vegas- BLM
78 volunteers removed 56 cubic yards of trash.

From Road to Wild: Lovell Canyon Road Restoration

March 31, 2012- Lovell Canyon-USFS
13 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. The event lasted 8 hours which included driving time.

Pahrnagat Planting

March 31, 2012- Pahrnagat NWR-USFWS
Sunny skies and a light spring breeze above Upper Lake at Pahrnagat NWR embraced 18 active conservation minded souls who gathered in the effort to help expand habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher. Members of the Wildlife and Habitat in Nevada non-profit were joined by employees of a Las Vegas Starbucks and a couple unaffiliated local Alamo and Las Vegas citizens to plant over 550 native species. These plants included 10-gallon ash trees, and 1-gallon willow, woods rose, horsetail, stream orchid and spikerush.

Cactus Garden Volunteer - Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Time Commitment & Duration: 3/5/2012--3/5/2013

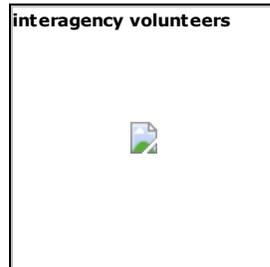
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

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



Snow Hosts

Would you like to help others have a fun snow play experience at Mt Charleston this winter?

- Promote fun and safe snow play practices
- Provide an appreciated service to the public
- Enjoy the beautiful snow covered mountains
- Earn volunteer service hours

For more information call 702.839.5566 or visit www.GoMtCharleston.com

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](#)



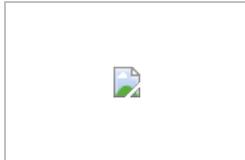
Conservation Project Spotlight

Save the Desert Eco-Walk

The sun slowly rose in the sky and reflected off the water at Cottonwood Cove as volunteers began to gather for the 7th Save the Desert Eco-Walk, a perfect volunteer day on Lake Mohave. Cottonwood Cove Marina, a Forever Resorts property, and the National Park Service co-sponsored the litter removal event on March 10, 2012. Once the volunteers signed in, they were treated to coffee and a continental breakfast while they waited for the event to start. One hundred and twenty-eight volunteers and twenty employees from Forever Resort and Lake Mead were ready to tackle the main roadway, beaches and shoreline. Volunteers received a warm welcome and a safety briefing from marina staff and NPS staff about the day and the project.

Armed with trash pickers, trash bags, buckets for glass, and safety vests, volunteers were divided into smaller groups to tackle a specific area. The marina provided a van to transport volunteers to different locations along the roadside. An hour into the clean-up, Park and marina staff began transporting litter volunteers gathered to be disposed in the large dumpster. Besides everyday trash left behind by our

visitors, volunteers also picked up abandoned tires, pieces of sheet metal and lots of plastic bags caught in the vegetation. Over 30 cubic yards of trash in 5 hours was picked up by the dedicated volunteers. In return, Forever Resorts hosted a BBQ of hamburgers and hotdogs for the volunteers and everyone received an Easter egg that had a prize inside.



Desert Ecosystem Spotlight

Oh my, what was that?

It was a typical day of hiking with friends at Lake Mead. Out of nowhere, we were attacked by a miniature helicopter, no more than 3 ½ inches in height, buzzed right by our heads! It looped around again, and then stopped right in front of us. Wow, what a sight! We clearly could see its bright purple head and long black beak. This little wonder, stayed there, hovering for a few seconds, checking us out, before it moved on. As it buzzed off, it made a loud sound that took my friends and me by surprise and we turned to look as it flew off. We all acknowledged that this little bird, a Costa's Hummingbird, resembled in all ways a minute helicopter. Upon our encounter with this small, marvelous creature, I decided to explore the wonderful adaptations of hummingbirds.

I was fascinated by how they fly and hover. Hummingbirds in general, not just Costa's, are the only bird capable of 'true' hovering. Their wings beat 1200 - 4800 times per minute (20-80 times per second), in comparison, the human heart beats 60-80 times per minute! Wow, that's fast! Because they can beat their wings so quickly, they actually hover for a long time. There are other birds that can hover for a few seconds, such as, kingfishers, American kestrels, and terns, but the hummingbird can hover for much longer periods of time.

These petite birds, the Costa's Hummingbird, inhabit the western United States to northwest Mexico. They inhabit the desert environment year round with very little migration to warmer climates in the winter. They feed on nectar from flowers and eat small insects. They obtain enough water from their food sources so that they don't need to drink water. Another wonderful adaptation for living in the desert! The Costa's main habitats are the Sonoran desert and the Mohave Desert. This makes watching these small wonders accessible to many living in the Las Vegas Valley easier; however, with the threat of development, the Costas Hummingbird natural nesting grounds are being threatened.

Costa's build teeny tiny nests in plants at least 3 feet off the ground and has a natural "V" shape branches to hold their home made of plant down, spider silk, and twigs that can hold two small, white ½ inch eggs. The female does the incubating of the eggs while the male goes off to find another mate. Once her eggs are laid in the spring, she does not travel far to find food for herself or her brood. She sits on the eggs for 15-18 days and then takes care of her young for another 20 -23 days before her young are off to explore our Valley.

After my research on this small, beautiful marvel, I wondered what I can do to help keep this creature in my corner of the Mohave Desert. Many people set up a hummingbird feeder in backyards, so these birds can stop by for a visit and a meal. I was cautioned in my reading that not all hummingbird foods, whether homemade or store bought, are good for them. The best way to keep this miniature helicopter close to home is to plant native flower in our backyards for them to feed on or to preserve the native habitat of our public lands so these little creatures can survive without human interference. Next time you are hiking at one of the public lands and you are buzzed by a very small creature, it might not be a bug, but a Costa's hummingbird.

Thank you again for supporting our public lands.