

Friends of Nevada Wilderness

Mission Statement

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is dedicated to preserving all qualified Nevada public lands as wilderness, protecting all present and potential wilderness from ongoing threats, educating the public about the values of — and need for — wilderness, and improving the management and restoration of public wild lands.

We achieve this mission by concentrating on the following goals:

Public Education. Friends of Nevada Wilderness educates the public about the benefits of, and need to protect, wilderness in Nevada through our slide shows, Web site, brochures, newsletters, meetings, and visits with citizens and decision makers around Nevada and the country. Our staff and volunteers reach out to a broad spectrum of those who have an interest in public lands, including hikers, wildlife advocates, sportsmen, ranchers, Native Americans, business leaders and off-road vehicle enthusiasts.

Legislative Designation of Wilderness. Friends of Nevada Wilderness cooperates with land management agency officials, interested members of the public, and other Nevada Wilderness Coalition groups to develop wilderness proposals for qualified areas in Nevada. All proposals meet the criteria for wilderness set forth in the Wilderness Act. When legislation is active or pending, we work with the Nevada Congressional Delegation and other stakeholders to provide accurate information and advocate for the most effective wilderness designation possible.

Agency Monitoring. Through personal contact and by responding to official notices of proposed action, Friends of Nevada Wilderness works to build strong relationships with land management agencies to help them manage wilderness areas, wilderness study areas and wilderness-quality lands according to the Wilderness Act and other supporting legislation and regulations. We hold agencies accountable for illegal or unauthorized activities in designated wilderness and WSAs, helping them when we can and challenging them when we must.

Volunteer Monitoring and Restoration. Friends of Nevada Wilderness organizes volunteer restoration trips to help wild landscapes recover from noxious weeds, illegal vehicle use and other impacts, because official designations do not guarantee on-the-ground protection. Our volunteers also “adopt” areas to monitor their condition and advocate for their protection. By helping citizens actively restore wild lands, we help build in them a greater sense of responsibility and stewardship.

EXHIBIT G Treasures

Document consists of 10 pages.



Entire document provided.



A copy of the complete document is available through the Research Library (775/684-6827) or e-mail library@lcb.state.nv.us.

Meeting Date: 11/07/05

Nevada Wilderness in a nutshell

Friends of Nevada Wilderness

November 7, 2005

Nevada has more public land by percentage than any other state, and most of it is undeveloped. Nevada also has more mountain ranges than any other state (at least 314). The abundance of elevations and microclimates here provides habitat for myriad species of wildlife — Nevada is the fifth-most biodiverse state in the Union (i.e., it has more species than 45 other states).

Currently, only 4 percent of Nevada is designated as wilderness (56 wilderness areas, for a total of 2.8 million acres), ranking it among the bottom half of Western states in terms of designated wilderness (California leads with 15 percent; Utah trails with 1.5 percent).

Wilderness areas provide essential and valuable services to Nevada's communities:

- Watershed integrity and water purification;
- Erosion and dust control;
- Maintenance of biological and genetic diversity;
- Resource storehouse for food, textiles, biomedical research, etc.
 - Blood thinners in rattlesnake venom are being studied as treatments for cardiovascular disease; proteins in gila monster venom are being studied as treatments for diabetes;
- Natural pest and disease control by insects, birds, bats and other organisms;
- Maintenance of migration and nursery habitats for wildlife
- Beautiful views, open space and outdoor recreational opportunities for visitors and residents alike
 - Quality of life and outdoor recreation is also listed as major reason why companies relocate to Nevada (xxx, xxx)
 - Hunters in Nevada bring tens of millions of dollars to rural economy each year (Associated Press, June 6, 2005)

In short, wilderness conservation is an investment in the future prosperity, health and quality of life for Nevada's communities.

Nevada has both extraordinary opportunities and overwhelming challenges to protecting landscapes through wilderness designation.

Designated and potential wilderness areas alike are threatened by Nevada's tremendous population growth. Since 1987, Nevada has been the fastest-growing state in the Union (with the Las Vegas metropolitan area leading the pack). Each weekend, ever-increasing numbers of Nevadans (and Californians, Utahns and...) set out to explore Nevada's wide open on an unknown number of unregulated motorcycles, quads and other off-road vehicles. Growing development in Nevada's metropolitan areas also destroys open space and wildlife habitat. "Urban interface" impacts spreads litter, vehicle use and other impacts deeper into wild areas on the periphery of .

Luckily, Nevada's bipartisan Congressional delegation is working to address wilderness designation by addressing the issue in omnibus public lands bills on a county-by-county basis. In 2002, the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act designated 17 new wilderness areas and expanded the existing Mt. Charleston wilderness, for a total of 452,000 acres. On November 17, 2004, Congress passed the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act designated 14 new wilderness areas, for a total of 768,294 acres — the largest designation of Nevada wilderness ever by a single bill. The delegation has pledged to address wilderness in every county in the state. As of late 2005, White Pine and Pershing counties appear to be the next recipients of wilderness designations, with Lyon, Nye, Washoe, Elko, and Humboldt counties also working toward possible legislation.

The Nevada Wilderness Coalition (comprising Friends of Nevada Wilderness, the Nevada Wilderness Project, the Wilderness Society, the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association, Red Rock Audubon and the Campaign for America's Wilderness) are committed to working with the Congressional delegation and local stakeholders (county commissions, ranchers, sportsmen, off-road vehicle enthusiasts and other concerned citizens) to provide reasonable and fair wilderness proposals for each of these counties, so we can ensure quality watersheds, wildlife, hunting, recreation, and beauty for current and future generations.

For more information, or to help protect wild Nevada, contact Friends of Nevada Wilderness at (775) 324-7667; www.nevadawilderness.org

Nevada's Protected Wild Places

Nevada Wilderness designated in the Wilderness Act of 1964 – signed into law On September 3, 1964

Jarbidge Wilderness	64,667 acres	USFS
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Nevada Wilderness designed in the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1989 – signed into law on December 5, 1989

Alta Toquima Wilderness	38,000 acres	USFS
Arc Dome Wilderness	115,000 acres	USFS
Boundary Peak Wilderness	10,000 acres	USFS
Currant Mountain Wilderness	36,000 acres	USFS
East Humboldt Wilderness	36,900 acres	USFS
Jarbidge Wilderness Additions	48,500 acres	USFS
Mount Rose Wilderness	28,000 acres	USFS
Quinn Canyon Wilderness	27,000 acres	USFS
Ruby Mountain Wilderness	90,000 acres	USFS
Mount Charleston Wilderness	43,000 acres	USFS
Table Mountain Wilderness	98,000 acres	USFS
Grant Range Wilderness	50,000 acres	USFS
Mount Moriah Wilderness	82,000 acres	USFS/BLM
Santa Rosa Wilderness	31,000 acres	USFS

Total acres in Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1989 = 733,400

Nevada Wilderness designated in the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 — signed into law on
October 31, 1994

Death Valley Triangle	44,000 acres	NPS
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Nevada Wilderness designed in the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area Act of 2000 – signed into law
December 21, 2000

Black Rock Desert Wilderness	314,829 acres	BLM
Pahute Peak Wilderness	56,890 acres	BLM
North Black Rock Range Wilderness	30,646 acres	BLM
East Fork High Rock Canyon Wilderness	52,616 acres	BLM
High Rock Lake Wilderness	59,093 acres	BLM
Little High Rock Canyon Wilderness	48,353 acres	BLM
High Rock Canyon Wilderness	46,463 acres	BLM
Calico Mountains Wilderness	64,983 acres	BLM
South Jackson Mountains Wilderness	54,534 acres	BLM
North Jackson Mountains Wilderness	23,437 acres	BLM

Total acres in Black Rock bill = 751,844

Nevada Wilderness designated in Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources

Act of 2002 – signed into law on November 6, 2002

North McCullough Wilderness	14,763 acres	BLM
South McCullough Wilderness	44,245 acres	BLM
Wee Thump-Joshua Tree Wilderness	6,050 acres	BLM
El Dorado Wilderness	31,950 acres	NPS/BLM
Ireteba Peaks Wilderness	32,745 acres	NPS/BLM
Jimbilnan Wilderness	18,879 acres	NPS
Nellis Wash Wilderness	16,423 acres	NPS
Spirit Mountain Wilderness	33,518 acres	NPS/BLM
Arrow Canyon Wilderness	27,530 acres	BLM
Bridge Canyon Wilderness	7,761 acres	NPS
Black Canyon Wilderness	17,220 acres	NPS/BLM
Pinto Valley Wilderness	39,173 acres	NPS
Muddy Mountains Wilderness	48,019 acres	BLM/NPS
Rainbow Mountain Wilderness	24,997 acres	USFS/BLM
Lime Canyon Wilderness	23,233 acres	BLM
Jumbo Springs Wilderness	4,631 acres	BLM
Mt. Charleston Additions	13,598 acres	USFS/BLM
La Madre Mountain Wilderness	47,180 acres	USFS/BLM

Total acres in Clark County bill = 451,915

Nevada Wilderness designed in the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act,
passed by Congress on November 16, 2004

(Pending Presidential approval)

Mormon Mountains Wilderness	157,938 acres	BLM
Meadow valley Range Wilderness	123,488 acres	BLM
Delamar Mountains Wilderness	111,328 acres	BLM
Clover Mountains Wilderness	85,748 acres	BLM
South Pahroc Range Wilderness	25,800 acres	BLM
Worthington Mountains Wilderness	30,664 acres	BLM
Weepah Spring Wilderness	51,480 acres	BLM
Parsnip Peak Wilderness	43,693 acres	BLM
White Rock Range Wilderness	24,413 acres	BLM
Fortification Range Wilderness	30,656 acres	BLM

Far South Egans Wilderness	36,384 acres	BLM
Tunnel Spring Wilderness	5,371 acres	BLM
Big Rocks Wilderness	12,997 acres	BLM
Mt. Irish Wilderness	<u>28,334 acres</u>	BLM

Total acres in Lincoln County bill = 768,294 acres

Total acres of Wilderness in Nevada: 2.8 million

Frequently Asked Questions about Wilderness

What Is Wilderness?

The National Wilderness Preservation System was created in 1964 by Congress to protect natural areas for both humans and wildlife. According to the Wilderness Act, Wilderness: Generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable; Has outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation; Has at least 5,000 acres or is of sufficient size as to make practical its preservation use; May also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value. The Wilderness Act requires that all Wilderness areas be "administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such a manner as will leave unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as Wilderness."

What is a Wilderness Study Area?

A Wilderness Study Area is an area designated by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as having wilderness characteristics, thus making it worthy of consideration by Congress for wilderness designation. While Congress considers whether to designate a Wilderness Study Area as a National Wilderness Area, the BLM manages the Wilderness Study Area in a manner as to prevent impairment of the area's suitability for wilderness designation.

The role of BLM in wilderness management was initiated in 1976 when Congress passed the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). Section 603 of FLPMA required the BLM to conduct a Wilderness Inventory to review and identify the areas having wilderness characteristics, as defined in the Wilderness Act of 1964. Inventories began in the late 1970s and were finalized in December 1980. In the 1980's, the Wilderness Environmental Impact Statements were prepared for the Caliente, Schell and Egan Resource Areas. The Wilderness recommendations were reported to Congress and the President in 1991, adhering to the 15-year deadline prescribed by FLPMA.

Until Congress decides to act on the identified areas, they will be managed "...so as not to impair the suitability of such areas for preservation as Wilderness..." (FLPMA, Sec. 603(c)). Wilderness Study Areas will be managed by the BLM under the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review (BLM Manual H-8550-1) until such time that Congress makes a decision on the lands status of the identified areas. This management policy helps to ensure that wilderness characteristics within Wilderness Study Areas will not be damaged before Congress has an opportunity to decide whether they will be designated wilderness.

The BLM Ely Field Office has 25 Wilderness Study Areas (WSA), totaling 1.2 million acres. The BLM also manages a 6,435-acre portion of the designated Mt. Moriah Wilderness Area (WA).

When does a Wilderness Study Area become a Wilderness Area?

Congress determines when a Wilderness Study Area becomes a Wilderness Area.

Who designates Wilderness?

Only Congress can designate Wilderness Areas, but citizen-lead inventories and proposals have often been the catalyst for protecting wild places. This occurred in 2002 in Southern Nevada, when Congress designated the Wee Thump Joshua Tree Wilderness, which had never been a Wilderness Study Area. It's Wilderness designation was largely the result of inventory work and proposal by the Nevada Wilderness Coalition.

It also requires an act of Congress to turn a Wilderness Study Area into a Wilderness Area, or drop it from wilderness consideration. In rare occasions, Congress may determine that a Wilderness Study Area remain as is for further congressional study. Until Congress makes a determination, the BLM manages the Wilderness Study Area to ensure that its wilderness values are not lost.

What are the values of Wilderness?

Wilderness provides many values and services, including the following:

- Watershed integrity and water purification;
- Erosion and dust control;
- Protection of archaeological relics
 - By limiting vehicle access, wilderness protects sensitive archaeological sites from vandalism and theft;
- Maintenance of biological and genetic diversity;
- Resource storehouse for food, textiles, biomedical research, etc.
 - Blood thinners in rattlesnake venom are being studied as treatments for cardiovascular disease; proteins in gila monster venom are being studied as treatments for diabetes;
- Natural pest and disease control by insects, birds, bats and other organisms;
- Maintenance of migration and nursery habitats for wildlife;
- Beautiful views, open space and outdoor recreational opportunities for visitors and residents alike
 - Quality of life and outdoor recreation listed as major reason why companies relocate to Nevada (xxx, xxx)
 - Hunters in Nevada bring tens of millions of dollars to rural economy each year (Associated Press, June 6, 2005);

What activities are permitted in Wilderness?

Wilderness provides for a myriad of human activities and uses, including: hunting, fishing, rafting, canoeing and kayaking, snowshoeing and cross country skiing, hiking and horsepacking, camping, and rock climbing. Wilderness also provides opportunities for wildlife viewing and scientific research. Livestock grazing and mining are permitted where allotments and leases existed prior to Wilderness designation.

Those activities which are not permitted in designated Wilderness areas include: new road construction, new reservoirs, powerlines or other development, logging, mining and oil and gas drilling. Other motorized and mechanized travel or equipment such as off-road vehicles are not permitted in Wilderness areas.

What does the Wilderness Act say about livestock grazing?

The Wilderness Act of 1964 - the law that created the National Wilderness Preservation System and provides for the designation of Wilderness areas on public land - specifically allows livestock grazing to occur in federally designated Wilderness areas.

Section 4(d)4(2) of the Wilderness Act states:

"The grazing of livestock, where established prior to the effective date of this Act, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture."

In addition, all rangeland developments in wilderness (spring boxes, pipelines, fencelines, etc.) may be maintained and repaired, but no new developments will be allowed.

Is hunting allowed in Wilderness?

The Wilderness Act of 1964 does not mention hunting, but it provides broad guidelines about appropriate uses within wilderness areas. Specific rules and regulations about hunting are made by the managing agencies and generally follow their congressional mandate.

In Nevada, hunting is allowed in all Wilderness Areas. In the rest of the country, hunting is allowed in about half of all Wilderness Areas. Nearly all wilderness areas managed by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (over 550 areas) allow hunting. Wilderness areas managed by the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service generally do not.

What is the difference between a National Park and a Wilderness Area?

Both national parks and wilderness areas are created through Congressional designation. Lands in the national park system are administered by the National Park Service. Wilderness areas are managed by one of 4 agencies: Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, or the National Park Service.

In the National Park Service Organic Act of 1916, Congress created the National Park Service and directed them to “promote and regulate the use ... by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose ... which is ... to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

The National Wilderness Preservation System was created by Congress by the Wilderness Act of 1964. Wilderness areas are generally designated on lands that are currently managed by one of the 4 federal agencies. Wilderness designation is therefore an additional overlay of prescriptive management direction, declared by the Wilderness Act “to be within and supplemental to the purposes for which ... units of the national park ... system are established and administered ... Further, the designation of any park, monument, or other unit of the national park system as a wilderness area pursuant to this Act shall in no manner lower the standards evolved for the use and preservation.”

Wilderness areas are to be “devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use.” Congress directed that wilderness areas “shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness.”

Since the first draft of the Wilderness Act in the mid-1950s, some in the National Park Service have argued that the management prescription contained in the Wilderness Act was essentially the same as the National Park Service Organic Act, and therefore it would be unnecessary and redundant to designate wilderness areas on National Park Service lands. Congress emphatically disagreed with this view, and mandated inclusion of National Park Service. Testimony from Senator Frank Church during the Wilderness Act hearings encapsulates the concerns of Congress: “I can appreciate the interest of any agency in not surrendering their full administrative discretion over such areas...but that is what the Wilderness Act mandates the National Park Service to do.... We in the Congress recognized the pressures that would face the national parks and provided, in the Wilderness Act, the statutory basis for strengthening the protective hand of the National Park Service.”

The fundamental effect of the Wilderness Act was to change the process of designating wilderness areas from one of local administrative discretion to Congressional designation with mandated public involvement. In fact, the Wilderness Act was the first federal land use law that mandates public

involvement, predating NEPA by 5 years. Thus, the Wilderness overlay on national park lands (and other federal lands so designated) ensures an area's permanent management as wilderness. The local land manager is constrained by the provisions of the Act, and only Congress (acting on the will of the people) can deauthorize wilderness designation that would allow subsequent development.

November 1, 2005

Senator Dina Titus
Nevada Legislature
401 S. Carson Street
Room 2160
Carson City, NV 89701



Dear Senator Titus,

I am writing to thank you for your vision and leadership in Nevada's legislature. Also, thank you for inviting Friends of Nevada Wilderness to give a presentation to the Interim Study on the Protection of Natural Treasures. As a small token of appreciation, please find enclosed a copy of our 2006 Wild Nevada Calendar. May it help you enjoy Nevada's wild beauty every day of 2006.

Because the calendar makes a wonderful gift for the holidays, I have also included several order forms to help you and others in your office get holiday shopping out of the way quickly and easily.

We at Friends of Nevada Wilderness look forward to working with you in the future to keep Nevada wild!

If there is anything we can do to provide you with any additional information, please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Brian Beffort
Conservation Director

Celebrating 20 years of protecting Nevada's wild lands — 2004 — Celebrating 40 years since passage of the Wilderness Act

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