

BLM News

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CHUCK WORLEY OF YERINGTON TO BE HONORED WITH VOLUNTEER AWARD

Chuck Worley of Yerington, Nev., has been chosen as one of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) national volunteer award winners. The national "Making a Difference" volunteer awards will be presented May 11, 2006, at a special ceremony at the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C. Chuck is one of eight winners around the United States chosen for his outstanding volunteer service to BLM. BLM Nevada's Associate State Director Amy Lueders of Reno will be on hand for the ceremony.

Worley, chairman of the Friends of Wilson Canyon, has dedicated his time for the last three years to help BLM with public land stewardship and the protection of recreation access to public lands. Worley established the Friends of Wilson Canyon in 2003, and has been an active member since. The Wilson Canyon Recreation Area is located on public land adjacent to the West Walker River and Highway 208 near Yerington.

"Prior to the creation of the Friends of Wilson Canyon organization, the BLM was unable to provide a consistently strong level of recreation management to the site due to its distance and location from our personnel," stated BLM Nevada State Director Ron Wenker. Worley, along with the Friends of Wilson Canyon, have contributed more than 800 hours of volunteer labor, and \$12,000 worth of materials, tools and heavy equipment to install Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) management barriers and informational signage in Wilson Canyon.

Worley initiated on-site awareness meetings with the U.S. Forest Service, BLM, Lyon County and local residents to avoid protective land closures. He then initiated volunteer action to work towards preserving and protecting the natural resources and public land recreation opportunities by organizing clean-ups, applying for and being awarded Recreation Trails Grants and participating in the development of long-term management of the area.

Worley also created and maintains the Friends of Wilson Canyon website which helps keep the public informed and teaches proper land use ethics and OHV responsibility.

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CHUCK WORLEY --- HONORED WITH VOLUNTEER AWARD – 2222

A national panel of BLM and partner representatives selected the award winners. The winners were chosen for their exceptional contributions to conservation and management of the public lands. Thousands of volunteers make significant contributions on America's 261 million acres of public lands each year, performing numerous functions in every aspect of public land management.

The BLM's "Making a Difference" national awards program supports the President's call for increased service to America and is part of the "Take Pride in America" initiative.

Information about volunteering to work with the BLM in Nevada is available from Debra Kolkman, BLM Nevada State Volunteer Coordinator, at (775) 289-1946. A list of volunteer opportunities with BLM and other federal agencies is available at <http://www.Volunteer.gov/gov>.