



High Desert Conservation Coalition Meeting a Success

The Friends of Juniper Flats hosted this year's annual High Desert Conservation Coalition Meeting. February 14th saw this event come together at the Sterling Inn in Victorville with several conservation organizations setting up information tables. Examples of organizations in attendance were the Citizens Climate Lobby, Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of Mojave Narrows Park, Sierra Club, and Transition Habitat Conservancy.



The event provided the organizations the opportunity to network with each other as well as the general public. Following a slide presentation, "The Little Known Gem of the High

Desert", given by the Friends of Juniper Flats about the Juniper Flats area and the work we do there, each attending organization gave a brief presentation about their organization.

Being the 16th annual Conservation Coalition meeting, these events provide the opportunity for conservation organizations to work together for the benefit of all residents in the High Desert.



Land Stewardship

Land stewardship is an important concept and one embraced by the Friends of Juniper Flats. We are looking for small teams of volunteers to assist with habitat restoration, monitoring activities, and clean-up efforts. A particularly important area for such teamwork is the Arrastre Waterfall area near Powerline Rd. in Juniper Flats. This beautiful riparian area is fairly easy to access, such as via the Arrastre Waterfall trailhead.

There are also many other areas that qualify as "Stewardship Areas" and include restoring disturbed areas using a variety of restoration techniques, trail work, monitoring and collecting data in restored areas, and general clean-up. We rely on volunteer teams to help us accomplish our mission of protecting, preserving and restoring Juniper Flats. If you are interested in joining or forming a stewardship team, please email fojf2@yahoo.com.

WEMO and the Hiking Trail Designation Project

We understand from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) guiding the West Mojave Route Network Project (WMRNP) will be coming out in late March. The WMRNP amends the 2006 WEMO plan.

As reported in last month's newsletter, Friends of Juniper Flats has held meetings with the BLM to establish officially designated hiking trails in Juniper Flats. We have requested BLM to include hiking trails in the WEMO plan, and have offered specific routes for their consideration.

In support of this proposal, we ask you to email us at fojf2@yahoo.com with a Letter of Support, or simply an email. It only needs to be a couple of sentences indicating your support. Your letters and emails help us show the BLM the level of local support in the High Desert.



Friends of Juniper Flats
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Apple Valley, CA 92307
Email: fojf2@yahoo.com

We're on the Web!

- (1) www.friendsofjuniperflats.org
- (2) friendsofjuniperflat.wordpress.com

Juniper Jack Debuts

Friends of Juniper Flats now has a mascot. As the jackrabbit is abundant in Juniper Flats, our mascot is "Juniper Jack". You'll see him in the lower left below, and we have him posing in several different positions. You will see more of Juniper Jack in future flyers and promotions.



Our thanks to Wendy, Mary, Jenny and Carol for setting up and maintaining our new Facebook page. Please check it out and follow us for news, photos and comments about Friends of Juniper Flats activities and projects. On Facebook, just search for "Friends of Juniper Flats".



The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) is currently under review and the outcome could put protected lands, including Juniper Flats, at risk. Please read more about this and take action at <http://desertlands.org/action/>



Juniper Jack asks
We invite you to join the Friends of Juniper Flats to help with our goals of protecting, preserving and restoring Juniper Flats. Dues are only \$5 per year. Just send your check for your membership to the address shown above, along with your name, address, phone number, and email address.

Donations in any amount are also welcome.

Hikes this Month in Juniper Flats

Hikes in Juniper Flats conducted by hike leaders from the Mojave Group of the Sierra Club. Meet at the Victor Valley Museum, 11873 Apple Valley Rd., Apple Valley. For these March hikes, the hike leaders recommend you wear layered clothing and strong walking shoes. Bring water, a snack and your camera.



3/3/2018 @ 9:00 AM - Arrastre Falls in Juniper Flats. Rated Easy. Family Friendly beginners hike of about 2 miles through lovely Arrastre Canyon. Hike leader Carol Stubblefield, carolwhitbylass@gmail.com

3/10/2018 @ 9:00 AM - Oak Glen in Juniper Flats. Rated Easy. A 4 mile hike through Arrastre Canyon; wonderful rock formations, historic mining areas, and oak trees add to the enjoyment. Hike leader Norman Bossom, coachnorm@yahoo.com

3/31/2018 @ 9:00 AM - Ozzie Trail in Juniper Flats. Rated Moderate. A 6 mile hike with initial elevation gain of 1,000 ft.. Historic mining sites and fantastic views of Victor Valley. Hike leader Norman Bossom, coachnorm@yahoo.com

Mark Your Calendar

4/7/2018 @ 10:00 AM - Wildflowers Hike in Juniper Flats. This will be the popular annual hike to find wildflowers. Hike leader Quintin Lake, qlake15@gmail.com



A Call for Volunteers

In addition to appreciating donations to help with our work, Friends of Juniper Flats can always use more volunteer helpers. There are many projects you can assist with, such as vehicle incursion route repairs, sign installations, fence repairs, making organization contacts, hosting our information tables at events, etc. Help is welcome in "computer work" areas too, such as developing information flyers and newsletter articles.

Also, we are looking for interested **scientists** to help with identification and listing of flora and fauna, to study the impacts of erosion on the streams, and to document the impact of the drought.

Please contact us if you would like to volunteer your time.

Secretary and Treasurer - We are especially looking for volunteers to fill our Secretary and Treasurer positions. Please contact us for more details.