

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — Sept. 26, 2008

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Pictures and video available on request

Volunteer Mojave Desert Land Trust Land Stewards Ramp up for Season Two

New Lands, New Challenges, New Adventures

Season Two at a Glance

The Mojave Desert Land Trust **Volunteer Land Stewardship Program** is launching its second season of land monitoring and restoration. This season, in addition to the, now famous, *Group Work Days*, the land stewards are going to take on more challenging terrain in addition to the more accessible parcels we visit, including new restorations, and property monitoring on parcels deep in the **Joshua Tree National Park**, Pinkham and Thermal Canyon areas. Some of these parcels are very remote and rugged. These land monitoring assignments will become full-on, old-west campouts. The base camp will become the center of activity for a couple of days of high-adventure and evening stories.

The second season will fill the cooler months with at least one event each month. Some months will have two or more outings. Plans include three-day, two-night outings in the Cima Dome and Lanfair Valley areas of the **Mojave National Preserve**. These events will base camp at the Hole-in-The-Wall campground near Mitchell Caverns at the very heart of the Mojave National Preserve.

Open to Everyone

The Program is open to everyone physically able to get out and hike into our magnificent Mojave Desert. *Group Work Days* are scheduled on the third Saturday of each month from October through May 2009.

Graduate-Certified Stewards are welcome to monitor parcels whenever they like. Monitoring packets and supplies can be assigned at the Land Trust offices in Joshua Tree and the “expedition” can be scheduled by the Steward Team at their leisure.

Stewardship Training

The Stewardship Season is launched each year with training and certification. Stewards will learn: Stewards are trained by professionals including and will learn to:

- Locate properties in the field using GPS units and topographical maps
- Monitor properties including maintaining a written and photo log
- Document threats and possible intrusions
- Assist with on-the-ground restoration when needed
- Document long term change as part of the NPS data base on the effects of global warming
- Document wildlife sightings for habitat modeling

This season’s **Land Stewardship School** is scheduled for **Friday, October 10th at the Black Rock Campground** in Joshua Tree National Park. Field training will follow the next morning, **Saturday, October 11th on Nolina Peak** at the boundary of Joshua Tree National Park and Yucca Valley.

If you are interested in joining the Mojave Desert Land Trust’s **Volunteer Land Stewardship Program**, contact the Land Trust for registration and information.

Come meet your magnificent Mojave Desert and experience the magic of the real *California Outback*.

The Mojave Desert Land Trust, Volunteer Land Stewardship Program - 6393 Sunset Rd. - Joshua Tree, CA 92252

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