



WildPlaces' Mission

WildPlaces is a community based non-profit organization located in Springville, California in the foothills of the Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. Our mission is to preserve, support, and protect California's natural and rural places and the people of these landscapes through volunteer driven habitat restoration, natural and cultural education, and career development.

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I. Rio Limpio July 4th 2009

WildPlaces and partners held the second river clean-up of the year on Sat, July 4th. Big thanks to the volunteers who worked so hard in the broiling heat on a holiday! We appreciate it very much. Please enjoy these photos by Peyton Ellas!





Our next clean-up will be on Aug 22nd. WildPlaces' strategy is a watershed-wide approach that will reduce trash, remove graffiti and stop gang activity that threatens "Our Tule River." Volunteers will meet at 8:30am in the Springville Memorial Park before carpooling to clean-up destinations. If you would like further information about volunteering or to bring a group to the clean-up, contact Ian Herrick at 559.539.5263 or e-mail ian@wildplaces.net.

II. Meet the Board: Julianne Mittman

Working with WildPlaces has been an experience that I have found both exciting and fulfilling. I am on the board of directors and have been working as the person in charge of the finances. In my new role, I am working on the strategic visioning committee for the organization. It has been amazing to see WildPlaces grow and find its vision to bring youth and community into harmony with the Southern Sierra Nevada, a place I love. In the past 15 years, I have consulted with and worked for nonprofit organizations, both in the US and internationally. I have worked with groups at the grassroots level in the areas of HIV/AIDS, malaria, civil society development and economic and social development in India, Africa, Latin America and the US. I also have my own small business working with Tibetan refugees in Nepal who hand-weave traditional wool Tibetan area rugs and selling them in the US. Working with WildPlaces is a great chance to be involved with an inspired group of people and to work to help make our region a better place.

III. Immersed in the Wild: Walt Whitman High School July 16-19th/ Mongolian Youth Camp July 19th-21st at Quaking Aspen Campground.

WildPlaces' first multi-day camping trip of the year will be next week. Ten students from Walt Whitman High School in Los Angeles will join us at Quaking Aspen Campground on July 16th. With gear provided by Bay Area Wilderness Training (BAWT) in Oakland, CA, the students will learn about low-impact camping and hiking. WildPlaces has organized several educational sessions for the students as well, many of whom have never had the chance to get out of the city or done any type of camping. They will learn about how the Sierra Nevada is important to their area, as well as expanding their minds through this opportunity to experience the stimulating, peaceful surroundings of the southern Sierra mountains and forests.

Following on the heels of the Walt Whitman group, a Mongolian Youth Group from the Central Valley will be arriving at Quaking Aspen. WildPlaces is providing camping gear and some fun activities such as rappelling at Dome Rock and some restoration in Loggy Meadow.

IV Volunteer Opportunities Abound

Are you interested in volunteering? Do you have a group that needs a project? Or would you just like to work with plants for an hour or so? WildPlaces can accommodate you! Currently we are recruiting leaders for our Immersed in the Wild Trips this summer, people to help with our Springville Nursery, and participants for our Rio Limpio program. Contact ian@wildplaces.net or call 559 539 5263 if you are interested.

V Summer Calendar

July 11th: 9am to 1pm Outreach at Get Involved.. Con Ganas! Conference and Expo from the Tulare-Kings Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Visalia, CA

July 16th through 19th: Immersed in the Wild with Walt Whitman High School at Quaking Aspen

July 19th through 21st: Immersed in the Wild Mongolian Youth Camp

Aug 13-15th: Immersed in the Wild with the Dolores Huerta Foundation at Quaking Aspen

Aug 22nd: Rio Limpio III

TBA: Immersed in the Wild CASSP Workshop at Kennedy Meadows

Sept 26th: National Public Lands Day, [MyForest Summit](#), Rio Limpio IV

Oct 2-4th: Immersed in the Wild Mule Pack Trip

Are you on Facebook? Join the [WildPlaces Group!](#)

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