



News Release

For Immediate Release

Feb. 26, 2009

For more information, contact

Jim Gatzke

(775) 726-3101

james.gatzke@nv.usda.gov.

Apply Now for Range Camp

Caliente, Nev., Feb. 26 — Applications are now being accepted from high school students to attend the Nevada Youth Range Camp to be held June 21-27 at the U.S. Forest Service's Big Creek Campground in central Nevada. Applications must be postmarked by April 27.

"Range Camp is a teenager's best opportunity to learn about Nevada's desert and mountain rangelands," said Jim Gatzke, youth camp coordinator. The Society for Range Management operates the week-long camp for 14-18 year olds from Nevada and eastern California.

Campers will have the opportunity to learn from range management professionals who are knowledgeable in the ecology and management of the Great Basin's desert and mountain rangelands. Students learn basic surveying and map reading, identification and importance of rangeland plants, evaluation of sagebrush and woodland ecosystems, wildlife surveying techniques, evaluation of stream health, and many other topics related to rangelands. While the camp is educational, it also offers an enjoyable, outdoor experience with activities such as swimming, fishing, hiking, volleyball, horseshoes, campfires and photography.

Interested students must submit an application and letter of recommendation from an adult other than a parent or sibling. The cost to attend Range Camp is \$150, which includes meals and camp activities. Applicants can be sponsored to attend Range Camp by contacting their local conservation district or other organizations. Forms and information can be found on the Nevada Youth Range Camp Web site at <http://www.ag.unr.edu/nsrm/camp.html>, or by contacting Jim Gatzke at (775) 726-3101 or james.gatzke@nv.usda.gov.

Completed applications with enclosures can be mailed to NV Youth Range Camp, c/o USDA NRCS, PO Box 8, Caliente, NV 89008; or can be e-mailed to Gatzke. If sent by e-mail, letters of recommendation must be on the adult's official letterhead or must be a scanned copy of the adult's letter and signature. Applications must be postmarked or emailed by Monday, April 27. Approved applicants will be notified within two weeks.

Camp is held every June at the US Forest Service Big Creek Campground in central Nevada's Toiyabe Mountain Range. The Toiyabes are one of Nevada's most impressive mountain ranges with several peaks over 10,000 feet in elevation. June is an ideal time to be in the Toiyabes when numerous wildflowers are in bloom and the vegetation is green from the recent snowmelt.

###