



# News Release

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest  
Supervisor's Office  
1200 Franklin Way  
Sparks, NV 89431

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**For Immediate Release on July 24, 2008 – Stop Date is September 30, 2008**

## **MEN CHARGED WITH GRAFFITI TAGGING IN MOUNT ROSE WILDERNESS NEAR RENO**

**Sparks, Nev...**A Federal Grand Jury today indicted three Sparks men for destruction of federal property after they were caught spray painting rocks, trees, and trail markers on June 10, 2008, on the Jones-Whites Creek Trail and at Churches Pond in the Mount Rose Wilderness of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, announced Greg Brower, United States Attorney for the District of Nevada. U.S. Attorney Brower affirmed that individuals who deface or otherwise harm federal lands in Nevada will be prosecuted.

Alfredo Perez, 19, Efrain Becerra, 22, and Gabriel Amaya, 18, are being charged with "Willfully Injuring or Committing Any Depredation against Any Property of the United States" and "Aiding and Abetting." According to the Indictment, the defendants allegedly used spray paint and a permanent marker to mark rocks, trail signs, and tree trunks with the symbols, "The Perfect Criminals," and "TPC," in the above-specified areas. The Indictment states that the resulting damage to the federal property is in excess of \$1,000.

The defendants are scheduled to appear in court for an initial appearance and arraignment this afternoon at 3 p.m. before a United States Magistrate Judge. If convicted, they face up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

"Wilderness areas are special and rare areas designated by Congress for all of us to enjoy, and afforded a level of protection to preserve their unique values," said Ed Monnig, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Supervisor. "People entering wilderness expect to have a wilderness experience, leaving behind their day-to-day lives. Graffiti on trees and rocks is an unfortunate reminder of what we see in most our communities, and offensive to all of our Forest visitors," said Monnig.

Monnig added, "We are pleased that a concerned citizen reported the vandalism, and that our partners, Washoe County Sheriff's Department, Washoe County Parks Department, and Reno Police Department's Regional Gang Unit, assisted our Forest Service Law Enforcement Officers in finding and charging the violators. We also want to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of our U.S. Attorney's Office in pursuing this important case."

The Mt. Rose Wilderness is especially valuable to the residents of Reno and the surrounding area. It is a natural area that retains its primeval character, where people shouldn't leave signs of their visit after they are gone. Forest managers strive to ensure that the Mt. Rose Wilderness is affected primarily only by the forces of nature, and hope to leave it as an enduring resource to following generations. The Mt. Rose Wilderness provides a wonderful contrast to the development of our city, and provides a refuge, even just viewing it from our backyards.

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Carson District Ranger employees and volunteers with Friends of Nevada Wilderness have scheduled a cleanup day to remove the graffiti from the Mount Rose Wilderness on August 9. Contact Wes Hoskins, Friends of Nevada Wilderness Trip Coordinator, to learn more details for the cleanup day at 775-324-7667. For further information on this release, please call Christie Kalkowski, Public Affairs Officer, at 775-355-5311.

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