

## *Keep Washoe Wild!*

### **Hungry Valley and Surrounding Ridges**

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#### **Highlights:**

Hungry Valley is historically and archeologically significant and is now the site of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC). Hungry Valley is an ancient corridor for Indian annual migrations in search of food. This is one of the reasons the valley was chosen by the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) as a site for homes. Hungry Valley is framed by open ridges: Hungry Ridge to the east and south; Hungry Mountain to the west, and Warm Springs Mountain and Dogskin Mountain to the north.



Photo by David von Seggern.

Native species seen in this area are mule deer, antelope, and bobcat. Raptors, butterflies and frogs can be found in the valley. Occasional aspen groves and many high country wildflowers including the rare William's Combleaf call Hungry Ridge home.

The undeveloped area comprises over 30,000 acres. It abounds in long uninterrupted vistas of open land -- to the north towards Dogskin Mountain and Virginia Mountains and to the northwest towards Seven Lakes Range and Petersen

Mountain. Except for the concentrated Indian colony and a gravel/sand pit operation, there are essentially no developed spaces.

Recreation opportunities: This is a close destination to Reno-Sparks for hiking. The ridge adjacent to the valley on the east is largely unspoiled and provides an easy getaway for Reno-Sparks recreationists. Pinyon pine and juniper forest on ridgetops allow for wildlife watching. Many 4WD roads cross the valley, and some off high vehicle (OHV)



Photo by David von Seggern.

trails have been created on the southern part of the ridge, which is bisected by Eagle Canyon Drive.

Currently the area is mostly BLM managed, with local tribal management around the colony. The tribe would like to extend its "range" of influence, possibly providing better management of resources and better control of OHV and motorcycle abuses.

**Issues:**

Hungry Valley and surrounding ridges are largely federal (BLM) land. They are close to urban areas (especially Spanish Springs) and are subject to being surrounded by land development. Their closeness makes them popular destinations for recreationists. Current abuse by some OHV and motorcycle enthusiasts is having impacts on habitat and landscape, and over-stretched BLM resources are not able to adequately protect the area.

**Action:**

The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (<http://www.rsic.org>) has a vested interest in this area and are logical partners to aid in its protection. Friends of Hungry Valley, a non-profit organization working towards resource-sensible recreation in this area can be found at (<http://www.friendsofhungryvalley.com>). Please visit these web sites as well as the Keep Washoe Wild one for additional information on the Hungry Valley area.

Hungry Valley and Surrounding Ridges  
Mount Rose Open Space District  
County Commission District Five – Commissioner Bonnie Weber

**Keep Washoe Wild!**

A Project of Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Scenic Nevada,  
and the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club

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[www.keepwashoewild.org](http://www.keepwashoewild.org)