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NEWS RELEASE:

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For Immediate Release

Community Volunteers Restore Wilderness Watershed

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Sedona, Arizona – A consortium of community volunteers will join with local and state nonprofits, along with the Coconino National Forest, to restore a portion of Dry Creek within the Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness. Conditions in Dry Creek have been impaired by dams and abandoned debris. Arizona Wilderness Coalition will host a weekend volunteer project to remove concrete and other debris from Oak Creek on Saturday and Sunday, January 21 and 22, 2017.

This restoration project is part of larger efforts to improve and restore wilderness areas and riparian ecosystems across the state. Locally, the Dry Creek project is supported by One for the Verde, and also received partial funding support from Arizona Community Foundation of Sedona, as well as Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust and the National Forest Foundation. Arizona Wilderness Coalition has partnered with National Forests in Arizona since 2010 to maintain, restore and monitor wilderness areas through community involvement and the efforts of over 200 volunteers across the state.

Preservation of natural resources and public lands is crucial to tourism and the quality of life that make Sedona and the Verde Watershed extremely popular destinations in Arizona. The U.S. Forest Service estimates that over half a million visitors annually enjoy designated wilderness areas in the Coconino National Forest, of which Red Rock-Secret Mountain is one of the most accessible (National Visitor Use Monitoring reports for Coconino National Forest, 2010 – 2014, at <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum/>).

Additional volunteers are sought for the project, located in a very rugged and remote part of the beautiful Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness outside Sedona. The project runs from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, January 21 and 22, 2017. More information and registration is available at <https://www.meetup.com/Arizona-Wilderness-Stewards/events/233403070/>. For more information on volunteer opportunities throughout the year, contact Brian Stultz at (928) 350-2204 or visit www.azwild.org.

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