

Friends of the Desert Mountains receive Landscape Stewardship Award

Buford Crites (r), President of the Friends of the Desert Mountains, accepts the Public Lands Foundation - Landscape Stewardship Award – from Henri Bisson, President of the Public Lands Foundation, during an awards ceremony held at the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitors Center. (continued below)



The award recognizes the expedient actions by the Friends in acquiring open lands in a highly challenging environment where many open spaces have been identified for development within a fast growing Coachella Valley region. The Friends have been able to acquire those lands, elude development and afford them permanent protection. At the same time, they have collaborated with various partners of the National Monument to promote stewardship of nationally significant resources contained in a 280,000-acre landscape that spans life zones from the Sonoran Desert near sea level to the Sub-alpine zone at 10,834 feet atop Mount San Jacinto.

[Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument](#)

- Stephen M. Razo, BLM California Desert District, 4/29/10