



## April Newsletter

*Love the Earth as you would love yourself.* – John Denver

April is the month for a park ranger's favorite holiday, Earth Day! There is no better time to celebrate all the Mojave landscape has to offer! Wildflowers are blooming, Desert Bighorn Sheep have had their lambs, and the weather is perfect for being outside! Come and enjoy the views and adventures the Earth has to offer at Sloan Canyon.

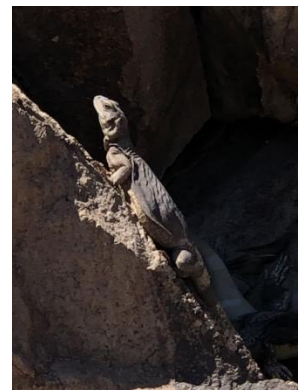
**Education Tip:** Did you know that snakes are one of the only animals in the United States that help control the rodent population? With the temperatures raising, reptiles like snakes are more likely to be on the hunt. While snakes are one of the most disliked animals in the world, they are vital for maintaining a healthy balance in our ecosystem. To avoid encounters with snakes, stick to designated trails. Do not step or put your hands where you cannot see. Leash your pets to avoid your pet putting its nose near a rattlesnake.

**Fun Fact:** Have you ever been hiking and spotted a large black lizard sunbathing on the rocks and wondered what it is? One of the most common lizards at Sloan Canyon is the Chuckwalla. One unique adaptation it has is that when it feels threatened it will run into the cracks of rocks, inflate its belly with air, and wedge itself in the rocks so a predator cannot pull them out.

**Friendly Reminder:** As Earth Day approaches on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sloan Canyon will be hosting a week of Earth Day events to celebrate. See the attached flyer for more information about the events happening in your neighborhood National Conservation Area.

**Etiquette Principle:** Dogs are great companions to bring on a hike. It is important that before you bring your dog on a hike that you and your dog are prepared. Some dog trail etiquette to remember:

- Be aware of which trails you can bring your dog on; dogs are prohibited on Petroglyph trail and in the North McCullough Wilderness.
- Always have your dog leashed while hiking at Sloan Canyon.
- Do you have enough water for your dog on the hike? According to the American Hiking Society, you should "Carry at least 8 ounces of water per dog per hour of hiking."
- Is it too hot for your dog to go on a hike? The American Kennel Club states that "To find out if the ground is too hot for your dog to walk on, place your hand comfortably on the pavement for ten seconds. If it's too hot for your hand, it's too hot for your dog's paws."



A Chuckwalla sunbathing on a rock.



A dog ready for a hike.