

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 1, 2011
RE: WADDIE MITCHELL

Nevada Arts Council Announces 2012 Nevada Heritage Award



The Nevada Arts Council is proud to honor cowboy poet **Waddie Mitchell**, of Spring Creek, with the 2012 Nevada Heritage Award. Nevada Heritage awardees are among our state's living cultural treasures. They embody the highest level of artistic achievement in their work and the highest levels of service in their communities and in their commitment to ensuring that their traditions stay strong.

Mitchell was nominated by the Western Folklife Center and supported by letters from his community of Elko, as well as the community of cowboy and western poets. "**Waddie Mitchell** has become an icon of Nevada, of buckaroo culture (cowboys of the Great Basin), and of cowboy poetry itself," wrote Charlie Seemann, director of the Western Folklife Center.

The Nevada Heritage Award honors Nevada folk artists and tradition bearers who are the finest and most influential masters of their particular art form(s) and who have had a significant impact on the people and communities of the state.

Waddie Mitchell is a popular and respected cowboy poet and exponent of western heritage and Buckaroo traditions; a gifted performer and teacher of cowboy poetry and oral traditions; a veteran cowboy and rancher; and a skilled interpreter of the history and environment of the Great Basin from the perspective of the cowboy/rancher.

The award carries a fellowship grant in the amount of \$3,500 for the recipient. The NAC commemorates the honor with a cobalt blue glass plate with a silver dichroic map of Nevada, created by Carson City glass artist Jarill Ristine.

Date, time, and place of the award presentation will be announced later. It will likely occur during the annual National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko during the last week of January 2012.

Created in 2010, the Nevada Heritage Award honors and recognizes Nevada master folk and traditional artists who, at the highest level of excellence and authenticity, carry forward the folk traditions of their families and communities through practice and teaching.

The Nevada Arts Council is a division of the Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs. The Department serves Nevada's citizens and visitors through culture and information management, presentation and promotion of cultural resources, and education. The Department also includes the State Office of Historic Preservation, the Nevada State Library and Archives, and the Nevada Arts Council. For more information, please visit the department's web site at www.nevadaculture.org.



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Storyteller honored for outstanding contributions

JONESBOROUGH, TN July 1, 2011 - The National Storytelling Network (NSN www.storynet.org) recently announced that **Waddie Mitchell** of Elko is a recipient of the Circle of Excellence Award. This award is presented to artists who are recognized by their peers to be master storytellers who set the standards for excellence and have demonstrated, over a significant period of time, a commitment and dedication to the art of storytelling.

Mitchell is a tradition bearer, an iconic figure who gives voice to the daily lives of cowboys. His narratives wash the listener with the sounds of the American West. His words carry us to places of yearning: a simpler life, hard-working and free, removed from the fray and bluster of urban life. He founded the National Cowboy Poetry Festival in Elko, Nevada in 1985. He's recorded with Warner Brothers and the Western Jubilee Recording Company. **Mitchell** has appeared on Johnny Carson, as well as a National Geographic video. He has performed at the 2002 Olympics, and the Super Bowl game.

Mitchell will receive his award at the National Storytelling Awards Ceremony on Saturday, July 9, 2011 at Casa Rio in San Antonio, Texas. For more information on **Mitchell**, visit his web site www.waddiemitchell.com.