

Comments and recommendations for development and use of Gunsight Wash area

My wife and I have been enjoying the area for the past seven years, utilizing the prescribed "fourteen day" rule. Last year, 2010, we enjoyed the opportunity to co-host the campground, with our good friends, [REDACTED]. The natural, undeveloped environment of this area is unique and is the attracting factor to most visitors.

Last year, [REDACTED] and I organized informal activities to encourage the guests to take in the beauty of the desert. During these activities, we stress the importance of protecting the land for future use.

The freedom from a structured campground setting is most important to the type of visitor using this area. This is not the people who normally park in a commercial RV park and use all the "full hook-up" services that one would find at home. Our guests have evolved from the era of outdoor families that help to conserve and protect our National Lands.

We strongly feel, that to try and "develop" and structure a defined use program, will destroy the reason why we come to the desert. Organ Pipe National Park is available, close by, for those who may want a more structured program, along with higher fees.

A suggestion that would be more feasible and cost effective, would be to allow a longer use time than the 14 days, allowing for a one time 14 day extension, with the requirement, however, to relocate your camp site to another spot of at least 300 ft. from the original location. This would lessen the impact on the land, as returning campers tend to migrate back to their "favorite" spot. Also, as hosts we have always tried to be alert to sites that are becoming overused and suggest alternate spots. We feel this is part of our responsibilities to insure the availability of land in the future. This does not require a "Warden" mentality, rather setting an example and educating the guests of this vital part of the puzzle. We believe we have exhibited this in the past, and will continue in the future. Drive the area, check us out, we are proud of what we have at Gunsight Wash.

We have noticed that 99% of all the RVs at Gunsight, are conscious of maintaining the esthetics of the area. We know that if we do not take care of the land, we will lose it!

The long term areas that we have seen are overcrowded, heavily abused, and impact the environment far more than the "self managed" facility at Gunsight.

As a rule, people in general who pay for a place to stay, do not develop the sense of ownership and preservation that is present at Gunsight. We do not need to have showers, restroom facilities, paved roads, etc. We like to "boondock". We have all the amenities in our RV's.

We carry fresh water, have toilets with holding tanks for waste, generator or solar for power, and ability to create our own recreation and enjoyment of the natural land.

There is fear that increased development, structure and rules for the use will drive out the abundance of

wildlife, birds and beauty that we all relish.

When you visit Gunsight Wash, you do not find trash, destruction of vegetation, and miss use, because we all prescribe to an unwritten code of "RV ethics" , policing ourselves and correcting any discrepancies.

Please continue to operate this area as in the past and minimize the restrictions, at the same time reducing your budget.

We thank you for the opportunities you have given us. We will continue to be good ambassadors for the BLM lands and uses.

Very sincerely,



Co-Hosts

Gunsight Wash, Why AZ