

Desert Advisory Council,
c/o Bureau of Land Management, External Affairs,
22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos,
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

June 4, 2011

Dear Council members,

We request that the Council members give some attention to hiking trails and equestrian trails on BLM managed lands. What will the hiking trail sign look like? A brown carsonite marker with a hiker on it is much too similar to an open route marker for vehicles. What will the hiking trailhead look like? Will there be parking, a kiosk, and maps of the footpaths? Will the hiking trails be away from target shooting areas? Will there be 'designated' target shooting areas instead of the current system of shoot where you like? For Wilderness areas, will there be some BLM security visits at access/parking locations and a sign-in slip which is then deposited in a secure box?

The Friends of Juniper Flats have been monitoring the lands managed by the Barstow Field Office known as the Juniper Sub Region for nearly a decade. During this time many improvements have been made to try to control OHV recreation. This includes signs, restoration and some BLM presence as well as post and cable fencing. Yet new motorcycle user-created trails appear and almost all the old ones are still used by motor vehicles. The area has some designated motorcycle only trails and these are also used by quads and jeeps as well as many other vehicles. These trails have not been managed as single track narrow motorcycle trails. What is the definition of "motorcycle only" trails and how will they be managed?

While the BLM is focusing on OHV recreation, there is a total lack of focus on other popular forms of recreation in the Juniper Sub Region. There are NO designated hiking/equestrian trails; none of the many riparian areas are designated or managed for wildlife viewing; there are no signs about the natural resources found in the area which makes it so special. The only thing people see is motor vehicle oriented information.

What is the solution?

Do we have to line each route with a fence? It is our opinion the most effective solution is more BLM presence in this area which is so close to the huge populations of Apple Valley, Hesperia, Victorville and Lucerne Valley. And more focus on non-motorized recreation. The new fences block the path of equestrian users and, while they may be

successful in helping to keep motor vehicles on the open routes, they are unsightly. Many trails that were restored (because of use by motorcycles) were previously equestrian trails.

Thank you for your attention to non-motorized recreation on our Public Lands.

Respectfully submitted,

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2009

TOTAL HOURS FOR OCTOBER 2009-----647.5 HOURS

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR NOVEMBER 2009----344.75 HOURS

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR DECEMBER 2009----676.5 HOURS

3 months 1668.75

2010 Volunteer hours

Friends of Juniper Flats Volunteer Report----January 2010----435.1 Hours Total

Friends of Juniper Flats Volunteer Report----February 2010----365 Hours Total

Friends of Juniper Flats Volunteer Report----March 2010----410.5 Hours Total

FRIENDS OF JUNIPER FLATS VOLUNTEER REPORT----APRIL 2010----487.5 HOURS

FRIENDS OF JUNIPER FLATS VOLUNTEER REPORT----MAY 2010----439.5 HOURS

FRIENDS OF JUNIPER FLATS VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR JUNE 2010-----129.5 HOURS

FRIENDS OF JUNIPER FLATS VOLUNTEER REPORT FOR JULY 2010----95.5 HOURS

7 months = 2361

AUGUST 2010----127 HOURS

2010 Sept Total 146 hours

OCTOBER 2010----426.45 HOURS

NOVEMBER 2010----251 HOURS

DECEMBER 2010----170.75 HOURS

1121.20 Aug to Dec (5 months)

TOTAL FOR 2010 = 3482.20 HOURS / 12months = average of 290 hours

3482.20 X \$20 IN MATCHING GRANT \$ = \$69,644 possible in addition to the reimbursement that BLM can get.

**Desert Advisory Council
c/o Bureau of Land Management
22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos\
Moreno Valley, CA 92553**

RE: Recreation Planning

Dear Desert Advisory Council:

In planning land uses associated with recreation I urge that you strongly consider that there are many uses of the public lands besides motorized off road vehicle use. Many people enjoy the desert for hiking, camping, birding, photography, botanizing, desert studies, rock hounding or just enjoying the beauty and quiet of the desert.

It is also true that wildlife and plants still have a right to survive in their natural habitats and it is a goal of the Bureau of Land Management to protect the flora and fauna and their habitats in the desert for their survival and the enjoyment of people, now and in the future. The desert also provides a classroom for many students in high schools and colleges and also for other researchers

Our desert is fragile and under siege from many uses. It is very important as much land is being taken for other uses, such as renewable energy and mining, that recreational uses are very carefully considered and planned for the long term. Please consider the many people that will be benefited if thoughtful planning provides for the various users of our beautiful desert.

Sincerely,

To the Desert Advisory Council,

I would like to start with saying how nice it is to see progress being made working with each other on making our public lands, mainly the deserts of southern California, a safer environment for which to recreate and compete in off road events. I attended the DAC meeting in Victorville on March 26, 2011 and I am pleased to see the forming of SRP (Special Recreation Permit) Subgroup in which the process for putting on a competitive off road event will hopefully become easier and less expensive. Now there is an avenue of common communication in which both parties can educate and learn from each other on the policies and procedures needed to produce a safe and quality event. With that being said, I would like to see some of our event staff get trained or certified to police ourselves to keep costs down and free up the rangers and officers time to take care of non race associated offenders rather than spend a day observing an event that does not need to be baby sited. Our District 38 clubs take pride in putting on safe and fun events we have been doing so since the 1960s. I know in time these procedures will get easier for all parties involved as we rebuild the data base for our events.

Many of the SRP guidelines are out of line and too restrictive they must be changed. 1) Release the liability from the field office supervisor that is signing the SRP application. 2) Reduce the lead time of the SRP application from 180 days to 90 days before an event. 3) Cost Recovery must go away. The American public is already paying taxes for the BLM to do their job on public lands. 4) The matrix used for cost recovery is severely flawed and must be reviewed and changed. 5) The fees for "competitive use or organized group/event use fees are \$4 per participant per day, 3% of gross receipts, or the minimum annual fee, which ever is greater" must be eliminated, our events are a recreational hobby not a professional event. The most important matter here is that the BLM regional field offices must inform and educate their upper commands all the way to Washington D.C. to what is a reasonable solution. We must all be able to work together to keep costs down for all parties involved in the SRP process.

As an outdoor recreationalist, I enjoy using off highway vehicles to tour the desert and have fun with my family and friends and have been doing so since I was very young. As an off road racer I enjoy the competition, friendship, and being a steward of the desert so it can be enjoyed for many generations to come. As desert recreationalists and racers we have an obligation to educate ourselves, our families, our visiting friends, and first time users of the desert the responsibilities of using our public lands. In this day and age the world has changed and I have seen how the off road community, for the most part, has adapted to the changes that have taken place in the past several years such as learning how to properly use public lands, respect private property, conservation, keeping our public lands clean of trash and debris. This is nothing new it has been an on going effort from many groups for many years.

In closing, I am looking forward to the future use of our public lands and enjoying them responsibly with my family and friends for many years to come.

Thank you,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the author.

To the Desert Advisory Council board,

Thanks for this forum and all the time you spend on OUR desert...

Two nonprofit clubs arranged and sat down to a very cordial and informative meeting with Delane (contract administrator) for the Ocotillo Wells OHRV Park. The topic off the meeting was regarding an American Motorcycle Association District 38 race that we would like to hold at the park. Delane suggested we write a comprehensive detailed description of what takes place, how it happens, that she could forward to her boss at the state level (Sacramento).

We wrote this letter explaining above concerns as well as all the safety protocol that is in play (riders that monitor course, checkpoints that relay riders status, the fact that we have EMT's at homecheck and on the course, the use of directional arrows to show terrain changes, REACH air ambulance, pit row speed limit of 10 mph, etc).

The response was a phone call back to us stating, " NOT ON MY WATCH " thru the discussion the comment was made "if you put a fence around your 20 mile course maybe I'll consider it" (desert racing has been going on in the southern california deserts since the 60's without the need to fence any course) and knowing we can't financially afford this...

I have concerns about this response/attitude, especially when I consider the states OHMVR Strategic Plan....as seen on thler website,

OHMVR goal # 2 states Increase OHV Opportunity, add new OHV opportunities where appropriate and needed to replace loss of existing opportunities and respond to changing and future demand...

OHMVR goal # 5 establish and maintain productive relationships between individuals, organizations...to cooperatively identify problems and develop and implement solutions to advance the mission and goals if the OHMVR program.

OHMVR goal # 6 Informed Decision Making, improve the quality and quantity and accessibility of information needed to support sound decision making, transparency of administration with the interrelated groups interested in, and associated with the OHRV program.

I look forward to any appeal process or course of action that the DAC or public at large has to recommend.

Thanks again,