

Attendees: Dave Scarbrough, Kevin Harper, Melinda Mahoney, Jack Ragsdale, Cheryl Blanchard, Lori Young, Eric Boik and Rich Hanson

Subject: Resource impact briefing to key staff concerning groups visiting SDNM on 3/03-04/07 at Gap Well and Butterfield Trail/ de Anza National Historic Trail.

Eric: Provided a short briefing about this past weekend and his encounters with the Boy Scouts and Fox Trotters Association as well as the 11 citations issued. Impacts were related to trucks and trailers for the most part leaving the road in the Monument at Gap Well and other areas and impacting soils and vegetation. Some of the vehicles did a considerable amount of resource damage since they were mired in the dry, powdery soils due to little precipitation this winter. Some of the cases are still open and Eric will continue to gather information. One in particular involved a barrel cactus found in the bed of one of the trucks associated with the horseback riding group.

General comments by staff initially focused on:

- Karen and Roy's visit with the Boy Scouts before the weekend.
- Materials being given to the groups.
- Groups not being permitted.
- Too large a group and/or capacity for the size of the groups.
- Permitting system not in place; current process not working.
- Group issued paperwork; but not completed.
- Monitoring of group events; law enforcement involvement.

Kevin: Asked that we go around the table and give everyone an opportunity to comment on activity this weekend and what short-term steps could be taken. Dave organized our discussion and eventual process into short-term, mid-term and long-term strategies/action items.

Dave: Discussed how we would permit groups in the future (b) (5)
(b) (5)

Lori: Discussed conflicts between users. It was mentioned that all of the horseback riding participants got a citation except for one. One was issued to the Boy Scouts and others could be forthcoming given Eric's continuing work.

Dave: Stated weren't really conflicts between people this time. (b) (5)
(b) (5)

Rich: Discussed what short term goals could be. He went over the impacts associated with recreation use and that volunteers are not enough to restore all of the damaged areas. Volunteers are also getting tired of seeing their work destroyed by OHVs and other

recreation users. (b) (5)
(b) (5)

Also, asked (b) (5)
(b) (5)

Dave: Mentioned that there are many users that do the right thing as well, and this needs to be encouraged. Tied to the permitting/reservation strategy.

Rich: 50 to 100 people at a time in areas may not be appropriate: (b) (5)
(b) (5)

(b) (5)
(b) (5) Proclamation does not make recreation a requirement. Designated for resources and scenic values. Education is necessary in any strategy and think beyond just local communities and regional public land since all land managers are being affected by this. (b) (5)
(b) (5)

Eric: Education is given to permit holders, but it is not followed. Boy Scouts did listen to Karen and Roy, but there were just too many of them for the space. Boy Scouts were given slips for permit. Confusion around whether or not permit issued. Was not given a permit will need to follow up with group about this. Resource damage occurred at both areas with Boy Scouts and Horseback Group.

Cheryl: Dangerous road now at Gap Well and the Pass area due to high speed dirt bike riding and other motorized use. Berms are a serious concern. Camping is occurring on top of arch and historic sites like Happy Camp. (b) (5)
(b) (5)

(b) (5)
(b) (5)

Allotment gate needs to be repaired in Pass area.

Lori: (b) (5)
(b) (5)

Motorized activity and loss of healthy soils and vegetation. Bathrooms not adequate for this group size. Toilet paper floating around as well as human waste present. Boy Scouts did have port-o-lets. Signage not followed by recreation users. (b) (5)
(b) (5)

Jack: (b) (5)
(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Melinda: Need to look at the guidelines for permits; (b) (5)
(b) (5)

(b) (5) number of recreation users doubling and tripling; exponential in last two years the number of visitors; trail

proliferation everywhere; incursions into backcountry areas by dirt bikes...then, followed by ATVs.

Steps for the next few weekends:

- (b) (5)
- Letter to Boy Scouts Headquarters
- Cite resource damage
- Extra staff on weekends giving out information and monitoring recreation
- (b) (5)
- Attend RAC meeting and express concern about resource damage
- Keep the drumbeat going

RAC Meeting:

3/07/07- Kevin and Teri attended the OHV subcommittee meeting. About half of the RAC was present including Jason, Sandy, Tina, Thomas, Steve, Frances, and Glen (what I remember). Most of the District Managers were there as well as Chris Horyza, Bill Gibson on phone, and Mike Taylor.

Kevin was invited by Steve, Glen and Jason to give a short presentation about the impacts from the past weekend. The RAC was gravely dismayed by the impacts and were concerned about supporting our efforts and what the next steps would be. Kevin stated that Karen would be working with staff to develop a strategy to protect resources and try and get recreation use under control. Kevin was asked what the main cause of the impacts this past weekend and in general. He bluntly stated it was motorized recreation of all kinds for the most part especially ATVs and dirt bikes. This past weekend was related to the size of the groups, trucks, trailers, etc. Sandy interrupted by stating that we had to provide places for people to use dirt bikes and ATVs. We had to have places for people to recreate. Kevin stated that in BLM regulations that we did not "have" to provide for recreation that...of course we would, but this discussion was just for the resource impacts to the Monument. The RAC wanted to know what they could do. They were asked to consider writing a letter of support to a closure for the Monument. We were asked to continue the discussion the following day.

3/08/07- Kevin provided materials to the RAC that included the proclamation, a brochure, information sheet, photographs and map of the Monument. Again, questions were asked regarding what the impacts were, what visitation was like, what kinds of recreation occurred, whether or not ATVs and dirt bikes should be permitted, should the closure be for all vehicles. Kevin bluntly stated that no dirt bikes or ATVs should be permitted in the Monument and that only regular vehicles (cars/trucks) should be permitted on designated routes/roads. This was supported by the RAC.

The RAC understood that the increased population around the Monument was putting new pressures on it and the staff. Glen wrote a letter for RAC to approve after lunch. It was approved by the RAC unanimously and will be forwarded to Karen. The motion was introduced by Glen and seconded by Sandy.