

March 2015

BLM Mistake Results in Damage to Saddle Mountain by OHV Ride Around



Photograph by WDA.

To save wildlife, the southeast area of Saddle Mountain is closed to motorized vehicles. Signs like this one have been stolen.

PRESERVING WILDLIFE at SADDLE MOUNTAIN

The ring trail, closed for two decades, is still closed today according to an update from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding Saddle Mountain. An error was made by a “BLM employee” at the March TVCC meeting when answering a question about the area.

In a letter Edward Kender, BLM Lower Sonoran Field Manager said, “The statement that the route known as the ring road is open was incorrect.” “The route was analyzed in the 1994 Environmental Assessment...the stipulation was added to close the ring road to motorized vehicle use”. “The road remains closed...” Kender said.

To help save Desert Bighorn Sheep this area was chosen by Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Arizona Game and Fish, and the BLM. A larger water catchment was added and this part of Saddle Mountain has been closed to vehicles to protect the wildlife and cultural resources.

The question about the southeast area was a good one because the ‘closed signs’ have been removed many times, so it’s hard for visitors to know where Rt. 8201A ends, according to Paul Roetto, Friends of Saddle Mountain, President.

This area was damaged in the 1970’s and significant work has been done since then to save the wildlife that lives at Saddle Mountain. With just the numbered routes on the north side of Saddle Mountain and Palo Verde Hills, there are more miles of off-highway vehicle routes than any other BLM area, or County park, located near Tonopah, Roetto said. The blocked wash, 1.4 miles south of the 500kV line, is where Rt.8201A ends, he said.

March 2015

BLM Mistake Results in Damage to Saddle Mountain by OHV Ride Around



Photograph by WDA.

To save wildlife, the southeast area of Saddle Mountain is closed to motorized vehicles. Route 8201A ends at the berm about 1.4 miles south of 500kV intersection with Rt 8212. Staying on numbered routes protects wildlife and the scenic beauty of Saddle Mountain.

Members of Friends of Saddle Mountain spotted a group of OHV riders going around Saddle Mountain on the closed route at 11:00 pm at night. This is a direct result of the BLM employee who answered a question at a community meeting. She said, no closed routes at Saddle Mountain in direct contradiction to the well known closure that started in 1994.

This is the same BLM staff member that was asked for more signs (like the one above) since OHV'er have been stealing them. Unfortunately, in two years she failed to help Saddle Mountain by providing even one sign.

Sad result from Bureau of Land Management.