

February 2011

To: BLM Lake Havasu Field Office TMP  
Attn: Project Manager  
2610 Sweetwater Ave.  
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406

From: Havasu 4 Wheeler Public Lands Committee  
P.O. Box 1486  
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86405

Re: Public Comment Form

Comments relating to Havasu Falls/Plane Wreck Trail/ Mine site (Track)  
HN834

We support Map D with the following changes. Map C and D routes are all open from Havasu Falls to the Plane Wreck Fork. From the fork, Map C & D limits travel on HN834 to "Administration" purportedly because of historic mine workings at the very end of the trail. This mine is living history of our American past and we should not be prohibited from viewing it. Many mines have been fenced and as a result we are still able to drive out to see the sites and enjoy our history. Working with BLM, the Havasu 4 Wheelers have fenced over fifteen vertical mine shafts & signed them to warn the public. The H4W offers to assist BLM in fencing this mine to eliminate any concerns the BLM may have.

Because of a decision by a BLM staff archeologist about the mine located at the end of Route HN834, we, the public, will be effectively banished – unable to effectively access this historic plane wreck site - permanently. This is not fair and a simple remedy would correct this grievous and over zealous closure recommendation. Does the BLM even know about this suite? It appears not from the closure recommendation.

The plane wreck site contains the remnants of a WWII TB-25J twin engine bomber that crashed while on a training flight August 11, 1945. All five crewmembers were killed two of which were believed to be brothers. It is widely listed as one of Havasu's places to see for tourists and is a popular destination for many in the area. It is listed as a destination in "101+ Ideas For Fun," a visitor's tour guide magazine published by the Havasu Herald in collaboration with the Lake Havasu City Convention and Visitors Bureau. This magazine is distributed to the visiting public via most retail outlets, local government offices, and restaurants. This site is listed as #33 on page 11.

The plane wreck is reached by driving the first half of HN834 (to N34\* 32.636 W114\* 12.416) and then hiking up to the ridgeline. Several of our club's

members have done so, even one with a total hip replacement. Veterans especially enjoy seeing this historic piece of WWII.

Again, we support Map D with this change. The only way a person is going to enjoy the beauty in this area and the ability to reach the trail head of this historic trail is with a motorized vehicle. It is too far from the highway to walk! And Havasu is comprised mostly of older Americans. This area is a favorite winter area for them. Closing this route is unjustified from a safety aspect as there is a standing offer to fence the mines.

I really enjoy visiting this site as like most older persons, I am able to enjoy the great scenery from the vistas presented from the top of the hills on this route. Additional in the spring when the "Brittlebush" (*Encelia farinosa*), a member of the sun flower family, is in bloom from the months of March to June, the slopes on each side of the trail are a beautiful sight. This niche opportunity combines history, vistas, solitude, and beautiful plant life. Using this back country trails in natural scenic environment with plentiful opportunities for cultural and wildlife gives us an increased appreciation and an enhanced interpretation of the historical mining district.

The trend is for retirement people to move south or west, remain active and seek recreational opportunities on the Public Lands the route/trail is valuable for various types of unconfined recreational uses, including scenic areas, natural history, historical, paleontological, archaeological, and biological features. Havasu is the mecca for this activity.