

ATTENTION ALL OHV Drivers!

New/Missed BLM Trails May Still Be Submitted

The Lake Havasu BLM Field Office has extended the Proposed Travel Management Plan comment period to February 28, 2011. This is in response to many complaints that numerous existing trails were, partially, or entirely, missed by the BLM mapping contractors, and as such they were not mapped nor included on the official inventory. **BLM recently clarified that trails new to their maps, in use prior to May 10, 2007 but not recorded when the maps were published, may be submitted during this comment period.** The BLM Lake Havasu Unit area covers an area from I-40 south to Cattail Cove and from the Colorado River east to Mohave Wash. A route/trail in this area, not included on the BLM inventory, is not eligible for inclusion in the final BLM management plan. It will be excluded. This latest extension was approved to allow citizens not only a better opportunity to submit comments, but to submit maps of these new/missed routes/trails to BLM.

The following are suggestions on how to submit a new/missing route/trail for addition to the BLM Inventory Map and for their review.

- Trails must have documentation that they were in use prior to May, 10, 2007. Documentation may be provided by dated maps, historic records, or by verification on Google Earth (the latest version shows a publication date of June 2007 which the BLM has stated is acceptable).
- New/missing routes/trails should be GPS'd, named for easier reference, and submitted with supporting GPS'd Maps (including beginning and ending latitude & longitude coordinates', and preferably a GPS track).
- Other helpful information would be Google Map printouts and printouts of BLM Map C with the route/trails recorded or drawn in. A cross check with the BLM documentation would also indicate if portions of the route (trail) are proposed for closure. GPS, Google Earth and BLM maps can be adjusted to a similar scale and printed off for comparison. If necessary transparencies can be made for easier overlay comparison. **See the havasu4wheeler.org website for guidelines on using Google earth with the BLM overlay maps & your gps tracks.**
- Comment letters should include:
 - How the route/trail or track was recorded (Make of GPS, hand drawn, etc)
 - Whether the route/trail is new to the BLM maps, partially, or entirely missing.

- Provide meaningful comments that support keeping the trail open.
 - Type of route/trail, i.e. one track motorcycle, two track quad/stock 4X4, lifted & locked jeep, technical trail, etc.
 - How the route/trail was maintained, i.e., by regular driving, has erosion damage been repaired, rocks moved, invasive plant species removed, litter picked up, etc.
 - Type of route/trail, i.e. Loop Trail, Destination trail, connector, dead end to a specific site, or for a specific reason.
 - Tell them “Why you go out there”, i.e. scenic drive, haul horse or quads to trail head, bicycle, metal detect, meteorite hunting, gold panning, dry washing, geo-caching, driving challenge, hunting, etc.
 - If BLM routes/trails show red lines (closed), review BLM route evaluation report section (on their web site), and respond to any inaccuracies.
- Browse the Havasu 4 Wheeler web site, havasu4wheeler.org for helpful suggestions and a quick access to the official BLM web site containing:
- 1-64,000 maps (Map C is recommended by BLM but Map A & Map D, with changes are recommended by many users.)
 - A Route Evaluation Report section with information on all BLM routes.
 - A larger, detailed, segmented 1-12,000, route Map C.
 - A Route Evaluation Data Section (trails havasutmp_altc.kmz), with Google Earth on your computer, will bring up Google Earth with the red & green BLM routes overlaid.

Comment letters must be submitted, by mail, email or hand delivered by February 28, 2010

Your comment letters should be addressed to:

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

And include -
 Your Name
 Phone
 Organization (if any)
 Address, city state, zip
 Email

“ROUTE ID NUMBERS” OR “MISSED TRAIL” (if missed trail, also put Attention Cindy)

AND FINALLY, YOUR COMMENTS.

SAMPLE LETTER FOLLOWS:

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 Snake Pit / Floods Folly - **HN889, HN895B, HN908, HN923, HN924, HN22J, Also New/Missed routes (attention Cindy)**

Dear Sir,

We are opposed to Map C as the above routes are closed. On Map D the above routes are open mitigate except for HN22J. We support Map A and could support Map D if the missing route were added to your inventory and the connection between various routes was indicated on you inventory and if a small portion of HN22J was open mitigate.

Examples of new/missed segments of routes are: (see attached map)

HN889 does connect to HN22J

HN908 does connect to HN895. It is mentioned in your route evaluation report for HN908 as "likely provides a connector to HN895".

HN908 does connect to HN923

Section to the east of HN22J that is New/Missed and does not have an HN#

These routes are technical in nature and require that the vehicle tires be aired down because of the rocky nature of the trail. By doing this it reduces the impact on the soil and does not injury the visual character of the soil. Also because of the difficulty of the routes they are traveled at a very low speed usually less than 5 mph thus once again reducing the impact to the area. These areas are used by vehicles with specialized equipment which includes locked differentials and thus there is no tire spin, which once again reduces the impact on the area. Because of the need for special equipment on the vehicles this area is not prone to proliferation of trails, because the users of these trails Stay on the established routes.

Because these routes are in outlying areas, traffic and litter is minimal compared to the routes near residential areas. Our club believes in the motto of "Tread Lightly" and thus we do monitor the routes for trash and maintain the routes in regards to erosion

following a rain, thus adding to the goal of the BLM to maintain the area in a manner that protects the public investment.

The trail follows a well defined path allowing the user to maintain an optimal balance between authorized resource use and the protection and long term sustainability of sensitive resources as called for in the Approved Resource Management Plan for the Lake Havasu Field Office. The trail is able to do this because it is well defined with the topography naturally restricting the user to the existing trail. The topography further allows almost no offshoots and trail proliferation.

The entire area around the city, including back yards is used by wildlife. We fail to see how a responsible driver going slowly, raising almost no dust, because of the slowness dictated by the difficulty of the terrain would impact wildlife in the area this trail goes through. Our travels are during the day time hours and thus we have no impact on the nocturnal species.

These routes are evaluated as being a primary area for vistas, sightseeing and photography. The only way a person is going to enjoy the beauty in this area is with a motorized vehicle. It is too far from the highway to walk. With an OHV an older person is able to enjoy the great scenery from the vistas presented from top of the hills on the route.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) firmly established the concept of multiple use and sustained yield, with recreation as one of the principle uses. **In closing we urge you to follow this recommendation and keep the above listed HN routes open and include the segments that are new/missing from your inventory.**

NOTE: SCROLL DOWN & PAUSE FOR A MOMENT AS EACH OF THE NEXT TWO BLANK PAGES TO GIVE THE MAPS A CHANCE TO LOAD. THE FIRST MAP IS NOT PROFESSIONALLY DONE, IN ORDER TO SHOW HOW EVEN A SIMPLE HAND DRAWN MAP CAN SERVE THE PURPOSE. THE SECOND MAP IS A DIRECT LIFT FROM GOOGLE EARTH TO SHOW THE TRAIL IMAGES PRIOR TO JUNE 2007. Again clearer pictures of the maps are shown on havasuwheelers.org

