

February 1, 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 Relating to Standard Wash Open Area

We oppose the limited, arbitrary boundaries to the Standard Wash open area that will result in a reduction of the area currently described in map/brochures and on the present map on the kiosk. The present boundaries have been used very responsibly by an increasing number of all types of OHVs for approximately the last 20 years. Further, we question the data that states this area “may have been” part of the “Salt Song Trail”. The report generated from the archeological study which resulted in the limited, obscure, boundary is mostly based on what “may have been” as is stated on the first page of the report. The study, funded by the Arizona State Park OHV grant funds, in the amount of \$50,000.00, identified over 70 alleged archeological sites in Standard Wash, according to a local BLM employee.

The Havasu 4 Wheelers have offered to provide labor to fence these sites, and were refused on the basis BLM could not legally provide such information. We request BLM provide the documentation that would give them the authority to keep such archeology site locations from the public. It is questionable, why the Decision Team has acted on the information of one archeologist to compact and reduce this open area. It is even more difficult to understand why the public does not have access to the information to review each site location that led to open area boundary limitations. How can the archeologist identify an “Indian Sleeping area under an overhang”, as described by one BLM Employee?
The open area should remain as it is, using the natural geographic boundaries, i.e. major traveled washes, or prominent ridges (see attached map). Arbitrarily setting the boundary in the open flat area will mislead many OHV riders and either force or encourage non compliance. Unless fenced, or signed every 100 feet, the OHV community will not even know

when they violate the boundary. If fenced or signed, BLM will create a safety hazard for users. The challenge of enforcement will be incredible. This lack of enforcement will give visitors the feeling that none of the “rules” really matter!

We encourage the BLM leave the outer boundary of the Standard Wash open area to readily identifiable geographic features such as heavily traveled washes or prominent ridges. We also formerly request access to the archeological site locations, in order to assist BLM in reestablishing a new more easily defined and enforceable boundary.

If leaving the present boundaries is not supported, then we encourage the BLM to allow travel on the currently existing trails in the area proposed to be reduced from the current open area.