

Recreation Working Group  
May 2, 2022  
Via Zoom

Participants: Lisa Bolton, Ellen Parish, Heather Green, Michaela Gold, Matt Eberhardt, Veronica Stepanek, Nick Glidden, Carol Harder, Gerrit Boeck, Tim Holt, Rob Nelson, Lena Allen, Nate Ragan, Nat White, DeAnna Bindley, Sasha Stortz, David Wessel, Chris Newell, Brian Poturalski

Becki Ross update transmitted by Ellen: an OHV protest meeting was held by Sedona Residents Unite for two days. There was an interview with Walt Blackman from Fox 10 News. SB 1596 passed. Tim: SB1377 is stuck in Rules committee.

Ellen talked about the link she shared on an email. It had a positive message and can be seen at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrqQSCtViug>

Trash: Funding for dumpsters is expected from Tread Lightly and Arizona Parks and Trails.

Dumpster locations: Private locations seem to be better option. Question to Forest Service: is it easier to get permission to put dumpsters in campground or road intersections? Brian: Maybe the question is: which locations will be most effective and reach the targeted audience? Could have dumpster on Ashurst Lake road to hit dispersed campers that are leaving but not at Lake Mary Rd /Ashurst Lake Road intersection to avoid getting other waste material from people just traveling down Lake Mary Road. Forest Service is open to trying this.

Ambassadors: Matt: expect to have new ambassadors by fall. Signup for ambassadors: <https://azstateparks.com/ohv-ambassadors>

Dumpster source: Heather: where are dumpsters coming from? Ellen: Tread Lightly has potential contacts and Matt can also look into it. Ellen: we have some specific dumpster needs (locking, specific drop off and pick up times) so need to find the right fit. Nat: there are dumpsters in the winter on Highway 180 that are pretty effective. Dumpsters need to be accessible but not a shortcut to the dump. Brian will find who the dumpster business was. Matt: We have dumpster contracts for specific State Parks – I'll check to see if we can tack onto existing contracts.

Ambassadors: Brian: maybe Friends of Northern AZ Forests might be interested. Lisa: maybe Rotary might be interested if there are chapters in this area. David: CleanFlagstaff.org might be interested. Direct ambassador inquiries to Ellen since Diablo Trust does not currently have a volunteer/ambassador point of contact. Heather: If opening weekend for some of the hunts is a targeted event, then perhaps a sportsmen group might be interested. Carol: I can reach out to the local HOAs in the Blue Ridge area to see if anybody is interested.

Sasha: We had 3 weeks of dumpsters donated last year for specific events. Ellen: Did you have any challenges? Sasha: These were placed out of sight. We planned cleanups on FR 237/FR 535 on the big summer holiday weekends – Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Labor Day. We cancelled 4<sup>th</sup>

of July then. Tim: AZGFD plans to do trash enforcement again all three summer holiday weekends in conjunction with Sasha.

Matt: Who is our target audience? Visitors in general? Specifically, OHV users and others. Ellen: should we have a specific target audience? Matt: should we have a digital billboard? Radio ad or digital ad before they leave Phoenix? There is a grant opportunity for that. Nick: Fire restrictions stage 1 starting this week. I think it would be appropriate to keep messaging general to hit lots of people. Recently, I have seen lots of camps with trash, not necessarily OHV users. Nat: I've seen a shift from general use to increased motorized use over the 50 years I have been using the forest.

Messaging: We can use already established messaging from Tread Lightly, AZ Parks and Trails and others.

Tech: Dave: We've decided to start low tech with QR codes. Ellen: Tread Lightly can help with getting messaging out. Matt: Are we expecting heavier law enforcement during these heavy use weekends? We have increased our law enforcement amounts in our grants. Can use for equipment, overtime... good for up to 2 years.

Nick: We expect our law enforcement to be busy all over so would be giving them the information ahead of time. We will be short-staffed. The Forest Service wants to meet intent but don't want to overburden people already overburdened.

Gerrit: We are working on filling positions but would like existing staff to know where dumpster locations are so we can help when we can.

Ellen: Can we coordinate trash pick-up with these other efforts? Brian: Always a good idea to interface with public. Lena: The Natural Restorations group might be interested although their past focus has been in Phoenix. <http://www.naturalrestorations.org/>

When to place dumpsters/have ambassadors: Plan for post fire restrictions – maybe August. Which weekend in August: Outdoor Expo is August 12/13 at Mormon Lake. Diablo Trust campout weekend is August 20 and 21.

Adjourned: 12:05