

Thanks, Eric. Hope to see at least some of your people there on the 13th.
Joan

Joan S. Schneider, Ph.D.
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California State Parks

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-----Original Message-----

From: Eric Blackhurst [<mailto:eric@optcorp.com>]
Sent: Tue 4/6/2010 5:08 PM
To: Schneider, Joan
Subject: Re: Blair Valley and stargazing

Joan,

Thank you very much for having forwarded this information. I have brought it to the attention of John Downs, the principal organizer for many of the outings to Little Blair Valley that involve OPT affiliated amateur astronomers.

While it is difficult to see from the maps you included, can it be assumed that current dirt road on the dry lake bed will be off-limits to vehicles if the proposed changes occur? That is probably our largest concern, as astronomers have little if any reason to be venturing off the designated area on the lake bed.

Best regards,
Eric Blackhurst

On 4/4/10 10:19 AM, "Schneider, Joan" <jschneider@parks.ca.gov> wrote:

Dear Mike and Eric,

I want to call your attention to the proposed designation of 7 new Cultural Preserves for Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, one of which is Little Blair Valley. From locals in Borrego Springs, we understand that Little Blair is used by your Astronomy groups on a regular basis for stargazing. Attached are a description of the Preserve, a map of the proposed Preserve, and an announcement that includes the time and place of our next and final Public Information meeting. We want to make sure that you and your groups have a chance to comment so Parks staff can consider those comments when finalizing the Preserves. Dennis Mammana gave me your contact information, at my request.

Please feel free to contact me by email or telephone if you have any questions.

Joan

Joan S. Schneider, Ph.D.
Associate State Archeologist
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cell: (951) 205-4204
office: (760) 767-4403
home: (951) 780-1332Kip,

Thanks for your comments. We are working on allowing use of this area to continue.
Joan

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-----Original Message-----

From: Kip Peterson [<mailto:kip@mac.com>]
Sent: Tue 4/6/2010 9:52 PM
To: Schneider, Joan
Subject: Little Blair Valley for astronomy

Dear Joan,

I received an e-mail today from a fellow amateur astronomer that brought attention to a plan that is being considered to close access to the area within Little Blair valley that has been regularly used by astronomers to enjoy one of the few dark sky sites remaining in San Diego County. Is this true? I know the group of people that use this area cherish it and utilize it with great care. I hope there is a way to continue allowing this group to set up their telescopes in this area on new moon weekends since it does not impact the Pictograph area at all. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to preserve access to this much appreciated site.

Thank you,

Dr. Kip Peterson
109 Shelby Lane
Fallbrook CA 92028
760-703-1381 (cellular)
kip@mac.com

Dear John,

We sure that we are hearing you. We are working on a plan that will allow continued use of this traditionally used area. Thank you so much for your comments.

Joan

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-----Original Message-----

From: John Downs [<mailto:docdb@pnetcom.com>]

Sent: Wed 4/7/2010 7:11 AM

To: Schneider, Joan

Cc: Green, Scott

Subject: Little Blair Valley issue

Hello Joan,

My name is John Downs and former president of the Oceanside Photo & Telescope Astronomical Society (OPTAS) that have been using that area of Little Blair Valley monthly since 1989 for astronomy viewing and imaging and preserving the night skies for future generations and in keeping with the heritage of the American Indian. It has also been a goal of this small band of astronomers that use that area to leave it in better condition than we found it, and with just one or two nights a month we still take serious action when violators intrude or we see park rules being ignored. There is a special calling to this small group from fall until summer to come out to LBV and enjoy the splendor of the surrounding area and the pristine night skies and we would hate to lose it seeing that this dead-end dirt road does not impact the lake and is still a long ways from the Indian artifacts. We promise to uphold the conditions of the cultural area and to have minimum impact to that small dirt road for the 48 hours a month that we use it. It took us years to find this as a suitable place to enjoy the night skies and we hope that the parks division does not take it away from us, as we help to preserve it.

Thank you for your attention,

John Downs

docdb@pnetcom.com

WILLARD - DOWNING OBSERVATORY

VScott,

This is not a sensitive area, as far as our records show. I will go out and have another look, but I believe

that we can "cherry-stem" this like the area in upper Coyote Canyon where the Bailey Cabin is located. I am replying to each comment saying that we are looking for a solution to the request that we not close the road.

Joan

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From: John Downs [<mailto:docdb@pnetcom.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2010 7:12 AM
To: Schneider, Joan
Cc: Green, Scott
Subject: Little Blair Valley issue

Hello Joan,

My name is John Downs and former president of the Oceanside Photo & Telescope Astronomical Society (OPTAS) that have been using that area of Little Blair Valley monthly since 1989 for astronomy viewing and imaging and preserving the night skies for future generations and in keeping with the heritage of the American Indian. It has also been a goal of this small band of astronomers that use that area to leave it in better condition than we found it, and with just one or two nights a month we still take serious action when violators intrude or we see park rules being ignored. There is a special calling to this small group from fall until summer to come out to LBV and enjoy the splendor of the surrounding area and the pristine night skies and we would hate to lose it seeing that this dead-end dirt road does not impact the lake and is still a long ways from the Indian artifacts. We promise to uphold the conditions of the cultural area and to have minimum impact to that small dirt road for the 48 hours a month that we use it. It took us years to find this as a suitable place to enjoy the night skies and we hope that the parks division does not take it away from us, as we help to preserve it.

Thank you for your attention,

John Downs

docdb@pnetcom.com

WILLARD - DOWNING OBSERVATORY
Vista, California

PS: If the powers at be work against us can you show us areas at LBV that aren't effected or a new area where we could start again?ista, California

Michael,

The last of our public meetings is Tuesday, April 13th at Mission Trails Park in San Diego, 5-8 PM. I am going to attach to this email a map of the proposed Preserve area and the recommendations, etc. We have received a number of comments from others using the area for stargazing and we are reconsidering limiting use of that particular area. We needed to hear from people like you regarding uses. So, thanks for writing and asking. We are actively trying to address concerns of the public that use the areas we are proposing as Cultural Preserves.

Joan

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Dear Paul,

Thank you very much for writing to me about your concerns regarding the Little Blair Valley area. We hear you, loud and clear!! You are only one of several folks who have voiced their concerns and we are trying to make it possible to continue the traditional use. I think that we did not realize the popularity of this little area for astronomy folks. Please be sure that we take these concerns very seriously and will work out a solution. Thanks again for your informative note. Stay tuned!!

Joan

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-----Original Message-----

From: Paul Alsing [<mailto:pnalsing@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thu 4/8/2010 9:48 AM

To: Schneider, Joan

Subject: Little Blair Valley road closure

Hi Joan,

Several documents were forwarded to me regarding the closure of a short road on the north side of Little Blair Valley, and I feel I must speak up.

That little road goes absolutely nowhere, virtually everyone who goes down that road simply turns around and comes back, having reached a dead-end. Converted to a biking/hiking trail, it would be virtually unused, except the occasional visitor who mistakenly thinks it actually goes somewhere.

However, the first 300-400 yards or so of that road ARE considered to be prime real estate for hundreds of amateur astronomers, and it is famous throughout Southern California and beyond. It is not unusual to find visitors from out of state, or even from out of the country, who wander out there on new-moon Saturday nights in search of dark skies and friendly folks to share it with. You see, this little stretch of road offers some of the darkest skies combined with the magnificent low horizons to the south to be found in the entire county. It is relatively easy to get to and centrally located.

I myself have been going to this particular tiny stretch of desert for over 20 years, and for the 25 years before that I was going to Collins Valley via Coyote Creek with my telescope, back when I was wild and woolly and had a 4-wheel-drive vehicle.

Understand that we (amateur astronomers) only use LBV during the new-moon each month, and for most of us that is a single Saturday night per month. It is true that a couple of folks use it on multiple nights, perhaps 2 or 3 people per month.

The amateur astronomy community is proud of their very low impact on this area, we are in general a very laid-back slice of the population, very in tune with the "take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints" crowd. If you were to drive down that road right now, you would have no idea that on a new-moon Saturday night there are as many as 150 people and their telescopes inhabiting the north side of that road (NO ONE parks on the south side, on the lake bed proper), you would find virtually no indication that anyone had been there for years. Understand also that since we crave dark skies, there are no fires, ever, and I seriously doubt that, other than us one night a month, anyone ever camps there, for there are many really nice established campsites on the western end of the valley. Unfortunately, those campsites are right up against the ridge, and the horizons are terrible for telescopes.

This little road is (I'm guessing here) perhaps 1/2 mile long. It starts out quite straight and then bends slowly to the north, where it dead-ends at the foot of the mountains. We only set up on the straight portion, maybe the

first 1/8 mile, and never venture further up the road.

So, with all due respect, it is inconceivable, from my point of view, just how closing this road will help preserve anything, there doesn't seem to be anything on that road that need preserving. Maybe it could be closed down where it starts to curve.

It might be argued that we could always go to "Big" Blair Valley, but that side is dominated by car lights from the main road (S2), and the big RV groups, and with them comes lots of fires, Coleman lanterns, motor home porch lights, and lots of the astronomically uneducated, who parade through the telescopes all night, coming with their flashlights and their chatter, in general disrupting the whole night-sky experience. Not fun, not fun at all. You need to know that even the tiniest bit of light is a huge irritant to an astronomer. We use the dimmest red lights you can imagine to read out star charts.

If anything can be done to preserve our nearly perfect spot for the practice of our chosen hobby, there are hundreds and hundreds of folks (voters and taxpayers!) who would appreciate it very much.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do. Unfortunately, I will be out of town on the 13th, traveling to Texas to observe through a friend's really big telescope...

Paul Alsing
414 Arden Dr.
Encinitas, CA. 92024
pnalsing@gmail.com
858-254-0429 cell

Dear Jerry,

We are hearing you and your fellow astronomers loud and clear!!! I think we did not realize that this little road was used as heavily for viewing the night skies as we have just found out!!! We are making every effort to continue this use. Thank you very much for voicing your concerns. We will forward additional information when we re-think the boundaries of this Cultural Preserve.

Joan

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-----Original Message-----

From: jerry pinter [<mailto:jerrypinter@roadrunner.com>]
Sent: Thu 4/8/2010 12:29 PM
To: Schneider, Joan
Cc: mammana@skyscapes.com
Subject: Little Blair Valley

Hello Joan,

I am writing you on behalf of the proposed Cultural Preserve in the Little Blair Valley area. I learned of the proposal from forwarded e-mails from fellow amateur astronomers.

I have been going out to LBV for stargazing on a regular basis for over 20 years now. In fact, it was the wonder and grandeur of the LBV site and its night sky that got me so interested in astronomy that I now teach astronomy at Cal State University San Marcos. I've taught Astronomy there for 4 years now and have had more than 400 astronomy students. This is one of many reasons that LBV is such a special place to me. One of my favorite parts of teaching is sharing my astrophotos that I took at LBV. I've attached several of them to share with you, I hope you enjoy them too, as they represent a small part of what we do at LBV.

As you are probably aware, light pollution (city lights at night) is becoming more and more of a serious issue for both professional and amateur astronomers who consider the night sky a natural resource in peril. LBV provides a sanctuary from light pollution with its dark skies. But LBV is much more than that. The dry lake bed that sits in the center of LBV provides an ideal observing site for telescope users, as it provides a 360-degree panoramic vista of the night sky almost down to the horizon, with minimal obstruction from the nearby hills and mountains. The flat terrain alongside the lake bed is also optimal for setting up telescopes, especially when groups of observers are involved using multiple telescopes.

When using LBV for astronomy, my friends and family and I also frequently enjoy hiking the surrounding areas, including the morteros and pictographs nearby. I fully understand the concerns regarding preservation of these ancient cultural treasures. As we gaze up at the stars in LBV, we often talk about those who came long before us, living in the valley and how they must have looked up at the same stars with wonder and amazement as we do now. I'm happy to see that the morteros and pictographs are limited to foot traffic only.

My obvious concern is the proposed restriction on access to LBV, particularly the north side of the dry lake bed where amateur astronomers observe. I can assure you that amateur astronomers have the highest regard for preserving the beauty of the desert. They are always respectful of the pristine desert around them, always obeying the rules, driving only on the dirt roads, never leaving trash, never even having campfires (fires cause light pollution to nearby telescopes!). I think it would be a shame to deny this to a group of respectful and faithful desert lovers that I am part of.

My suggestion is to please allow vehicle access to remain for this small part of LBV on the north side of the dry lake bed, so that I and others can continue to enjoy the night sky there. You will make a big difference to the small community of amateur astronomers that have made LBV a special place in their lives.

Sincerely,

Jerry Pinter
Astronomy instructor
Department of Physics

California State University San Marcos

Dear Bill,

Thank you very much for your comments regarding the Little Blair Valley Cultural Preserve. I think that the planning team did not realize how important this little piece of land was to those who enjoy looking at the night-time skies. Be sure that we will reconsider the Preserve boundaries so that this traditional use might continue.

Joan

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-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Thompson [<mailto:yoshiker@roadrunner.com>]
Sent: Thu 4/8/2010 5:51 PM
To: Schneider, Joan
Cc: William Wolanin
Subject: Proposed Little Blair Closure

Dear Dr. Schneider,

I am concerned about the potential loss of Little Blair Valley as a camping and dark sky observation site for local astronomy groups. These folks have used this area for many years with minimal impact, not building fires, or damaging the area resources. The place where they set up their telescopes isn't close to the morteros, the rock art, or the Marshall South homestead, but rather is close to S-2 and the Western edge of the proposed Cultural Preserve.

By eliminating this area as a place where the astronomers can quietly pursue their scientific pursuits, they will be forced into adjacent camping locations frequented by family and group campers who may have large campfires, bright lights, and other activities not conducive to astronomy. Alternatively, they may have to travel deeper into the desert in search of dark sky areas that are more pristine and now have few campers.

Please consider a small change to the proposal allowing the designation of the road to remain as such, and permitting camping in this small edge of the proposed new Little Blair Valley Cultural Preserve.

Sincerely,

William Thompson
3453 Circulo Adorno
Carlsbad, CA 92009
760-470-1464

Dear Matt,

We have heard from many other of your fellow astronomy buffs. I think that we (the planning committee) did not realize how this little area of Blair Valley was used. Be sure that we are reconsidering the Preserve

boundaries so as to allow these activities to continue in LBV. Thanks so much for your comments.
Joan

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-----Original Message-----

From: Matt Johnson [<mailto:mdalejohn@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Thu 4/8/2010 8:19 PM
To: Schneider, Joan
Subject: LBV Closure

Ms. Schneider,

I was recently informed that there was a plan to make Little Blair Valley a cultural preserve. I was wondering if we would lose access to LBV as a dark sky site for our star parties? We only meet out there about once a month and our impact is minimal at best. May I propose a special stipulation for our little area of LBV, that we can meet out there at or around the new moon each month, and only for the weekend. Meaning, no extended stays out there in tents or campers. Is there any way we can keep from being denied access to one of the best dark sky sites in southern California?

Respectfully,

Matt Johnson

Dear Debbie,

Thank you for your comments regarding the proposed Little Blair Valley Cultural Preserve. Be sure that the ABDSP staff are reconsidering the boundaries of the Preserve in light of your, and others' concerns. I think that the planning committee did not realize how important this area was to astronomy buffs. Stay tuned!!

Joan

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-----Original Message-----

From: Debbie Searle [<mailto:dsearleion@att.net>]
Sent: Thu 4/8/2010 9:37 PM
To: Schneider, Joan
Subject: Little Blair Valley Stargazing

RE: Closure of a dead end road to vehicles in Little Blair Valley

Hi Joan,

I was sent a copy of your letter proposing the closure of the short dead end road that borders the north shore of the dry lake bed in Little Blair Valley. I have been going out to Little Blair Valley to observe each month on new moon weekend for over 27 years. I am very sad that this may possibly be taken away from me and all those who observe there as well. I have always felt very blessed to have such a wonderful observing site only a few hours from my home. There are none like it that I know of anywhere else in the county. This site is very popular among amateur astronomers and would be a great lose to us all. For your information, I rarely see anyone just hiking along this road. It is a dead end and not much is down at the end except a turnaround area at the base of the mountain nor is there ever any traffic. No thru traffic is another reason why it is a wonderful site to set up telescopes and observe from.no lights and no dust.

Please consider our concerns and our loss of many more nights under the dark skies of the county which are disappearing rapidly everywhere. Please do not take it away from us now. It is very precious to me and all that observe the night skies from Little Blair Valley.

Sincerely,

Debra Searle

Astronomy Educator

Dear Jerry,

Thank you very much for your comments regarding the proposed Little Blair Valley Cultural Preserve. We have heard from a number of your fellow astronomy enthusiasts voicing the same or similar concerns. Please be sure that ABDSP staff will reconsider the Preserve boundaries for LBV. We want the public to enjoy the Park and I think that most of us were unaware of the importance of this small area to you and others. We will make every effort to have this use continued. Thanks again.

Joan

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-----Original Message-----

From: Jeff Gortatowsky [<mailto:indanapt@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Sat 4/10/2010 11:15 AM
To: Schneider, Joan
Subject: Little Blair Valley

Dear Ms Schneider,

I only learned of the possibility that Little Blair Valley, specifically the short road running along the north side of the valley, might be placed off limits to me. I am an amateur astronomer and have been enjoy the dark skies from LBV for several years now. Ms Schneider amateur astronomers are a low impact group of people. Indeed it is in our best interest to not attract too much 'civilization' as it brings the bane of our hobby, light pollution.

We have always stayed on the first few hundred yards of the road, always stayed off the lake bed (as required), and always picked up after ourselves when leaving. None of us drive anywhere else. We drive in, park, observe the wonderful skies, nap, and drive out. We try to honor the land, take care of it, and preserve it as there are so few places left where skies are dark AND there are no campers with blinding white lanterns, headlights, and campfires. All the bane of our hobby.

Ms Schneider, there are precedences for amateur astronomers working in conjunction with the parks departement or other interested parties. Fremont Peak, Henry Coe, Mt Diablo, and others all cooperate to allow amateur astronomers access where otherwise access at night would not be allowed. All with the goal of *preservation* not exploitation. Indeed, there are parks designated as dark sky preserves. <http://www.darksky.org/mc/page.do?sitePageId=59827>

I want to keep this short, so I'll only ask that you please consider in your plans allowing traffic onto the northern road of Little Blair Valley for the express use of amateur astronomy. We are a very low impact group. We understand that area is a treasure in many ways. No doubt all cultures that lived on or visited that land had a deep connection to the sky and the stars. Humans always have. Amateur astronomers share that very same connection. To allow the wonders of the universe to be seen and explored from a small section of that land, honors those that did the same throughout history.

Thank you for your time.

Jeffrey D. Gortatowsky
1606 Kingham Way
Fullerton, CA. 92833
(714) 447-6749

Jeff Gortatowsky, Fullerton, CA | Twitter: JeffGortatowsky | Yahoo: indanapt

Bob,

If you come to the meeting, we will discuss. We have heard from many of your fellow star-watchers. We are rethinking the Preserve boundary in light of the other uses of the particular area.

Thank you for your comments.

Joan

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-----Original Message-----

From: Bob Nanz [<mailto:bob@nanzscience.com>]
Sent: Mon 4/12/2010 11:59 AM
To: Schneider, Joan
Cc: Green, Scott
Subject: Mission Trails Meeting

Hi,

Will either of you be attending the open house at Mission Trails Tuesday?

If I am able to come I would like to discuss specific archaeological finds within the designated areas: why they are "outstanding" and need such large tracts of land to be protected.

While I am sympathetic to your cause it seems to be very one-sided and for a single highly specialized interest group.

In the past I have set up my telescope at Little Blair Valley, Culp Valley (the campground), Vallecito (the county campground).

Some of these are in the proposed cultural preserve areas and some abut them. It would appear that all of these sites would be effected by the change either now or at some future time.

Bob Nanz
<http://nanzscience.com/gallery/>

Hi John,

What does your schedule look like for next week or the week after? I am committed for Tuesday, but am available the rest of the week for a scheduled visit to Little Blair.

Joan

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From: John Downs [<mailto:docdb@pnetcom.com>]
Sent: Wed 4/14/2010 8:24 PM
To: Schneider, Joan
Subject: Little Blair Valley and Astronomers

Hello Joan,

It was nice to finally meet you and hear the layout for the proposed cultural preserve and your support of leaving the area for the astronomers open for stargazing. I was glad to see such a large turnout at the meeting yesterday to help in backing up all those great emails sent to you, as we are very serious about our hobby. As I mentioned we're the group you want on your side in self policing and keeping that area pristine for all to enjoy. Please contact me via email or by phone and we can arrange a time to visit that area of Little Blair Valley, and thanks again for your openness on this issue.

Best Regards,

John W. Downs
docdb@pnetcom.com

WILLARD - DOWNING OBSERVATORY

Vista, California

hThanks for your comments, Larry. Be sure we hear you and many, many of your star-gazing colleagues. We are working on it.

Joan S. Schneider, Ph.D.
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Colorado Desert District
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From: Larry Harker [mailto:harker@roadrunner.com]
Sent: Fri 4/16/2010 9:21 AM
To: Schneider, Joan; Green, Scott
Subject: Proposed Cultural Preserve

Dear Dr. Schneider and Mr. Green,

Since I was unable to attend Tuesday's meeting concerning the proposed cultural preserve in Anza Borrego State Park, I would like to summarize what I would have brought up at the meeting.

I would like to keep Little Blair Valley's access road and telescope/camping area accessible to amateur astronomers. I have attended only a couple of astronomer gatherings in this area and was utterly impressed with what you can see in a truly dark sky. What I also noticed was that the impact to the environment was as close to nil as one can get. No campfires, no hiking, no biking, no dumping and no trash left behind. These are people who love the desert for what it is: dark and pristine.

We need to keep this unique area open so when our children are older, I can show them a sky as seen a thousand years ago by the Kumeyaay and Cahuilla. A slight edit to your proposed plan to allow access and overnight camping to this area in Little Blair Valley would allow me and other fathers the chance to do so.

I appreciate your time and consideration in reviewing my request.

Sincerely,

Larry W. Harker, Pharm.D.
1277 Orchard Glen Circle
Encinitas, CA 92024
(760) 815-6760
<http://www.vistaobservatory.com>

Thanks for your comments, Mike. If you looked at the maps for the preserves, you will see that the only roads that are closed are short spurs that were directly damaging cultural resources (and this has been well-documented). No other roads that compose the many miles of roads are closed. No senior is going to have to walk miles and miles in desert heat. In addition, you may realize that designating cultural preserves will enrich the visits of those seniors you and the Park care about. There will be more to understand and enjoy. Open camping will remain a policy (ABDSP is the ONLY park in the system that retains this policy); the abuse of the policy by some of the visiting public is causing us to designate a few places where open camping is not allowed (or alternatively, where camping is allowed). If one wishes to camp away from the roads, one has to hike in only 1/2 mile -- manageable by kids and any senior who wants to camp. One can still car camp right off the road in any area that is not within a cultural preserve. Please go back and read the recommendations again. The plan we have developed will ensure that the grandchildren of those seniors may have all the opportunities to enjoy the Park that their grandparents had.

I will include your comments in our responses and thank you for them.

Joan

Joan S. Schneider, Ph.D.
Associate State Archeologist
Colorado Desert District
California State Parks

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-----Original Message-----

From: Mike Himmerich [<mailto:Borrego.IT@att.net>]
Sent: Mon 4/19/2010 11:33 AM
To: Schneider, Joan
Subject: RE: the rest Public comment AB cultural preserves

Hi Joan,

Thank you for the documents. Thanks for your hard work. You requested public comments on the plans, here is my 2 cents.

In a Feb 8, 2005 State Parks news release, (Roy Stearns and Brian Cahill) in bold type was the following;

"Key proposals found in this General Plan are:

_ Maintains the policy of open camping, an opportunity that is very rare in today's

State and National parks, and it allows expansion of recreational support facilities.

_ Recognizes the importance of maintaining vehicle routes throughout the park as

the primary means of visitor access. There are over 420 miles of designated routes of travel which are primitive roads and almost 100 miles of paved access

roadways"

The Camping closures and road closures are in direct opposition to the promises the park made to maintain camping and access routes.

All of the proposed cultural preserves are Wilderness areas and are already fully protected.

Other than as Prop 84 funding gimmick there appears to be no need for the cultural preserves.

All access routes, spurs and camping should remain open or be reopened in all areas so that even the disabled may have equal access to the parks, which supported with their tax dollars.

Many residents that live in areas surrounded by the park are senior citizens. They want to visit the park regularly and likely want to preserve their access. Forcing people in their 80's -90's to hike mile upon mile in the desert heat to reach places they once could easily access by vehicles is a recipe for disaster.

Regards,

Mike Himmerich

Borrego Springs, CA

From: Schneider, Joan [<mailto:jschneider@parks.ca.gov>]
Sent: Saturday, April 03, 2010 11:57 PM
To: borrego.it@att.net
Subject: the rest

Here are the others -- happy reading.

Joan S. Schneider, Ph.D.
Associate State Archeologist
Colorado Desert District
California State Parks

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Mike,

That is way, way too many acres. We had some folks out there looking at the trail and figuring out how people could follow it, but not damage it. I will get more information for you. The figure of 640 acres per square mile is for a SQUARE MILE, NOT A LINEAR MILE. I think the width of the trail would be no more than 1/8 of a mile (and probably much less), so that makes about 6 square miles, if indeed, the trail is 50 miles long. Many sections are either on private land (we cannot designate) or are covered by modern roadway. We are still working on the specifics.
Joan

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From: Mike Himmerich [mailto:Borrego.IT@att.net]
Sent: Mon 4/19/2010 9:31 PM
To: Schneider, Joan
Subject: RE: the rest Public comment AB cultural preserves

Hi Joan,

Maybe I read it wrong. Please forward the individual topo maps with the cultural areas highlighted, they were not with the other documents forwarded. Also, is there a total acreage for the 50 miles Southern Overland Trail? Is 640 acres per mile or 32,000 a good guess?

Regards,
Mike

Dear Mark,
Thank you for expressing your concern regarding the designation of the new cultural preserves in ABDSP. For Coyote Canyon, in particular, there are no recommended road closures – roads as are open now will remain so. We are going to designate car-camping areas adjacent to the roads where there are areas in which car camping is directly impacting cultural resources. We will then be asking the visiting public to restrict their car camping to these areas (or, alternatively, we may be designating areas and asking the public NOT to camp in those few areas). Back-pack camping in the designated wilderness areas will not be affected in any way. In Upper Coyote Canyon, the plans call for excluding the Bailey Cabin area from the Preserve, so that the present use can be continued. I am attaching some information and a map about the Coyote Canyon Cultural Preserve. The areas within the preserve were mainly to localize interpretive signs that will be placed so that information can apply to each of these areas individually. Please let me know if you have other information needs.
Joan

From: Mark Haigler [mailto:markhaigler@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2010 11:17 AM
To: Green, Scott; Schneider, Joan
Subject: Cultural Preserves in Coyote Canyon, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

Dear Mr. Green and Dr. Schneider:

I would like to be informed of what access changes are being contemplated to upper and lower Coyote Canyon. I am concerned that further limiting access to the canyon will perhaps effectively prevent responsible use entirely. The State has already closed areas to vehicle travel (lower, middle and upper Willows) and entirely closes the canyon for a third of the year. There is only the one road, just part of the original, will we lose use of that entirely now? Is the State planning on preventing open camping in the area?

Please advise as to what is being proposed and when further action is being considered.

Thank you,

Mark Haigler
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