

Email from Rick Hammel re: April 17, 2005
OHV Monitoring Workgroup Meeting

We just concluded a very good meeting of the local OHV monitoring group. Present were Rob Schmitzer, Jeff Whilden, Jane Yazzie and her husband, Rick Hammel and Luke Schafer.

We are going to have a work party on 4/30/51 and 5/7-8. Prior to work party, some of us will be going out to Sandwash to get the trails laid out so that we don't waste time on Saturday. Anyone is welcome to come along. Meet at BLM at 6:30 am all three days.

We are looking for two new folks to join the committee, one with archeology interests and a Sandwash Basin grazing permittee.

There is going to be an OHV (not NWCOS) meeting at the Fairgrounds Pavilion, Tuesday, April 26, 2005 at 7:00 pm. This is a meeting for all OHV users. Jeff Whilden organized this meeting and has no idea how it will be attended. We who can, should attend.

Jeff Whilden has accepted being co-chair of this committee. We all welcomed him aboard. He brings a wealth of knowledge about OHV use in Sandwash. He also knows how to operate those hi-tech GPS units.

We discussed the scientific protocols. We feel that some of the low use areas can be monitored with comprehensive photo plots. We will discuss this with Dana.

We discussed the many questions that were being asked of myself and other members of the committee. As to the protocol we are using, it was suggested to us by CSU. It was developed by Joranda Research Project, USDA Research Service and New Mexico State University. There is nothing subject in the protocol. It is pure data gathering. There is nothing to fear from what we are doing in the Basin. We are studying these trails so that the BLM may make informed decisions on OHV management. We will not be recommending any management.

We welcome any NWCOS member to join us. If you have doubts about what we are doing, come along and observe us. Bring your own lunch and water.

Best regards... Rick Hammel