

Taken from <http://ptsc-2011.blogspot.com/p/meeting-notes.html>

Trail Users Meeting Notes 8-16-2011- Chino Valley Ranger District

Attendance: Chris Hoskins (city of Prescott), Debbe Dolson (VP Granite Mtn Riders), Tom and Diana Norris, Denise Stevens, Spike and Carol Hicks, Denny and Sara Murray, Brad DeVries, Joyce Mackin, Brooke Weitkunat (Prescott Mtn Bike Alliance), John Shumaker (Prescott Mtn Bike Alliance), Jason Williams (USFS- Trails Manager), Nancy Walls (Natl Res Staff Off), Linda Jackson (Bradshaw Dist Ranger).

Notes were taken and typed by Sara Murray

In response to equestrians and mountain bikers and hikers concern over trail safety, thirteen trail users and three PNF personnel met at the Chino Valley Ranger Station of discuss the issue of trail safety and brain storm possible and reasonable solutions to address the issue.

Six organizations were represented, also including the City of Prescott. They were Back Country Horsemen, Prescott Mountain Bikers Alliance, Yavapai County Trail Assoc, Prescott Saddle Club, Granite Mountain Riders and the Prescott National Forest. A seventh participate represented the rider that does not belong to any organization.

A history was given of the beginning efforts to address the safety issue on our trails. BCH met with the PMBA beginning May 2010. Several meeting were held including the FS and a meeting of BCH with the PMBA at the Cayuse trail head. Concerns were presented to the City Council twice, after the City Recreational Map was published that made the trails appear to be mountain bike trails. (Note: this map is being revised to include hikers and riders.)

A review of the three most recent accidents was discussed. From this discussion it evolved into the conditions and the type of trails that are conducive to accidents...as blind corners, places to get off the trail, poor line of sight, need of brushing, etc.

Everyone agreed that a collaboration or alliance of concerned trail users was the best approach to the problem and approaching the PNF service with out suggestions. The FS realizes the "push" has to come for the public and will participate in making corrections to the trails.

A list of ideas was decided upon. Signage was the first priority. A new and attention getting sign needs to be at each trail head that states the dangers and the need for courtesy. Blind corner and courtesy signs to be placed out on the trails.

The was discussed how to redesign the trails to make corners safer by placing barriers on the curve that require the biker slow down but does not effect hikers or riders. It was agreed that all groups would inspect the trails, GPS dangerous locations and report to the PNF and help them redesign that part of the trail.

The danger of ear phones was a major concern that would be addressed on the trail head signs and each group educating their members about not using them on the trails.

A Trail Safety Clinic will be planned using biker, hikers and riders. It will be a three day event with the third day out on the trails..

September 17th will be a joint ride meeting at the Williamson Valley Trail Head.

October 15th the PMBA will be holding an event to show case the Prescott Trails. They want BCH to hold another meeting with the horses as was held at the Cayuse Trail Head earlier this year. They will be holding rides at trails 305, 369, Granite Basin and Thumb Butt.

Brad DeVries and Denny Murray will develop a time line for accomplishing the suggestions.

August 19th and September 9th will be days to identify problems on trail 347 with FS. Denise Stevens will begin designing a new sign for the FS. Brook Weitkunat will set up a Google program where Reports of dangerous trail situations can be reported.

Additional items to look into will be asking all the effected groups to post the new signage on their web sites with and explanation of the courtesy rules of yielding, explaining that no one group "owns the trails" and everyone must be conscious of being willing to yield the right-of-way. Also, publishing the sign in the newspaper with an article that will reach all trail users who are not members of an organized group that will explain the same issues to the general public.

A volunteer trail patrol system is being discussed with the PNF and seeing how one may fit into

One of the volunteer programs that the FS already has in place. PMBA has already begun to define a patrol program for the bikers. Equestrian groups need to look into the same program for the riders.

It was noted that there are safety issues with all user groups that need to be addresses. Such as the endurance rider and joggers who uses the trails for training and conditioning, the hikers who carry sticks or go off the trail and return unexpectedly.

The collation group agreed to continue meeting until safety is a normal and natural part of the enjoyment of the used of our forest and wilderness trails.

