

Email from Rick Hammel to OHV Monitoring Workgroup Email Listserv, dated May 10, 2005, re: May 7, 2005 Field Trip

Hello All,

I must be losing it! I thought I sent a note out over the weekend, but I discovered that I did not. So here it is.

We met at the BLM at 6:30 am, on Saturday, 5/7. Present were, Jane and Larry Yazzie, Rick and Laurie Hammel and Luke Schafer. When we arrived at Sandwash Basin, we discover Moffat County Road and Bridge had been grading. But only about a mile.

Our project for the day was to establish where the monitoring plot were to be. There were three criteria set by Dana Bishop: The plots need to be relatively flat, enough room to do a possible control plot 200 meters from the main plot and stay within the vegetation type, ie, sage.

The first plot is on trail 2048A. It presented a challenge as it was on a bench. We chased it out until it went out into a valley and we were able to establish the plot with no problem. Larry and Jane stretched out the 100 meter tape and drove in the end pin. Luke drove in the Carsonite stake for the start point. Rick took the GPS reading and Laurie took the photo. Then onto the next one.

The weather was beginning to get rather bad as we finished the trails off of CR48. So we went to the last route off of CR67 in hope that the rain would let up. It did. We place the trail counter on one of the heavy use trails. We went to 2078C which started out as a medium use trail. we went into about 300 meters and discovered an old structure foundation. Beyond that point the trail disintergrated into an almost no-use trail. So we abandoned it.

We were to finish with trail 2067C. We got to the trail head and discovered it was pretty vertical. So we said no to this one. It didn't fit Dana's criteria; it was not flat, had no potential for a control plot and the vegetation was pinion/juniper.

When we got home, we randomly selected two trails; 2048C, a heavy use trail and 2048 a medium trail. Luke and Rick will go out Friday, 5/13, and get those trails set up. We will also do a phot we didn't get because of rain.

Saturday, May 21, starts the baseline data gathering. Dana will be coming over to train us on Saturday. And will be out with Rick and whoever will help for the remainder of the week. We will be off on Friday, 5/27, for the Subcommittee meeting.

So there you have the complete report. We need help mid week of May 23-26. If you can help, please contact Rick at rhammel@cmn.net

Best regards.. Rick