

Fred D. Huff

From: Edwin_Roberson@nm.blm.gov
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2007 3:45 PM
To: Fred D. Huff
Cc: Tim_Sanders@nm.blm.gov; Tom_Phillips@nm.blm.gov
Subject: Re: Alleged vandalism in Robledo Mountains

Importance: High

Fred, Got your email and your voice mail. I am trying to meet a deadline for a lawsuit appeal mediation proposal and cannot spend time with you right now.

First, thank you for your offer to assist in the protection of these sites. We will be working on a monitoring strategy in 2 weeks because that is the first chance we have to get our paleo folks down here. Hopefully, effective monitoring will stop any vandalism. However, if the information and follow up visit lead me to believe that we need an emergency closure to protect the sites, then I will let you all know.

We don't intend to include you in the development of the monitoring strategy. At this point, the advocates for protection of the trackways have no interest in partnering with you on a monitoring strategy because they do not trust your motives. One of the individuals that has worked extensively with the congressionals on the legislation was on a tour of the insect hill area and others with you. Their feeling at that time was that in sharing with you the unique sites and resources, that you would become a supporter. Now they see that you have identified extensive details about some of those very locales on your web site. When I tell them you "abhor the vandalism" and want to protect the sites, they think it is disingenuous.

Second, I misspoke if I said the Trackways Foundation/Sierra Club/Wilderness Society folks were sent a copy of the BLM paleo report. I talked to the folks today that were calling last week about the vandalism. They has not seen any report. They heard about the vandalism that is documented in a BLM report. We still haven't gotten the report and photos but will this week. We plan to keep them internal.

Third, with regard to your website (although I mentioned it above), my observation is that the maps and photos (with formations circled), especially with your photo tour, would make it very easy for someone who wanted to vandalize or remove these formations to find them. Your photos of the tracks make them look very enticing. You even give info on how to convert from UTM's to locations to get folks within 300 feet. Tracks and trackways are protected like vertebrate fossils. Detailed site information is even kept from other employees. We keep detail site information about such protected resources (especially cultural sites) off our maps, out of our reports and off our websites. Having that kind of information on an easy to navigate website is far more accessible and differs greatly from it being in obscure reports or a novel. If the maps (except for the boundary), site photos and the photo tour were not on your site, I believe that would show good faith on your part that you do want to see these resources protected; and it might help convince the folks in the Trackways Foundation, Wilderness Society, Sierra Club and other groups working to protect those resources to come to trust your motives.

We will keep working on this issue from our end. We would like to meet with you sometime to talk about some of the information and photos you have, and about the need to work together on re-routing or tightening up of some of the trails where we do see resource damage occurring. We will give you a call when we get to that point. ed

Edwin L. Roberson
Las Cruces District Manager
Office: 505-525-4311 or 525-4300
Cell: 505-644-8777
Fax: 505-525-4444

