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Volunteers fence open mine shafts

Havasu 4 Wheelers work to fence open mine shafts in the Buckskin Mountains, situated south of Lake Havasu City and east of Parker Dam, for the first time.

By JAYNE HANSON TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD



**Submitted Photo/Courtesy of Havasu 4 Wheelers
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Havasu 4 Wheelers rolled out again last week continuing with their fourth season of fencing off dangerous open vertical-mine shafts to ensure the safety of other off-road enthusiasts kicking up dust in area deserts.

The group of volunteers met Wednesday morning and embarked with 20 members, 15 Jeeps, two of which each towed trailers laden with fencing materials provided by U.S.

Bureau of Land Management. Their destination was the Buckskin Mountains, south of Havasu and east of Parker Dam.



The location was a first for Havasu 4 Wheelers, but like other project sites, involves steep terrain.

The effort is an ongoing partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management Lake Havasu Field Office and off-road nonprofit organization Tread Lightly, which promotes responsible outdoor recreation through ethics education and stewardship programs.

The volunteers donate their time, tools, trucks, and other equipment to secure several mine remnants of historical gold and silver mine workings near Havasu.

The work involved driving steel posts into the rocky ground, stringing wire and posting warning signs.

Following this effort, the organization anticipates regularly inspecting local mine sites that they've fenced. With reports of fencing that had been torn down at one site, the members advise the public of the importance and safety significance of the fencing in that the measure reduces demands on BLM to close or restrict access in response.

The group strives to keep the area's desert trails open for all

Following this effort, the club plans to regularly inspect local mine sites fenced off over the prior three years. Fencing at one site was recently discovered torn down. It was

repaired. The club wants the public to understand the importance of keeping the mine fencing secure. This reduces demands on the BLM to close off nearby trails to restrict access in response.

The club strives to keep the area's desert trails open, and the group's mine fencing and desert cleanup efforts is the group's way of giving back to the desert areas they enjoy, according to a press release.

