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Havasu 4 Wheelers to conduct desert clean-up

STAFF REPORTS

The Havasu 4 Wheelers, a local off road organization consisting of 200 member families, will conduct a desert clean-up effort at 8:30 a.m. today at Paseo de Oro.

The group will concentrate on a popular illegal dumping & unregulated shooting area on the north side of the city near Colt and Paseo de Oro Drives. This annual effort is conducted as part of the club's conservation efforts to "give back to the desert areas we all use and enjoy" and the responsible use of our public lands.

It is expected that upwards of 75 club members will set out, collecting trash and various materials throughout the area. Discarded furniture, televisions, water heaters and other trash is either shot to pieces or burned and left to rust, the groups says. It is anticipated that a half day of work will be devoted and a 40 cubic-yard roll-off trash container is typically filled to capacity.

The clean-up will be conducted in coordination with the BLM Lake Havasu Field Office, Tread Lightly, a nonprofit organization, and the Keep Havasu Beautiful Committee.

The club's clean-up coordinator, Mike Yahrmark, surveyed the area. "I would say we have a challenge waiting for us considering the size of the area and the amount of trash scattered all over the terrain," he said.

Bruce Speirs, another member, is appalled at the condition of the area. "As an off road enthusiast and sport shooter I am dismayed at what we keep finding. It's not OK to shoot stuff to pieces and then just leave it in the desert. This gives both activities a black eye and leads to land closures. A few continue to wreck it for everyone."

The Havasu 4 Wheelers will be assisted by employees from the BLM Lake Havasu Field Office. Allied Waste Services is providing trash containers at no cost and About Time Portable Toilets is supplying a portable restroom for the day.

The club will continue its desert conservation efforts, in conjunction with the BLM by fencing dangerous mine shafts, removing junk vehicles from the desert; and it has started installing route markers on the area's numerous off-road trails.

Seventy-Five volunteers including BLM, State Land, Game & Fish reps along with our own Havasu 4 Wheelers attended. Thanks to all of them. Amanda Deeds from BLM got a new sign which we erected at the desert entrance at Paso de Oro saying " shooters--no littering--remove all targets and ammo" . The State rep installed 2 state land trust signs (not sure if this is a good thing). The Game and Fish rep said he installed hidden cameras to catch people dumping in the desert. I hope all this helps. We over filled 1-40 yard dumpster and 1/2 of another. H4W volunteers worked about 3 hours and the area looks awesome right now. We had a good lunch, a great day. Thanks to everyone, good people.

Mike Yahrmarkt, Trash Master

Diane Corder of the Havasu 4-Wheelers helped out at the club's annual Desert Clean-Up. "Sure wish shooters would clean up after themselves!" she said, noting that she collected enough shell casings to fill a five-gallon bucket.