



RED ROCK CONNECTION



“RED ROCK RANGER DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUPPORTED BY THE RED ROCK PASS”

“Cultural Heritage” Protection & Management” by Sharyn Blood, Archaeologist

Cultural heritage protection can be very challenging and laborous, however, extremely rewarding when we can pull it off! Presently, we're in the final stages of “phase1” protective management at the Honanki Ruin to:

- Stabilize the ruins
- Eliminate vandalism
- Reduce general impacts to the area
- Construct a handicap and general access trail
- Construct viewing platforms
- Improve parking and picnic areas



(Friends of the Forest, Pink Jeep), and revenue from the Red Rock Pass program made this work possible. With these site improvements in place, we are preparing to expand our interpretative accomplishments at Honanki through increased on-site staffing, again provided and supported by the revenue from the Red Rock Pass program.

At Palatki and the V-V sites, it is the revenue from the Red Rock Pass program that continues to provide staffing for interpretation, site protection, support for the many volunteers needed to help in the staffing, interpreting, and protecting the sites, as well as on-going facility and site maintenance.

Grant funding (Save America's Treasures - White House), volunteering (Friends of the Forest, Verde Valley Archaeological Society, Sierra Club), contributions

What Kind of Uniform Does a Cattle Guard Wear? by Sarah Hankinson

This is not a punch line to a joke! It is, in fact, one of the many bizarre questions that the Red Rock frontliners (first contacts) are asked on a regular basis. Working at a Visitor Center in Sedona means that in addition to knowing the answers to Forest questions, you are expected to know the best Mexican restaurants, if there are snakes on the trail and where to buy running shoes!

Our visitor information centers inform, educate and assist hundreds of thousands of visitors annually about the Coconino National Forest, among other things. Many people who come into a visitor center are

so excited just to get to speak with a Forest Service “ranger” or frontline person who can provide valuable information on reliable trails and recreation.

The Red Rocks of Sedona are the area's primary attraction. With an ever increasing number of forest users, the Red Rock Pass provides a means to meet the Forest Service mission of: “Caring for the land and serving people”. These frontliners fulfill parts of the Forest Service mission by relaying a strong land ethic to hikers, bikers, equestrians, spiritualists, picnickers and all the visitors to the National Forest.

6-Month Accomplishments Recreation, Wilderness & Trails

- Visited with 7800 forest users
- Picked up 47,000 lbs of trash
- Cleaned up 88 dump sites
- Dismantled & cleaned 259 fire rings
- Found 53 transient camps
- Closed 113 mi. of user-created trails
- Cleaned 141 trail water bars, removed 22 fallen trees
- Dismantled 10 medicine wheels and 2000 rock cairns
- Cleaned 185 sq. ft. of graffiti
- Gave 62 “Leave No Trace talks
- Patrolled 466 miles of trail
- Removed noxious weeds: Thunder Mt., Little Horse, V-V and Palatki.
- Finished Midgley Bridge Project
- Completed Boynton Canyon, Cathedral Rock and Cockscomb Trailheads
- Closed & naturalized 8 trespass roads
- Cited 2 illegal woodcutters, 1 act of graffiti & 1 person stealing artifacts
- Removed & treated 100 loads of bark-beetle wood from Vista
- Fixed fences at V-V & Bell Rock

Maintained Trails :

Huckaby, Marg's Draw, Bandit, Big Park, Court House Butte, Jordan, Cibolo, Cathedral, Jack's Canyon, Purtyman, Deadman's Pass, Broken Arrow, Slide Rock, Casner Canyon, Brins Mesa, Allen Bend, AZ Cypress Cockscomb, Wilson, Hot Loop, Sunset

Assisted:

Bee sting victim, bicycler with broken collar bone, lost persons at Doe Mt. & Little Horse Trails, 1 stranded motorist, 1 vehicle accident, and 4 Search & Rescues on the Doggie and Parsons Trails

Trail Formula To Maintain and Yet Provide A Challenging Ride? Susan Vitek, Friend of The Forest

How do the Forest Service approach trail maintenance and provide for the specific interests of user groups like mountain bikers who crave a difficult, challenging and technical riding experience?

The formula: Take one dedicated ranger, Justin Loxley (funded by Red Rock Passes), plus eight equally dedicated volunteers from Absolute Bikes and TRACS, to the increasingly popular biking area at Carroll Canyon Trail. Add 3,000 pounds of rocks, sections of armor plated tread, muscle, sweat, dirt, determination and teamwork. (And don't forget the water!)

Mix together for several hours, using construction techniques of "bookcasing" and "armor plated treading". The end product? The Forest Service is happy because trails are sustained and maintained. Bikers are pleased because they are provided with the level of difficulty and tread stability they enjoy.

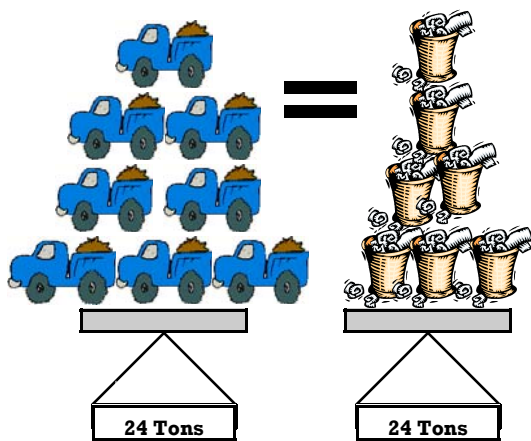


These construction methods prevent erosion while creating a trail lasting 15 to 20 years. In bookcasing, 3,000 pounds of rocks averaging 100 pounds each creates a 25-foot long and 10 to 15 foot high area that bikers can use as an up or down hill challenge. Before the bookcasing, those areas were impassable, so bikers created their own "social trails," resulting in more damage to the forest.

Armor-plated tread also combines forest sustainability with an exciting technical ride. Loose soil is removed and replaced with the armor-plated tread on top of compacted soil. The tread's gently sloping sides lets water flow freely while preventing erosion.

Such cooperation between volunteers and the Forest Service creates a satisfied community—and isn't that what it should be about?

Trivia: How much is 24 tons of trash?



Answer:

Weight of trash collected on the forest over the last 6 months equals the weight of **eight** 6,000 lb trucks.

6 - Month, Red Rock Ranger District Visitor Contacts (October 1— April 30)

VOC Visitor Center	50,491
Palatki	13,884
V-V	5,790
Oak Creek Vista	8,791
Red Rock Ranger Station	13,413
Hononki	20,000
Cultural Park	3,141
(Oct -Dec. 2003)	
Chamber Uptown	125,129
Total:	240,639

Forest Clean Up Supported by Red Rock Pass Revenue



Removing medicine wheels, a continuous impact!



An average of 400 signs are replaced each year!



Hundreds of tons of trash are removed annually!



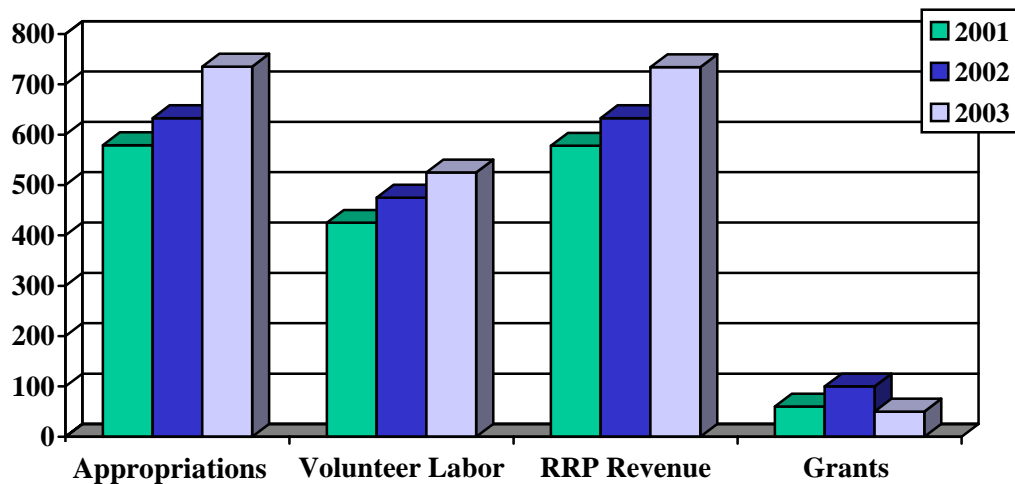
An average of 40 vehicles are abandoned each year!



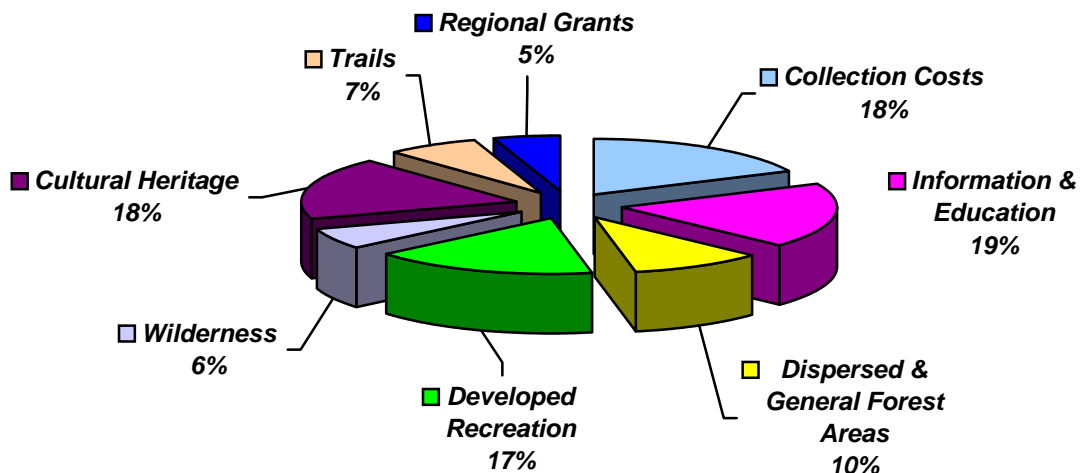
Graffiti, a growing impact requiring immediate attention!



ANNUAL FUNDS—RECREATION/ WILDERNESS & TRAILS



FISCAL YEAR 2004 1ST 6 MONTHS - RED ROCK PASS EXPENDITURES



Trails - 7% Trail building, maintenance, signage and volunteer supervision.

Southwest Region Grants - 5% Dollars available as grants back to the forests for local rehabilitation of damaged areas.

Fee Collection - 18% Accounting costs, compliance and U Park contractor fees.

Information & Education - 19% Visitor services provided to forest visitors, both in the field and information centers. Includes printed materials, personnel and interpretive programs.

Dispersed & General Forest Areas - 10% Forest patrol,

vandalism repairs, signage, trash pick-up and other recreation operations.

Developed Recreation - 17% Developed site maintenance: trailheads, building maintenance, sanitation services, developed site clean-up.

Wilderness - 6% Patrol, boundary signing, interpretive "Leave No Trace" programs, visitor services and maintenance.

Cultural Heritage - 18% Site protection and visitor services and interpretation at local cultural heritage sites (Palatki, Hononki, V-V). Patrol for vandalism, maintenance and signing.