Youth Crews Improve Trails in Western Arizona

Trails on the public lands in western Arizona provide hiking, biking, and equestrian opportunities for thousands of visitors each year. Recreationists can choose from trails that cross pinon pine woodlands and chaparral to those that climb to mountain peaks offering spectacular views.

The BLM is working with Coconino Rural Environment Corps from Flagstaff, Arizona, and Stanco Signage from Santa Ana, California, through two ARRA projects to improve portions of the popular trail system managed by the BLM's Kingman, Arizona, Field Office. The work will improve safety, help reduce maintenance costs, and keep motor vehicles off the trails and adjoining public lands.

In May 2010, a crew of eight young adults and their leaders completed an eight-mile section of the Monolith Garden Trail, a popular biking trail in the Cerbat Foothills Recreation Area. Monolith Garden Trail is named for the tall rock formations featured along the route. Work included trimming brush and doing tread work on 8 miles of trail, installing a 20-foot section of trail ramp for a dangerous segment, rerouting 200 feet of trail, removing plants at the Coyote Pass Trailhead to improve access for trailers, and reclaiming 2 miles of illegal motor vehicle ruts. Damage to fragile soils and vegetation from just one vehicle can last for decades.



Crews reclaimed illegal vehicle ruts off the Monolith Garden Trail in the Cerbat Foothills Recreation Area.

The Kingman Trails Project also included trails maintenance on the Twenty-six Wash Trail in the Mount Tipton Wilderness, an area known for its jagged rock outcroppings called pinnacles. Final phases of the project will include work on the Badger and Castle Rock Trails within the Cerbat Foothills Recreation Area and the Wabayuma Peak Trail in the Wabayuma Peak Wilderness. The recreation staff of the BLM's Kingman Field Office is assisting with and monitoring the work. The projects are expected to be completed in mid September.



Coconino Rural Environment Corps members re-route a section of the Monolith Garden Trail, about 10 miles from Kingman, Ariz.

The project provides members of the Coconino Rural Environment Corps invaluable work experience and helps to encourage a new generation of land stewards. The Corps, sponsored by Coconino County Community Services, works with the AmeriCorps program to provide conservation work opportunities to young adults (18 - 25 years old) by partnering with land management agencies.

