



Crews reroute the Robertson Pasture Trail on the Abajo Mountains. Courtesy photo

Forest Service, OHV groups improve trails

Atop the Blue Mountains last month, the U.S. Forest Service rerouted Robertson Pasture Trail. The project required constructing three miles of new trail and reclaiming one mile of old trail. So the agency called on the aid of Ride with Respect (RwR), a Moab nonprofit that conserves multiple-use recreation opportunities.

Originally, the Robertson Pasture Trail climbed straight up to a pass at

10,500 feet of elevation. Over the years, this section eroded into a trough which was difficult to navigate, whether by motorcycle, bicycle, horse, or foot. To reduce the trail's grade, the land managers and the off-highway vehicle group rerouted it across a rocky hillside that was littered with deadfall. Consequently, RwR logged 1,250 hours of work and 5,400 vehicle miles.

USFS matched those

hours with a combination of their crew, plus Canyon Country Youth Corps.

In addition to getting volunteers, Ride with Respect secured grants from Utah State Parks, and from the Yamaha OHV Access Initiative. After finishing work on the motorized singletrack, the group turned its attention to ATV trails. According to Bob Turri, Government Liaison for SPEAR, the Gooseberry Trail had be-

come overgrown. So RwR's crew spent a couple days clearing brush to restore the trail's fifty-inch width.

Dale Parriott, Executive Director for Ride with Respect, proclaimed "It's encouraging to see a government agency willing to plan for motorized trails, and then actually help to build them."

Clif Koontz, Program Director, added "The Forest Service has certain constraints, but they gave us ample flexibility to make Robertson Pasture Trail both sustainable and satisfying for many uses."

Brian Murdock, Recreation and Trails Manager for the Moab/Monticello Ranger District, said "With over 350 miles of motorized and non-motorized trails to maintain on the district, we could not keep the trails open without partnerships from local groups like Ride with Respect. Our partnership with Ride with Respect on the Robertson Pasture project is a perfect example of local trail users seeing a problem and working with the Forest Service to achieve a positive outcome. The work on Robertson Pasture Trail not only makes the trail much more enjoyable for users but will greatly reduce the potential for resource impacts."



Nicholi and Dylan Begaye, of Moab, head to the San Juan Hospital operating room in style on October 12. Riding down the hall in the hospital's small jeep is the hospital's way of lowering the fear and anxiety for young patients. Recently expanded services available at the hospital include treatment for recurrent tonsillitis, ear infections and oral surgery. The young off-roaders are watched carefully by nurse Jenna LaRose. Staff photo

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NO NEED FOR ALARM

Do not be afraid your voice will not be heard in the November County Commission election for District 1. There are three candidates running, each representing differing viewpoints. The choice will be up to you, the voter. As you can see in the voter registration numbers below from the Clerk's Office, your voice can be heard loud and clear by just getting out to vote.

Democrat - 298 • Republican - 850 • Unaffiliated 1531

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