



Statewide OHV Program Update



Jeff Prince is the Statewide OHV Program Coordinator at Arizona State Parks. He is a licensed landscape architect and native to Arizona. Jeff enjoys exploring the Arizona backcountry with his 4x4, motorcycle, mountain bike, kayak, and hiking boots. Some of his more interesting OHV adventures have included a East/West traverse of the border with Mexico and a North/South traverse starting on the Camino del Diablo and ending at the Grand Canyon.

January was a busy month for the statewide OHV Program with the close of our first grant cycle of 2013. Staff has completed our review of the 14 projects submitted and our [OHV Advisory Group \(OHVAG\)](#) will be reviewing them at their February 22 meeting. The Arizona State Parks Board will be presented with the OHVAG recommendations in March and make final funding decisions at that meeting. I look forward to reporting on the awarded projects in a future newsletter!



Trail Talk #1 at Table Mesa, Jeff Prince & Tom Bickauskas presenting

January also saw the launch of my new **Trail Talk Program**. Our team met over 100 people at Table Mesa, many of whom were participating in a Virtual Jeep Club event.

Thank you to all who stuck around to share your questions and concerns about OHV recreation and our OHV program. Join us for the February Trail Talk featured in this newsletter. It will be east of Florence. Did you know we have a State Park there? Check out [McFarland State Historic Park](#) next time you are in the area, admission is free.

Additionally, Florence has a fine collection of territorial architecture and some great Mexican food if you are hungry. Consider taking part in the [28th annual Tour of Historic Florence](#) this weekend to see what I mean.



Historic Pinal County Courthouse in Florence, Arizona

This past month I have spent time meeting with many of our partners, those interested in responsible recreation, and inspecting OHV areas. Here's a quick run down of where I was in January:

- Inspected mine reclamation work in the Middle Gila which the [Ambassadors](#) originally helped inventory. This reduces some serious danger in the area and will be featured in a future article
- Toured OHV Fund Projects on the Tonto N.F. and identified new OHV opportunities
- Met with the Friends of Redington Pass in Tucson to discuss issues effecting the area
- Visited some damaged State Trust land near Gold Canyon with Steve Rusiecki from ASLD

I received a few questions as to why OHVAG was not featured in the [January newsletter](#).

With the resignation of our past chair and the holidays, we were unable to get an update together. Rest assured, our talented OHVAG members will be contributing information about the program and other helpful advice. One member, Pete Pfeifer, made the excellent suggestion for a new column. He called it Ride Smart, and I like it! Watch for it in our next issue.



Upper Terminator technical vehicle trail at Table Mesa

It has been a busy month, but I did find time to get out on the trail with some new friends during my personal time. Many thanks to the Virtual Jeep Club for letting my wife and me tag along on two of their trips. They spotted us through some technical trails and shared their passion for rock crawling, even though we were driving a Tacoma :)



My wife enjoying one of the obstacles in Box Canyon

I hope you are finding time to get out and enjoy everything Arizona has to offer. If you have some OHV news or events you would like to share or have featured in this newsletter, get in touch and we will make it happen.

Happy trails,
Jeff Prince
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Land Use Meeting - BLM Lake Havasu

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lake Havasu Field Office will hold a public open house on Wednesday, February 6, 2013, to discuss the [Havasu Travel Management Plan](#) (TMP). The meeting will be held at the Nautical Inn located at 1000 McCulloch

Boulevard North, Lake Havasu City, Arizona, from 6 to 8 p.m.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/info/newsroom/2013/january/lhfo-tmp-mtg.html>

Trail Talk - February 16, 2013

The purpose of the new Arizona State Park Trail Talk program is to get our motorized public connected to the various agencies and people who have a stake in OHV recreation while promoting riding opportunities funded by the Arizona State Parks Statewide OHV Fund.

Trail Talk #2 - February 16, 2013 at 9:00am

Program starts at 9am at the intersection of Price Road and Sandman Road, just northeast of Florence. Route from Hwy 79 to Sandman Road is about 8 miles. Fuel up in Florence before heading out.

Come join Jeff with [AZ State Parks](#) to see one of our OHV Ambassador project teams install an informational kiosk, learn about how you can become an ambassador, and meet our partners from the BLM. Jeff will be taking comments and questions from the OHV public who have not been able to make our public meetings.



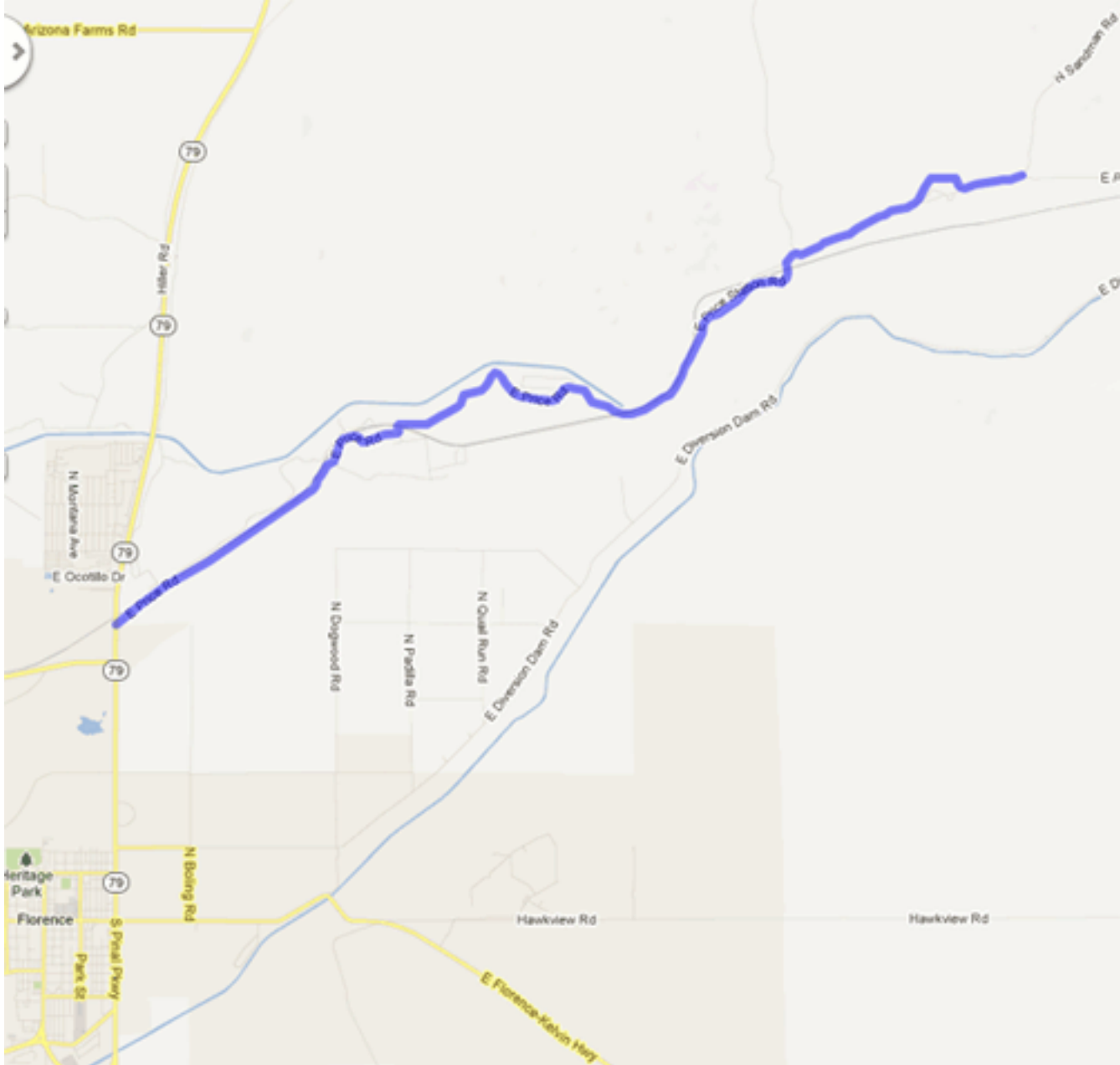
A trail ride through **Box Canyon** will immediately follow the Trail Talk and is not an official part of the Arizona State Parks program. This trip is appropriate for stock high clearance 4x4 vehicles, side by sides, atvs, and dirt bikes/dual sports.

Recommended minimum equipment:

vehicle mounted recovery points, full size spare tire, tires appropriate for dirt road travel. Plan on being on the trail for the day. Bring food, water, sunblock, and appropriate clothing.

Contact ohv@azstateparks.gov if you have any questions.

Click the image to launch map



Featured Partnership - OHV Ambassadors & BLM



Middle Gila Canyons and the OHV Ambassadors

Golden cliffs, rugged mountains and canyons, saguaro forests, fantastic panoramic vistas, desert big horn sheep and other wildlife, up close look at cattle ranching and fascinating remnants of Arizona's mining past. All this greets the OHV rider in the Middle Gila Canyons area, where special trails like Woodpecker, Ajax, Box Canyon, Highway to Hell and Axle Alley attract extreme, technical riding.

Managed by The Tucson Field Office of the Bureau Land Management and intermingled with State Trust Land, this area offers recreation opportunities for all types of OHV riding, from high clearance vehicles on sightseeing excursions to technical riding on challenging trails that push the limits of drivers' skills and equipment capabilities to the extreme.



Vistas, a lucky sighting of desert big horn sheep, open range cattle and other desert dwellers are there if you want to ride and explore. The Arizona Trail offers a hiking destination for your ride. The Gila River provides a destination with running water for fishing or water play.

As you travel in the Middle Gila Canyons area, you may come upon the OHV Ambassadors, installing a kiosk, realigning a cattle guard, removing a fallen tree from a trail, or meeting and greeting visitors with maps and area information. Stop and say hello and look for their trailer stocked with maps and other useful information. They'll be able to tell you where the best trails for riding are located.



The Ambassadors are a trained group of volunteers who assist resource agencies monitoring and maintaining the trails and informing the public about where to ride, safety, regulations and good stewardship.

"The OHV Ambassadors have been a tremendous help in taking care of this area for several years," says Francisco Mendoza of the Bureau of Land Management. "Volunteer Ambassadors have completed clean ups, installed signs, and completed small projects. They are key in our recreational users outreach and educational efforts help visitors have a safe and enjoyable experience on their visit, and protect fragile and unique natural resources in the area. The OHV Ambassadors were also key in completing an abandoned and inactive mine site inventory and assessing the hazards to public recreational visitors. Their work led to a BLM project which is now remediating abandoned mine hazards in the area, providing a safer place for people to visit."



To apply for or learn more about the Ambassador Program:
azstateparks.com/OHV/ambassadors.html
ohv@azstateparks.gov or 602-542-4180



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