

Editorials

- **Saving treasures:**
ATV trails at ancient sites should be closed
- **Dixie's future: Vision for managed growth can become reality**
- **Too much, too soon:**
Jordan District board's pay raise unreasonable
- **Dogfight: Council needs to settle Parley's dispute**
- **Collecting cash:**
Low-income families need help to find college aid
- **Shrinking crime:**
CHIP's mental health coverage key
- **Good for Godfrey:**
Ogden mayor right to safeguard green space
- **Don't divide: Current law not best way to split school district**
- **Utah globetrotters:**
Legislators book first, explain later
- **The Thumb**

Commentaries

- **Meeting the challenge of squeezing clean fuels from U.S. coal**
- **Public lands should reflect white, black and brown**
- **'Harry Potter' and the disappearing reading public**
- **The lady behind LBJ? Oh, much more**
- **Galloway: More of the same: Bush's unwinnable war grinds on**
- **American politics: The multiple choice summer fun edition**
- **Victor Davis Hanson: Upside-down politics in the Middle East**
- **Helen Thomas: Iraqis wrangle over their oil reserves**
- **Richard Schickel: How Hollywood reads**
- **Dyer: World must face facts of final farewell to cheap food**

Saving treasures: ATV trails at ancient sites should be closed

Tribune Editorial

Article Last Updated: 07/13/2007 08:15:53 PM MDT

Federal and state officers are issuing more citations for off-road vehicle violations in Utah - 1,336 since 2004 - than in any state except California.

Many of those violators were cited near state parks or in concentrated places such as Little Sahara Recreation Area where 350 citations were issued during the Easter holiday.

The numbers show that irresponsible all-terrain-vehicle users are flagrantly violating rules even in places where officers congregate, driving recklessly and off-roading illegally on closed trails or in off-limit areas. We can only wonder what they're doing in isolated areas where enforcement is sporadic at best.

In fact, we don't have to wonder. Groups concerned with degradation have documented evidence of damage done to fragile public lands by renegade off-roaders who have little regard for vegetation, wildlife habitat, watersheds or, increasingly, cultural resources that include centuries-old archaeological sites. Responsible ATV users have corroborated the complaints. In fact, the Bureau of Land Management says many citations result from complaints of other off-roaders.

A lack of officers to enforce rules and delays in producing BLM management plans with maps showing designated trails are both to blame for rampant abuse by a small minority of off-roaders. Until the BLM has more enforcement funds and begins to do a better job of managing ATV use, the sad reality is the agency must rely on volunteers and other ATV users to police public lands.

The damage being done to archaeological sites is particularly alarming. There is a chance that eroded lands can be reclaimed, if illegal off-roading is curbed. But ancient dwellings and artifacts, once vandalized or looted, are gone forever.

The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, National Trust for Historic Preservation and Great Old Broads for Wilderness have produced a revealing report that ties vandalism and theft at cultural sites to illegal ATV trails. Recapture Wash near Blanding is one such area. So far, the BLM has done little to halt pothunters on ATVs at the

wash.

Congress needs to recognize the mounting problem of unmanaged off-road vehicle use, provide funds and require the BLM to better protect public lands and their priceless cultural remnants.

The Bureau of Land Management says many citations result from complaints of other off-roaders.

Letters

- [Declare them world outlaws](#)
- [Brown lawns](#)
- [Christensen's GOP exit](#)
- [Pick out the idiot](#)
- [Tolerant of polygamists](#)
- [Cannon on 'Faux' News](#)
- [Hateful letter](#)
- [Idiots know idiots](#)
- [Lincoln to Cannon](#)
- [Voucher math](#)

RECENT COMMENTS:

7/14/2007 10:14:00 AM -- First, I would say that fines levied against off-road vehicle violators should reflect the cost of enforcement. Anyone that can... [\[MORE\]](#)

7/14/2007 10:23:00 AM -- I'm saddened by such hate-filled, untruthful comments coming from other readers here at sltrib.com. I see that most of you have... [\[MORE\]](#)

7/14/2007 9:22:00 AM -- I do not know what fuels your unfounded, discriminatory tirades about rural Utahns, but I am sure you could come up with a number... [\[MORE\]](#)

[READ ALL 9 COMMENTS](#) | [POST A COMMENT](#) | [REGISTER](#) | [TRIBTALK.COM](#)

Was this article worthwhile?



+11

15 VOTES

Sponsored Links

- [Moving Companies](#)
- [Patio & Deck Covers](#)
- [Nanny Agency Great AuPair](#)
- [1 Carat Diamond Pendants](#)

- [Gift Ideas](#)
- [Moving](#)
- [World Travel Guide](#)
- [Si-Mexico Hotels Resorts](#)

- [Cell Phone Plans](#)
- [FREE Myspace Layouts.MYSPACE](#)
- [Compare Prices](#)
- [Information Network](#)

- [Gift Baskets & Gourmet Food](#)
- [Isagenix](#)
- [Kars4Kids](#)
- [Moving Companies](#)

[Privacy Policy](#) | [MNG Corporate Site Map](#) | [Copyright](#)