



Bear River Watershed Council

Leaders in Conservation Issues for the Bear River Basin

Dear Editor,

As you are aware, Bear River Watershed Council is leading the effort to stave off motorized abuse to our public lands on the Logan Ranger District. Everyone has the right to enjoy these magnificent lands but not treat them with malice.

Recently, one of our volunteers was accompanying a Forest Service official in the Hyde Park Canyon area. They were planning for a BRWC restoration project next spring to repair damage done from illegal travel into the Mt. Naomi Wilderness. It was the second to last day of the deer-hunt.

During their visit, the FS official wrote four citations for motorized users driving into the wilderness. These citations cost the perpetrators \$500 (plus a processing fee) each.

With this personal observation of public lands abuse, BRWC would like to remind readers of their responsibility to protect their National Forest.

Utah State Parks and Recreation has said it best: that users need to “know before you go.” The State Parks Web site also states that “hunters [all motorized users] must . . . ride ethically on designated roads and trails to protect their riding privilege . . . and critical wildlife habitat. Do not contribute to resource damage, stress to big game, or habitat destruction by creating illegal travel paths that others may follow.” BRWC would like to add: or follow illegal routes that others have created.

BRWC wants everyone to avoid these hefty fines. Please “know before you go” that the Wasatch-Cache National Forest routes are “closed unless signed open” and motorized travel is allowed on designated routes only. Get the Travel Map and understand the information before you travel across our public lands.

Tim Wagner, Board Chair
Bear River Watershed Council
Salt Lake City