

www.Spear4All.com



SPEAR Volunteers, Eagle Scout Project Mark the Hole-In-The-Rock Trail

Heavy flooding in the Lake Canyon portion of the Mormon Trail (aka Hole-In-The-Rock trail) has resulted in washouts that are dangerous and becoming impossible to repair. As a result of this problem, San Juan County made a decision to re-route the old trail around Lake Canyon.

After scouting, surveying, and GPSing a new route, the County made an application to BLM for the new route. The route was eventually approved by BLM. The County saw the need to mark the new route. New signs were made and installed from Highway 276 all the way back to the old Mormon Trail.

The last mile or so, is almost exclusively on slick rock. This portion of the trail was marked by painting marks on the rock surface to indicate the direction of the trail. Members of SPEAR did the painting and enjoyed yet another day of hard work and socializing.

SPEAR thanks the volunteers who found the time to come out and help with this project. We would like more volunteers to



SPEAR volunteers marking the Hole-In-The-Rock Trail.

get involved with our upcoming projects

If you would like to help out on any upcoming SPEAR project, contact Brent Johansen at 678-2810 or Harold Frost at 587-2654.

SPEAR Board Meetings Open to All Members

All paid-up members or SPEAR are welcome and encouraged to attend our regular monthly Board of Directors meetings. Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm, and alternate between Blackhawk Transportation in Blanding, and the Monticello Library.

The April meeting will be held Tuesday, April 1 at the Monticello Library. The May meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 6 at Blackhawk. The schedule for the meetings and other events can be found at www.SPEAR4All.com.

Not sure of your membership status? Everyone receiving this newsletter by mail should have also recently received a letter indicating your membership status. If you're still not sure, or have membership questions drop an email to memberships@SPEAR4All.com.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!



The assignment was not to blaze a trail as our forefathers had, but to prepare marker posts and place them in strategic locations along the Hole-In-The-Rock Trail so others who follow would not wander off course. This portion of the Mormon Trail marking project was an Eagle Scout project for Calvin Hazleton, great-great-grandson of both Joseph F. Barton and Samuel Wood. The motivators of this project were SPEAR members Max Black and Harold Frost. Also pictured are Doug Aitken, Jesse Barton, and Matt Briggs.



SPEAR

PO Box 353
Blanding, UT 84511

Cabin Fever

I look out my window. The sun is shining bright. It looks so warm and inviting. I am anxious to get out of the house and do something fun. I go out and the first thing I feel is the coldness in the stiff breeze that is blowing. The snow is piled high and very little bare ground is exposed.

I know spring is not here. But I open my shed doors and find my ATVs parked inside. They've been sitting there unused for over three months now. I know they are ready to go, because I serviced them prior to putting them away for winter. Fresh oil and filters, air cleaners cleaned, tires and brakes are good, electrical checked out. Yep, everything is ready to go.

Maybe I'm jumping the gun. But I am bored and tired of the snow. My mind goes back to some of the trail rides last year. They were great rides.

I promise myself this year I am going to take advantage of more opportunities to ride. I regret all the beautiful days that I let pass by last year, but vow to make up for that this year.

I turn out the lights and close the doors on my shed. I know that it's not yet time to take the machines out, but know that they are safe & secure, and ready to go.

I am just experiencing another bout with cabin fever.

SPEAR In Action

SPEAR installed a cattle guard this past November at the request of a livestock owner in the Indian Creek area.

Late last summer a report was given to the BLM that stockmen in the Indian Creek area on the Falls Missile Trail were having a problem with a gate being left open. The gate is located on a very steep hill, and it was easy to see how the gate could easily be left open by some users.

SPEAR evaluated the situation and decided the problem could be resolved by putting a cattle guard at the top of the steep hill. Some new fence needed to be installed. Since the fence had to be installed on the slick rock hill, some rock drilling was required to set the fence posts.

We are looking forward to spring when we can begin more trail projects. If you would like to help out future SPEAR projects, contact Brent Johansen at 678-2810 or Harold Frost at 587-2654.



Scenes like this are common throughout San Juan County this winter.

BLM Planning Process

Did you get your comments in on the proposed BLM Draft Resource Management Plan (DRMP)? Comments were due by February 8.

It's understandable if you didn't. Looking at the four-inch thick monster of a document, even the most hearty feel totally helpless. "What am I supposed to do with this?" you ask yourself. The further you get into the document, the worse it gets. You can't make heads or tails of anything written in there. It's just easier to drop the whole thing and say, "It's just not worth it!"

BLM's planning process is far too complex for we mere mortals to understand, let alone make sensible comments on. Even the preparers of the DRMP have difficulty with its complexity. Most understand only that portion they were involved with. Most truly don't understand how it all comes together. This is extremely unfair to those of us public land users who would like to participate in the planning process.

There is just too much detail. BLM could build a planning document wherein competent managers could make decisions on a case by case basis rather than dealing with all cases exactly the same. We know that everything that happens on our public lands is NOT exactly the same.

What is happening is not fair. The interests who oppose us have money and as many lawyers as it takes to review and comment on all these plans at once.

Winterize / Pre-Season Checklist

Taking some simple steps before putting up your ATV for the winter will make it a lot easier to start up and get riding later on. But it's never too late. Spend a little time before your first ride to get your machine in tip-top shape.

Make notes as you go through these steps. Keep a list of things that need replacement and/or repair.

- Clean, clean, clean your machine! From top to bottom. Especially the bottom. Dirt, sand, and leaves are a breeding grounds for rust. Check welds and tighten bolts.
- Check lights, wiring, and battery.
- Check and adjust levers, cables, and brake fluid. Inspect front and rear brakes.
- Check rubber boots for cracks and tears.
- Change oil & oil filter. Check all fluid levels.
- Clean or replace air filter.
- Check drive chain, sprockets, drive line, U joints, etc.
- Check the front suspension for wear. Raise the front of your machine & check wheels for looseness. Might as well check the tires while you're at it. Look for unusual wear patterns, cracks in the rubber, tread depth, deformities, etc.

What can we do now? Write to your congressmen, senators, and representatives. Tell them how you feel. Your letters do not need to be lengthy. Use simple language. After all, they're just regular folks like us. But by all means, use your own words. One personal letter is worth more than 100 form letters. Honest!

For the names and addresses of our legislators, go to www.SPEAR4All.com. You will also find information on writing and properly addressing your letters. Make a difference!

Membership and Renewal Application

Name _____

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Phone (_____) _____ - _____ Email _____

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Please make checks payable to: SPEAR, PO Box 353, Blanding, UT 84511