



## *Fence Repair near Ozzie Trail*

January found Steering Committee members Tom & Jenny Wilder, Quintin Lake & Susan Stueber, and Dave & Linda Hansen repairing a



Before - Workgroup Begins Repairs

fence in the western part of Juniper Flats.

In the spirit of stewardship encouraged by the Bureau of Land Management, the FOJF team conducted fence repair and restoration work on New Year's Day at the top of Ozzie Trail where it meets at Route JF4330.

Our team repaired the existing (but broken) fence that was meant to stop vehicle traffic just north of JF4330. Possibly the person who recently plowed down the metal post & cable fence at the Bonita Vista trailhead (see related article) approached the trail from JF4330. Not wanting to turn back, it looks like the driver cut the cable, then drove over, and bent down, a few metal fence posts.

It took about four hours repairing the wire fence (3 levels of wire), leaving about a 4 ft. wide opening between two large wood posts for hiking & equestrian access, then planted dead wood & shrubbery for restoration. Finally, some wild plant seeds were spread throughout the area.

The repaired fence length was estimated at somewhere between 100 and 150 feet and about 8 new t-posts were installed.

On the way out of the area, the team also spent about an hour partially repairing a section of JF4325, a

little south of the BLM kiosk near Japatul Rd. Erosion had badly damaged the road to the point that only a 4X4 vehicle could get through the area. This resulted in people creating a new bypass around the damaged area, further damaging a virgin area of land and plants. They filled in the worst part of the erosion, then created a diversion channel a little farther up the hill on the road to minimize further water erosion in the future. We plan to work more on this damaged road area at another time.



After - Area Upon Completion of Fence Repair and Vegetation Restoration

## *Members Meet with the BLM*



Last December 6th, several FOJF members met with senior staff at the Barstow office of the Bureau of Land Management to review the outcome of the Juniper Flats Restoration Grant. The grant work started mid-2015 and our participation in the work ended in April 2017. During that time, FOJF members were assigned sections of the restoration polygon to monitor with BLM computer tablets, and help with repairs and restoration of damaged areas. The BLM staff explained that the grant ended last September but they have not completed their evaluation of the success of the grant work. While we experienced a good discussion with BLM staff, another meeting was scheduled for January 17th at which we are looking forward seeing their results analysis.

Friends of Juniper Flats  
P.O. Box 83  
Apple Valley, CA 92307  
Email: fojf2@yahoo.com

**We're on the Web!**

- (1) [www.friendsofjuniperflats.org](http://www.friendsofjuniperflats.org)
- (2) [friendsofjuniperflat.wordpress.com](http://friendsofjuniperflat.wordpress.com)

**Some Web Items of Interest**

- 2017 Year in Review (2)
- Photo Gallery (1)
- Hiking Trails Project (1)
- FOJF / BLM National Public Lands Day Photos (1)
- History of Juniper Flats Area (2)

**2017 Highlights**

**Juniper Flats Restoration Grant**

The past year included the conclusion of work with the BLM restoration grant. Several FOJF members spent many volunteer hours in the restoration polygon, generally in groups of two, assigned to specific areas like Arrastre Canyon, Grapevine Canyon, etc. With GPS-enabled computer tablets provided by the BLM, they monitored and gathered information about areas in need of restoration and electronically transmitted the data to the BLM staff in Barstow. In the process, they also installed and repaired open & closed vehicle route signs, repaired broken fences, and raked and mulched damaged areas. Later, with BLM staff & supervision, they restored designated damaged areas to look like the natural surrounding area.



Juniper Jack asks . . .

**Not a member yet?**

We invite you to join the Friends of Juniper Flats to help with our goals of protecting, preserving and restoring Juniper Flats. Dues are only \$5 per year. Just send your check for your membership to the address shown above, along with your name,

address, phone number, and email address.

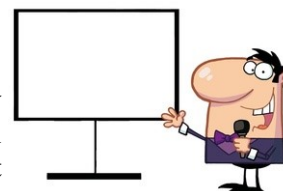
Donations in any amount are also welcome.

**Bonita Vista Vandalism**



We are sad to report that we recently discovered vandalism to the fence at the Bonita Vista trailhead. This is a rather sturdy metal post and cable fence, yet someone cut the cable and drove over the posts, thus bending them. FOJF is currently researching the repair of this malicious damage.

**Let the Show Begin**



We are developing a slide show presentation to be given to local groups letting them know all about wonderful Juniper Flats and its hiking, exploring and recreational benefits. The planned first showing will be at the Sierra Club meeting on Feb. 14, 2018. If you belong to any organization in the Victor Valley and think they might like to see this 20-min. presentation at one of their meetings, please contact us.

**In the Market**



Lately, we have been setting up an exhibit table at the High Desert Farmers Market (by Victor Valley College) providing information to passers-by about Friends of Juniper Flats. It has been a good method of letting folks know about our organization and activities, and we have experienced considerable interest. Be sure to look for our table the next time you are at the Farmers Market. Also, let us know if you would like to volunteer to man the table, as we can always use the help.

**A Call for Volunteers**

In addition to appreciating donations to help with our work, Friends of Juniper Flats can always use more volunteer helpers. There are many projects in Juniper Flats you can assist with, such as illegal vehicle incursion route repairs, sign installations, fence repairs, making organization contacts, treasurer, etc. Please contact us if you would like to volunteer your time.